

# New state report puts

## CSI at Willowbrook

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In a report subject to change, state officials are recommending that the College of Staten Island receive a "substantial portion" of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) property in Willowbrook, but perhaps less than the college wants.

The report, which has not been made public, also gives "prime consideration" to requests by the city Parks and Recreation Department, the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Council and by the Staten Island Horsemen's Association, according to Thomas Cooper, spokesman for the state Office of General Services (OGS). The report was written by staff at

OGS, the agency responsible for surplus state property.

Cooper said the report is being sent to members of an advisory council formed by Gov. Mario Cuomo to provide recommendations on the property's disposition. The council, which is chaired by OGS Commissioner John Egan, includes Staten Island's state representatives, local officials and representatives from special interest groups with an interest in the land.

"This is not a definitive report," Cooper said. "The last I heard was that what is in this report may not be what is in the final report.

"We are making an effort to poll members of the advisory council as to their reactions to the report. We really want their input. We have listed suggestions

and we've also listed options."

Although Cooper refused to release a copy of the draft report, he said it recommends transferring a bulk of the property to the college, which wants about 180 acres to build a consolidated campus. However, Cooper said, "while we are suggesting that some portions be turned over to College of Staten Island, it will probably be a lot less than some people think."

He said that the draft report "may very well" recommend that the college receive less than 180 acres. "What we are hearing from a majority of members on the advisory council are questions about whether we want to give College of Staten Island as much as it has requested," Cooper said.

Three other requests given

prime consideration in the report, according to Cooper, are:

- The Staten Island Horsemen Association, which wants land for a show area for its operation.

- The city Parks and Recreation Department, which wants the property's woodlands for inclusion in the Greenbelt and the property's ball fields for community use.

- The Island Regional Retardation Council, which wants land to establish training, recreational and residential facilities for the handicapped.

"They are getting prime consideration, but let's not interpret prime consideration to mean that they will get everything they want," Cooper said.

He added that all the requests are still under consideration, but the report attempts to establish

priorities. "This is an attempt to deal with some of the issues," Cooper said.

He said the advisory council will probably meet within the month to discuss the preliminary report and what should be included in the final report to the governor's office. The final report is expected to be completed by the fall, Cooper said.

The 300-acre site should be vacant by the end of 1987, when the SIDC is scheduled to close. The center will retain 90 acres of its 382-acre campus in Willowbrook for group homes and the state Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation.

The report does not address the controversy surrounding Corson's Brook Woods, part of the 90-acre parcel the center plans to keep, Cooper said. The

center wants to build four group homes, but the city wants the land transferred to the Greenbelt.

A Island environmental group, the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, has taken the state to court over the issue, hoping to force to state to relocate the group homes and preserve the woods.

OGS has ignored the controversy in past meetings with the advisory council, much to the chagrin of some advisory council members. But while this report does not mention Corson's Brook Woods, Cooper said that OGS will ultimately have to address the issue and its recommendation may be included in the final report. "It's not something we are trying to avoid," he said.