

# Willowbrook land decision expected soon

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State and city officials are working on final reports, evaluations and property lines as they prepare for the expected transfer of property from the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook to the College of Staten Island.

Gov. Mario Cuomo has asked

the state Office of General Services (OGS) to complete the paperwork on the project for his final review, said Tom Tubbs, spokesman for the department. His formal decision on whether CSI will get land at the Willowbrook site is expected within a few weeks, Tubbs said.

The OGS is responsible for redeveloping state-owned land. The

land will come under OGS's jurisdiction when the state Office for the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled (OMRDD) declares the land surplus.

OMRDD plans to close the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in late 1987. Of the 380-acre campus, OMRDD plans to keep about 150 acres for group

homes and the Institute of Basic Research. CSI is asking for about 215 acres.

Recommendations on use of the land have come through a cooperative effort involving OGS, the Governor's Advisory Council on the Staten Island Developmental Center, the executive chambers and local legislators, Tubbs said.

Even though OMRDD still has legal title to the land, it can be committed to other uses before it is legally transferred, said OGS Commissioner John C. Egan. After OMRDD declares the property surplus, OGS becomes legally responsible for the land, and it then will be transferred, with provisions outlining its intended use, to the State Dormi-

tory Authority.

That agency finances and manages construction at all City University facilities and for some facilities at state universities.

While the Legislature is not formally involved, Staten Island public officials are on the advisory council, and public hearings

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have been and will continue to be held to keep OGS up-to-date on local concerns.

"We feel strongly about listening and doing things that are consistent with local interests," Egan said.

OGS is working with OMRDD to decide where property lines will be to make sure OMRDD's programs are given first priority, Egan said. "The programmatic needs of OMRDD are paramount," he said.

The advisory council has recommended that CSI be given a large portion of the property. Cuomo tentatively has approved the plan for CSI to get land, contingent upon the final drafting of property lines, he said.

The task force also is considering several other Island organizations for acreage, but has not recommended any group. "We felt strongly, and the governor has felt strongly, that the task force should remain involved in disposition of property," Egan said.

The task force will meet in early December on Staten Island, although a date has not been set. During the meeting, the task force will discuss disposition of the land not to be used by CSI or OMRDD.

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