

Governor plans improvements for Island

Cuomo promises expanded Greenbelt, protection from incinerator fumes

By DAN JANISON
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ALBANY — Proposed aid for the Staten Island Greenbelt, mention of mass garbage burning and a plug for the Howland Hook containerport highlight items of local interest in Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's annual message to the state Legislature.

Cuomo also reaffirmed vows to close the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) in Willowbrook next year, unify the College of Staten Island (CSI) campus, reduce Department of Motor Vehicle lines and fight or-

ganized crime.

And as expected, his call to give the mayor control of the Board of Education appointments already has met with mixed reviews. [See Page A 12]

In the 137-page message, longer than any of the three that preceded it, Cuomo gives an aerial view of state government and social and economic issues.

Even if they do not form specific proposals or repeat old ones, the words help set an agenda for the Legislature, as it goes into its regular session, due to finish around July.

Further detail on some items is expected in the executive budget request due for release next week.

The new proposals include adding 1,600 new bed spaces for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled in community group homes, plus 700 spaces in special day programs, above previous goals.

Among the major items and excerpts of Staten Island interest in yesterday's message:

Greenbelt

"We shall expand our holdings,

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of environmentally significant areas," Cuomo said. "... We will use remaining allocations from the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act to accelerate the acquisition of key environmental areas such as Lake Minnewaska, the Pine Barrens in Albany and Long Island ... and the Greenbelt on Staten Island."

Garbage burning

Without naming the city's last open landfill, Fresh Kills on the Island, Cuomo said: "Many communities in the state are closing landfills and constructing resource recovery plants."

"To assure the public that its health will not be damaged by emissions from those plants, I will provide sufficient resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation to complete its efforts to develop emission standards and operating requirements for resource recovery plants."

"... I will direct the department to adopt regulations that require local governments applying for permits to construct resource recovery projects to assess and implement feasible recycling alternatives as a condition of being issued a permit for plant constructions."

Also proposed is funding for matching grants for cities buying recycling equipment.

Howland Hook

"The Port Authority will undertake a major investment in its Howland Hook facility on Staten Island. This will improve the competitiveness of the Port of New York by modernizing this facility to reflect changes in the shipping industry."

SIDC

"We have ... substantially reduced the number of individuals who reside in our developmental centers. As I promised two years ago, we will close Willowbrook, now known as the Staten Island Developmental Center, in 1987."

"Individuals who formerly were limited by the constraints of a large institution are now thriving in smaller, more home-like community residences."

CSI campus

"Recent years have seen the city university prosper physically and programatically. I will continue my support of the planning and construction of a unified campus for the College of Staten Island..."

Board of Education

"While there are many outstanding features of the New York City public schools, we still confront intolerable dropout rates and unacceptably low levels of student performance."

"The need to coordinate school programs with other city initiatives is evident, yet the existing structure of the Board of Education diffuses policy of the city of New York too widely."

"Accordingly I will propose that the mayor of the City of New York, already principally responsible for setting the funding level of the city school system, be empowered to appoint a majority of the membership of the ... board ..."

"Mayor Koch supports this proposal, and I am confident it will prove to be a significant step toward renewed educational excellence in the city's public schools."

"I will work closely with the mayor, the restructured board and the city's dedicated teachers to monitor the improvements which I expect to occur."

Motor Vehicles offices

The state Department of Motor Vehicles has "the most direct contact with the most residents in New York state. I will see that the services rendered by DMV are expeditious, efficient and courteous."

"For many years, downstate customers have experienced waits in line at DMV offices of more than one hour. Our goal is to

reduce the average peak waiting times in these congested offices."

"This will be a challenge in 1986, as we issue new license plates for the first time in 13 years. I will ask your (lawmakers') support for a program to reissue these plates while continuing to improve customer service."

Organized crime

"Over the last three years, New York state has intensified its efforts to break the back of organized crime. We now have two highly effective forces waging this fight: The Organized Crime Task Force and the State Police."

"They have been key silent partners in many of the recent well-publicized prosecutions of organized crime in New York, and they have also worked together to make several big cases on their own."

"They have brought indictments against racketeering, conspiracy and corruption in the garbage collection industry, terminated an extortion ring in the restaurant business, convicted major narcotics traffickers and cracked down on loan-sharking and illegal gambling."

Cuomo asks for new laws to allow the state to seize "illegal gains," prosecute computer criminals and crack down on "those who misuse hazardous substances."

Mortgages

Cuomo again seeks expansion of the State of New York Mortgage Agency low-cost lending program.

Mass transit

The governor says Metropolitan Transportation Authority chairman Robert Kiley will face a full review of his tenure thus far in office.

Roads

Cuomo proposes a new program he says will increase "preventive maintenance" on bridges throughout the state.



New York Gov. Mario Cuomo delivers his message.

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