

# CSI work tops Island \$\$ share

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ADVANCE ALBANY BUREAU

ALBANY — State funding for Staten Island projects included in the 1988-89 budget ranges from a quarter of a billion dollars for the massive expansion of the College of Staten Island to a new program for the homeless established by the Community School Board.

Approximately \$3.7 million that will be funneled to local social service agencies and other community groups were added as "member items" by Staten Island legislators. The lion's share of this funding was placed in the budget by Sen. John J. Marchi, R-Ward Hill, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

Borough lawmakers said they were satisfied that nearly all their discretionary funding requests for borough projects were part of the \$44.2 billion budget adopted Wednesday. However, two "member items" requests did not make it in this year's budget.

Conspicuously absent was approximately \$300,000 requested for a study of the Greenbelt. And an annual \$50,000 allocation for Camelot Counseling Center, a Port Richmond-based drug treatment center, was not listed as a line-item in the 400-page local aid budget book. At least in Camelot's case, the omission may have been a goof and could be included in the

budget in a "cleanup" bill done every year for such purposes, lawmakers said.

Marchi's \$3.3 million in member items appeared to be the highest total of any lawmaker in the Legislature. "This is as good as I can tell," said Marchi spokesman Gerald McLaughlin. "This is part of the payoff when you're finance chairman and have seniority. The funding for Staten Island looks good."

The biggest state-financed borough project by far is \$250 million in capital construction commitment in the budget for CSI's campus consolidation in Willowbrook. It is the state's largest project for any City University of New York (CUNY) construction. When completed, CSI will have the largest campus of any CUNY school.

"That is enormously good news for Staten Island," said Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano, D-Dongan Hills. "(CSI) could be the flagship campus of the City University."

In addition, the state budget includes \$1.2 million for transitional maintenance costs at the Willowbrook grounds and the phasing out of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

CSI also did well by the state with program funding. After an

initial scare, a \$250,000 air pollution monitoring program was included in the budget. The college also got an additional \$219,000 for a "Health Sciences and Human Services Program" and \$107,000 for a joint study on problems related to mental retardation.

Cuomo's budget plan surprisingly slashed money earmarked in previous years for CSI researchers to fund air monitoring and lung cancer surveys in the borough. But the Staten Island delegation, particularly Marchi, fought to get it back in the budget.

Snug Harbor is receiving \$4.25 million for the renovation of its music hall. Of that, \$3 million is a reappropriation from last year. Vitaliano said the construction money was inadvertently omitted from the budget, but the error was spotted by Assembly fiscal staffers and placed back in.

Tied in with the closing of SIDD is \$500,000 in state aid for a recreational pool at the Richmond Complex at Willowbrook. Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly, D-West Brighton, who heads the Assembly Mental Health Committee, lobbied to include the recreational pool in the budget.

The pool will be open the community at large, as well as being utilized as a recreation and therapeutic pool for the mentally disabled, she said.

In what Mrs. Connelly called a pleasant surprise, Cuomo's Office of Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities (OMRDD) listed \$1.5 million for an Early Childhood Center for Mental Retardation on Staten Island. Parents of mentally disabled children currently have to trek to Brooklyn for help.

Also in the mental health area, South Beach Psychiatric Center will be the beneficiary of \$436,317 to fund 13 new clinical positions. Mrs. Connelly has long complained that staffing levels at South Beach and other psychiatric centers throughout the state are inadequate.

The Cuomo administration allocated \$441,000 to the Staten Island Treatment Alternative to Street Crime (TASC) program. The St. George-based program, established in 1986, provides an alternative to incarceration to hundreds of Staten Island offenders convicted of alcohol- and drug-related crimes.

The program falls under the state Department of Probation

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