

**Statement
to
Community Board 13
on
SCA's Creedmoor proposal**

January 24, 2000

The Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of more than ninety civic, community, cooperative and tenant associations, urges Community Board 13 to support the use of the entire 26 Creedmoor acres - Cross Island Parkway/Grand Central Parkway/Commonwealth Boulevard -- declared surplus by the State of New York as a Public School Educational Campus. The Queens Civic Congress finds the 10-acre proposal being advanced by the School Construction Authority flawed because it fails to plan for the use of the entire 26 acre site.

At successive meetings that included Board of Education officials, the Queens Civic Congress made clear the need to take advantage of the entire site to provide students a full-range of facilities, including athletic facilities that might not be readily available at other sites being developed as schools elsewhere. As the first public speaker at the January 20, 2000 Community School Board 26 hearing, the Queens Civic Congress urged support only a plan for a school campus that uses the entire site, as per the Master Plan developed by the civic and other community groups surrounding Creedmoor and incorporated in the Master Plan submitted to the Governor by the Queens Borough President's Working Group on Creedmoor. The Working Group included the Queens Civic Congress, community groups, Board 13 representatives, District 26 board members and officials and local elected officials. It remains important that this same coalition, including Community Board 13, work to see the original plans for the school campus realized.

While the Queens Civic Congress Special Committee on Creedmoor, especially its members from the Creedmoor, Rocky Hill, North Bellerose and Bellerose-Hillside Civic Associations, played the key role in advancing the proposal for the school campus, the Queens Civic Congress envisions that the local district in which the site lies would actively advance and reflect the concerns of the community concerning the educational programming that will take place.

In conclusion, fight to ensure the entire site, as envisioned in our Master Plan and the Plan approved by the Working Group convened by the Borough President, becomes a public education campus that serves the needs of the community.

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