

February 23, 2000

Milo Rivero, Ph.D. P.E.
President
NYC School Construction Authority
30-30 Thompson Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mr. Rivero:

The Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of more than 90 civic, community, cooperative and tenant associations, opposes the School Construction Authority/Board of Education plan to construct three schools at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center and urges an immediate halt to all plans to develop the site and design the schools. Any further action on this educationally dysfunctional plan wastes public funds.

Specifically, the Queens Civic Congress finds the plans to squeeze a high school, intermediate school and an elementary school on the Building 51 severely flawed. It makes no sense to develop more than one school on this site. The site plan clearly presumes to count land currently buffering a heavily used highway to make this small site appear less inadequate. In addition the plan fails to recognize and account for the special traffic consequences and impact unique to this site. It fails to provide on-site parking when there exist no nearby streets to accommodate parking for personnel. Further, it lacks any ability for New York City Transit and school buses to turn on narrow Commonwealth Boulevard. Any route that would enable buses to drop off and pick up students would require buses to travel residential streets and travel roughly one additional mile. This because the site plan fails to provide for an-onsite bus turnaround and would have no space to accommodate this need.

The Queens Civic Congress, acting through its Special Committee on Creedmoor, seeks to meet with SCA and Board of Education officials on using the property in accord with a Master Plan developed over two years by the 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, District 26 board members and officials and local elected officials. At successive meetings that included Board of Education officials, the Queens Civic Congress made clear the need to use the entire site to provide students a full-range of facilities, including athletic facilities not be readily available at other sites being developed as schools elsewhere.

Letter to SCA re: Creedmoor, February 14, 2000, page two

Page 33 of the “Creedmoor Master Plan discusses the “Public Educational Complex.”

Any configuration shall make use of the entire 26 acres for public school purposes and schools shall be developed as part of a unified architectural plan.

In addition, adequate athletic facilities and open spaces shall be incorporated into these plans.

Moreover, Board of Education officials clearly represented at the September 15, 1999 Creedmoor Working Group meeting, that it planned to proceed as if it purchased the entire site. No disclosure occurred that day of any plans to develop more than one school on the site occupied by Building 51.

The unsound SCA-Board of Education three-school-squeeze-proposal clearly creates environmental impacts not likely to occur if development followed the Creedmoor Master Plan. Moreover, the acquisition triggers the City’s ULURP [Uniform Land Use Review Procedure] process and no community support exists for any school proposal not developed in accord with the Master Plan.

The Master Plan outlines a framework for the SCA and Board of Education to work with the community; it makes sense to lose no time and return to this original commitment.

Waste no further time, move to redesign now! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Corey Bearak

COREY B. BEARAK

Executive Vice President

Chair, Special Committee on Creedmoor

(718) 343-6779

SCA Chair Howard Wilson

SCA Trustee Schools Chancellor Harold Levy

Borough President Claire Shulman

NYC Board of Education President William Thomson

NYC Board of Education Member Terri Thomson

Senator Frank Padavan

Hon. Barbara Clark

Assemblyman Mark Weprin

Councilman. Sheldon Leffler

District 26

District 29

Community Board 13

C:\MyFiles\Civics\QueensCC\Creedmoor\2000-02-23_Change_SCA_Plan_for_Creedmoor_Schools_(letter)