

January 24, 2000

Daily News
Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

The Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of more than ninety civic, community, cooperative and tenant associations, seeks this opportunity to clarify “No Mix is the Message” in the Queens Neighborhood Page of the News (January 24, 2000), concerning the School Construction Authority’s flawed plan to build three schools on property identified by the State of New York as surplus at the grounds of Creedmoor State Psychiatric Center. As the first public speaker at the January 20, 2000 Community School Board 26 hearing, the Queens Civic Congress urged a community coalition to fight to ensure the entire 26 acre site, as envisioned in our Master Plan and later adopted by Working Group on Creedmoor convened by the Queens Borough President, becomes a public education campus that serves the needs of the community.

In fact, the Queens Civic Congress first proposed the school campus to the Queens Borough President’s Creedmoor Working Group on Creedmoor. The Working Group included the Queens Civic Congress, community groups, District 26 board members and officials and local elected officials. It adopted a master plan for Creedmoor initially developed by the Queens Civic Congress with the civics neighboring Creedmoor, that included the plan for the High School, Middle School and Elementary School off Commonwealth Boulevard.

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. The Queens Civic Congress envisions that the school district in which the site lies would actively advance and reflect the concerns of the community concerning the educational programming that will take place.

Interested community members should contact the Borough President’s Planning Unit for a copy of the Working Group’s Plan. The original Civic Congress plan may be viewed at our website, www.queensciviccongress.org.

Sincerely,

Corey B. Bearak

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Executive Vice President, Queens Civic Congress

Chair, Special Committee on Creedmoor

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