

December 30, 1999

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Queens Civic Congress, a coalition of more than ninety civic, community, cooperative and tenant associations, I write to thank the *Courier* for highlighting recent progress by the NYC Board of Education on building three schools on property identified by the State of New York as surplus at the grounds of Creedmoor State Psychiatric Center. [*Three New Schools To Be Built On Creedmoor Site*, December 16, 1999]

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 schools. In fact, the Queens Civic Congress first proposed the school campus The Queens Borough President's Creedmoor Working Group on Creedmoor, in adopting a master plan for Creedmoor initially developed by the Queens Civic Congress with the civics neighboring Creedmoor, included the plan for the High School, Middle School and Elementary School off Commonwealth Boulevard.

Forwarded to Governor Pataki for approval, the plan also calls for a phased withdrawal of Office of Mental Health uses and a prearranged plan to use existing structures for assisted living [this could include the mentally ill] and low rise housing.

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.

The Queens Civic Congress advocates this successful community-based approach to planning for the reuse of surplus government property. Unlike other examples, this effort proceeded collegially without the rancor found elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Corey B. Bearak

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Executive Vice President, Queens Civic Congress
Chair, Special Committee on Creedmoor