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COLLEGE SITE FOES PUSH THEIR ATTACK

Community Councils Decry the
Wood-Harmon Choice in Plea
to 500 Civic Groups in City.

MOUNT PROSPECT URGED

Warning on Suits Over Street
Closings Issued—Official
Hints at Court Test Soon.

Eleven reasons for opposing the purchase of the Wood-Harmon site in Brooklyn for the proposed Brooklyn College buildings and campus have been sent to 500 of the leading civic associations of the city by the Community Councils of the City of New York under the direction of Frank Peer Beal, chairman of the committee on taxpayers' action, it was announced yesterday.

Mr. Beal said the civic group had been urged to oppose the city's spending \$1,600,000 for the privately owned site, so long as the city-owned Mount Prospect Reservoir site was available. Other members of the committee are William J. Mackin, Mrs. Frances S. Boulton, Rudolph Bauer, Benjamin Harrison and Samuel Douglas, counsel.

Reasons for Opposition.

The reasons given for opposing the purchase follow:

There is now city owned property available and suitable for the Brooklyn College at Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue, known as the Mount Prospect site.

The city will be obliged to pay \$1,600,000 for the Wood-Harmon site, while the city-owned land would cost it nothing.

The work on the Mount Prospect site can be started at once and about \$2,000,000 saved in foundation work by the use of the foundation of the abandoned central public library building.

Every building that is proposed to be erected on the Wood-Harmon site can be adequately erected on the city-owned site.

No football field or baseball field is contemplated on either site.

A thirty-five-foot truck sewer runs through Avenue H in the Wood-Harmon site, the air vents of which will consequently create obnoxious odors.

Bedford Avenue, an important automobile thoroughfare, runs through the Wood-Harmon site and will endanger the lives of the students.

The Long Island Railroad runs freight trains along the edge of the Wood-Harmon site, which will greatly interfere with the teaching in the proposed college and will impair the beauty of its buildings.

The city may be required to close streets on the Wood-Harmon site for which assessments have heretofore been paid, and many suits will probably be started against the city for refunds and damages. The city will lose taxes that it now receives on the Wood-Harmon site.

It is estimated that the city will be obliged to spend upward of \$5,000,000 on the Wood-Harmon site that may be saved by using the Mount Prospect site.

Hints at Court Action.

According to Mr. Douglas a taxpayer's action may be started in the courts within the next few days.

"The question as to whether \$1,600,000 is reasonable for the purchase of the Wood-Harmon site is not the criterion," he declared.

"The city is under no duty to buy land from any taxpayer merely because the price at which it is offered may or may not be reasonable. The important principle is whether public officials should waste public funds to purchase private property when city-owned property is available for exactly the same purpose."