

# NEWS



# NEWS

## MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

## Mayor Street Selects Development Team for Byberry Hospital Site

**PHILADELPHIA** — Mayor John F. Street and City Commerce Director Stephanie W. Naidoff today selected Brandywine Realty Trust and Westrum Development Company as the development team for the mixed-use development of the former Byberry State Hospital in the Somerton section of Northeast Philadelphia.

“The redevelopment of the Byberry Hospital site is a great opportunity to replace a long-vacant burden to the community with a vibrant mix of housing and offices that is in harmony with the surrounding neighborhood,” said Mayor John F. Street.

The Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) managed the acquisition, community planning and developer selection process on behalf of the City. In the fall of 2002, PIDC and the Somerton Civic Association agreed on a concept plan for the site that dedicated 25 acres to open space, 50 acres to residential uses and 55 acres along Roosevelt Boulevard to new office development. This plan was the basis for a public, developer solicitation process, culminating in the selection of the Brandywine/Westrum team.

Mayor Street stressed that the process is not over yet. “The development team will now work closely with the local community and elected officials to produce the final development plan.” Mayor Street added “The outstanding response of the private market to this competitive development opportunity demonstrates that our neighborhoods continue to attract investment from high quality private developers.”

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## **Mayor Selects Byberry Development Team**

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Commerce Director Naidoff, who directs the City's Economic Development efforts, is excited about the proposed development. "The end result will provide quality open space and attractive new housing for the neighborhood. The office campus on the Roosevelt Boulevard frontage will enhance a major gateway to the City and yield economic benefits for years to come".

Mary Jane Hazell, President of the Somerton Civic Association, is excited about the development potential for the neighborhood. "I'm ready to get to work . The community has made it clear what we want on this site, and we're committed to making sure the development is good for the City and good for Somerton."

The 130.8-acre Byberry State Hospital site, located at the northwest corner of Southampton Road and Roosevelt Boulevard at the far northeastern border of the city, was closed by the Commonwealth in 19\_\_ . The Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development acquired the property from the Commonwealth on behalf of the City in January 2004.

#### **About Brandywine Realty Trust:**

Brandywine Realty Trust, with headquarters in Plymouth Meeting, PA and regional offices in Mount Laurel, NJ and Richmond, VA is one of the Mid-Atlantic region's largest full service real estate companies. Brandywine is a publicly traded real estate investment trust that owns, manages or has an ownership interest in 293 office and industrial properties, aggregating 23.8 million square feet. For more information, visit Brandywine's website at [www.brandywinerealty.com](http://www.brandywinerealty.com)

#### **About Westrum Development Company:**

Westrum Development Company is a second-generation builder/developer based in Fort Washington, PA with 17 years of experience in the local residential market. Westrum has completed over 30 communities with thousands of homes constructed in the tri-state region.

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