

# Staten Island Advance

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## Cut crossing guards restored

### But it means delay in new cop class

By AMANITA DUGA  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

The city has come up with the cash to keep hundreds of school crossing guards off unemployment lines and on duty at the city's crosswalks.

But safe kids mean a minor blow to Mayor David N. Dinkins "Safe Streets, Safe City" plan: The city will have to postpone hiring nearly 200 police officers for six months.

The city budget had called for the elimination of 457 guards. Staten Island would have lost 23 crossing guards, leaving just 71 to cover the 102 designated school crossings in the borough.

"We're thrilled that the crossing guards are back," said Community School Board Chairwoman Olivia Brennan. "There aren't any little streets (on Staten Island) anymore."

"It's important because of the number of hazardous corners we have on Staten Island," said board member Jerry Cammarata. "On any given day, every corner is not covered. We're always short

guards."

Deputy Commissioner Joseph Wuensch, of the Police Department's Office of Management and Budget, said police have tentatively planned to save the \$2.8 million needed to keep the crossing guards by postponing the hiring of 179 police officers for six months.

The class that would have entered the Police Academy in January now will not begin training until June.

Wuensch said police and mayoral officials are still attempting to find an alternative source of revenue, thereby allowing the police officers to start on time.

"We're in a growth mode," Wuensch said, noting that the delay would simply mean a slowing in the increase of the ranks of the Police Department, not a decrease in the number of officers citywide.

The compromise is the second measure to salvage crossing guard jobs, which would have suffered a 50 percent cut — a loss of more than 900 jobs citywide —



ADVANCE PHOTO/FRANK J. JOHNS

A crossing guard helps children cross Tompkins Avenue at St. Mary's Avenue in Rosebank.

under the mayor's original budget.

That cut was then reduced to 25 percent after the City Council and mayor's office worked to find extra funding in the budget.

Finally, the Police Department looked into its own books for a source of revenue, and decided Sept. 11 — the first day of school — to delay the police class if no other alternative can be found.

"We're in good shape," said Lt. Anthony Juliano, operations coordinator for Patrol Borough Sta-

ten Island.

Crossings are prioritized in "A" and "B" categories. "A" categories are the top priority, based on factors such as volume of traffic and age of the children at the school.

If an "A" category crossing is left vacant, the Police Department fills it with a guard from a "B" category, but will put a police officer in the slot if no guards are available. "B" category crossings will simply be left unstaffed if no guard is available. There are 19

"A" crossings in this borough; the rest are "B" crossings.

Cancellation of the layoffs actually means the city will have to hire additional crossing guards, Wuensch said. As positions became vacant recently, the slots were not filled.

Cammarata said the restoration of the guards is only the first step. The next priority, he said, should be to increase the number of guards assigned to the Island by designating new corners as being in need of guards.

## Bush proposes nuke reduction

### Invites Soviets to join in scale-back of deadly weapons

By RITA BEAMISH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush wants the Soviets to join in scaling back the world's nuclear

some of the biggest changes in nuclear history, Bush pledged yesterday to "take steps to make the world a less dangerous place than

stored in Europe — as well as those carried on ships and submarines, including the Pentagon's 350-400 Tomahawk cruise mis-

to eliminate all long-range ballistic missiles with multiple warheads, an area where the Soviet Union has a large advantage.

Bush, however, would keep U.S. ship-borne multiple warheads, where the United States has the edge.

It was not clear how many

The president called on the Soviets to respond to his plan with "equally bold steps."

He telephoned Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday morning to inform them of his decision and also consulted yesterday with European leaders