

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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FRIENDS OF THE BARNES FOUNDATION LAUDS PENNSYLVANIA ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATE JOHN MORGANELLI'S SUPPORT FOR PRESERVATION OF BARNES LEGACY

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(MERION STATION, August 13) Friends of the Barnes Foundation today thanked John Morganelli, Democratic candidate for Pennsylvania Attorney General for speaking in favor of preservation of the world-renowned Barnes Foundation. The Barnes Foundation, renowned throughout the world as an exceptional heritage site, is currently threatened by a plan to remove its famed art collection from its historic home in Merion in order to create a tourism venue five miles away in Philadelphia. That plan has been decried throughout the country and abroad as "a crime." The plan to remove the Barnes art collection from its historic home has been steadfastly facilitated by current Pennsylvania Attorney General, Tom Corbett, in contrast to his mandated role as protector of charitable trusts.

Friends of the Barnes Foundation, as well as public officials, including U.S. Congressman Jim Gerlach, have repeatedly asked Attorney General Corbett to re-examination the matter in light of significant new information and changed circumstances; however, Attorney General Corbett has refused to do so.

A spokesperson for the Friends, Sandra Gross Bressler, stated, "We look forward to working with John Morganelli and other public officials to truly serve the public interest by supporting preservation of the Barnes Foundation in its historic home."

Retired attorney Aram Jerrehian has pointed out that as a champion of the move, the Attorney General was not impartial and should not have been a party to the 2004 hearings that resulted in the Barnes Board of Trustees being granted permission for the move. Mr. Jerrehian has met with a number of public officials to explore new avenues to block the move. He said, "We have a unique opportunity for true bipartisan cooperation as we work toward a positive resolution for the Barnes Foundation. The parties to this controversy can and should find constructive, rather than destructive solutions so that future generations will benefit from the experience and genius of Barnes's legacy as he designed it."

For more information, visit the Friends of the Barnes Foundation website at <http://www.barnesfriends.org>

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