

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montgomery County Commissioners Hire Attorney Mark Schwartz for Barnes Matter

(NORRISTOWN – June 8, 2007) Montgomery County Commissioners Thomas Ellis, Jim Matthews, and Ruth Damsker voted unanimously on Thursday, June 7 to hire Bryn Mawr attorney Mark D. Schwartz to pursue legal action blocking the planned move of the Barnes Foundation from Merion to Philadelphia. The decision stems from an earlier resolution by the three-member governing body, which stated “the Barnes Foundation is a treasured institution and is part of the fabric, character and culture of Lower Merion Township and Montgomery County.” Also on Thursday, a National Historical Landmark Eligibility Overview Assessment from the Cultural Resource Consulting Group (CRCG) reported that the Barnes site is eligible for national landmark status as a total entity of its arboretum, gallery buildings, and art collections.

Mr. Schwartz, who has handled legal cases around the country, also works with Friends of the Barnes Foundation, the citizens’ group which has been working for several years toward permanent preservation of the complete Barnes complex in Merion.

Following the vote Friends of the Barnes Foundation member, Walter Herman, remarked, “Through his months of research, Mark Schwartz has developed a deep understanding of the important issues involved in this matter. That knowledge is matched by his strong conviction that the Barnes Foundation is a complete and irreplaceable treasure that should be preserved for future generations. It is great to have the county commissioners solidly in our corner on this.”

For further information, visit <http://www.barnesfriends.org> and www.markschwartzesq.com