

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 35 Merion Station, PA 19066 www.barnesfriends.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nancy Herman at 610-667-0281 or to barnesfriends@comcast.net

Montgomery County Commissioners to Explore Legal Options to Block Barnes Move from Merion

(NORRISTOWN – March 1, 2007) The Montgomery County Commissioners have announced their decision to seek legal means to block the current plan to move the art collection of the world-renowned Barnes Foundation from Merion to Philadelphia. By unanimous vote, the three-member governing body issued a resolution stating that “the Barnes Foundation is a treasured institution and is part of the fabric, character and culture of Lower Merion Township and Montgomery County” and their concern that “moving the Barnes from Merion is not the appropriate solution to maintaining its sustainability and supporting its long term viability.” Going beyond their recent resolution in favor of preservation of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, this new resolution authorizes the Montgomery County’s Solicitor’s Office to “seek proposals from law firms to explore legal strategies and options to keep the Barnes Foundation in Lower Merion.”

The text of the resolution follows:

Montgomery County Commissioners, March 1, 2007

Resolution to seek proposals from law firms to evaluate the legal options to retain the Barnes Foundation in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County

WHEREAS, the Barnes Foundation is a treasured institution and is part of the fabric, character and culture of Lower Merion Township and Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The unique and intended educational and aesthetic experience of visitors to the Barnes Foundation would be forever lost if moved from its home in Merion, Lower Merion Township; and

WHEREAS, keeping the Barnes Foundation in Merion presents a significant opportunity to advance tourism and cooperation between the suburbs and the City of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion have publicly endorsed keeping the Barnes Foundation in Lower Merion and have publicly opposed moving it; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that moving the Barnes from Merion is not the appropriate solution to maintaining its sustainability and supporting its long term viability; and

WHEREAS, in support of the foregoing, the County Commissioners passed Resolution number 07-C.8 on January 18, 2007, in support of the retention of the Barnes Foundation in its current location in Lower Merion Township; and

WHEREAS, the County wants to seek proposals from law firms to explore all legal strategies and options available to keep the Barnes Foundation in its present location in Lower Merion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solicitor's Office is authorized to seek proposals from law firms to explore legal strategies and options to keep the Barnes Foundation in Lower Merion.

For further information, please contact Friends of the Barnes Foundation at 610-667-0281 or by e-mail to barnesfriends@comcast.net.

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