

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR SWEARS-IN JOSEPH MARAZITI AS CHAIRMAN OF STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

Stating that he will lead the charge to fulfill the goals of the State Plan, Gov. Christie Whitman today swore-in Joseph M. Marziti, Jr. as Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

"Following the State Plan will ensure a higher quality of life for us all," Gov. Whitman said. "But, like most plans, it's only as good as the intentions of those who use it. That's why I, for one, plan to use it to make a difference. And I've called on mayors, town councils, and other local officials to do the same."

The Governor said Maraziti, of Chatham Township, will be working with members of her cabinet who have been directed by her to use the State Plan as a fundamental guide in their permit and funding decisions for open space and building projects. The objective is to give priority to development applications that meet the goals of the state plan.

"The goals of the state Plan are goals we all share for New Jersey," Gov. Whitman said. "More open space preserved. Less congestion on our roads. Thriving cities. Development where it makes sense -- where the roads and sewers and schools are already in place to serve that development." "I also want to work with towns that are committed to carrying out the State Plan and keeping our roads less busy and our open space more open," the Governor said. "I have proposed that we create a new partnership focused on sensible development."

"Under the partnership, the local government will guarantee that it will conform to the State Plan guidelines for building where it makes sense," Gov. Whitman said. "For our part, the state will then grant up-front approval for all development projects. That will be good for planners, good for builders, and good for communities."

"We can help builders, and those who work for them and with them, by creating incentives to develop according to the plan. The advantages of following the State Plan far outweigh any possible problems. It could very well be the most important thing we do for our state and for our future generations."

"We must ensure that our children and their children will inherit a New Jersey they will still be proud to call home." the Governor said. "That's the ultimate goal of the State Plan and my administration. I have confidence that--with Joe Maraziti at the helm--New Jersey and the State Plan will be Perfect

Together." Maraziti, a partner in the law firm, of Maraziti, Falcon and Healey, of Short Hills, has specialized in environmental and infrastructure related issues for 25 years. He is active in professional and civic organizations regarding the environment.

A graduate of Fordham Law School, he has served on the Environment of the 21st Century Task Force of the New Jersey General Assembly, as well as chairman of Morris 2000. He is a member of the Regional Plan Association and vice-chairman of

New Jersey Future, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a productive economy and sustainable environment.

