

Burglars loot new halfway house

The Tysen St. Halfway House for the mentally retarded, New Brighton, whose approval by Community Board 2 has been the subject of much local controversy, was broken in and burglarized Friday night, thieves making off with some of the furniture that had been delivered earlier the same afternoon in preparation for a full-time training program in residence for mentally retarded adults.

The possibility of a burglary had in fact been anticipated, after Richard Kronfeld, director of the Training Adults for Community Living program, which has its facilities at the

house on 200 Tysen St., discovered that the lock on an upper story door leading to the fire escape had been braced open with cardboard.

After securing the building, Kronfeld says he alerted the police to patrol the area against any burglary attempt, since the building had to remain unoccupied overnight. The burglars managed to break in through a locked basement door, however, and made off with a washing machine and three floor lamps.

The burglary was discovered yesterday morning by Anthony Ragucci, director of security for Willowbrook Developmental Center (which sponsors the halfway house project), who was making a routine check of the building. There are no indications as to either the identity of the burglars or the time the incident occurred, police said.