

# Connelly to move office to Willowbrook Development Center

Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly, saying she hopes to highlight some of the good things about the Willowbrook Developmental Center, is moving her offices out of her home community of West Brighton and into the center's administration building.

With the consent of acting Willowbrook director Elin M. Howe, Mrs. Connelly, a Democratic lawmaker who is chairman of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Retardation, said she expects to take over a two-room suite on the first floor of Building 1 by Dec. 3 when the lease to her Forest Ave. quarters expires.

Mrs. Connelly explained it became clear she needed a larger office soon after she was named head of the mental hygiene panel and the size of her staff increased.

In addition, she said, "Parking became a problem because the neighborhood is such a busy place. They installed meters recently and while that might be good for the storekeepers, it's not too good for the office staff."

The move, since it will be to a state facility, will result in a savings for New York State, according to the assemblywoman.

But perhaps more important, Mrs. Connelly said, "it will be helpful to Willowbrook by hopefully bringing more people in and by showing them the good things" about the 1,700-bed home for the retarded.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Connelly has announced the results of a questionnaire distributed to her constituents, Islanders within the 61st Assembly District.

Of nearly 1,000 people who responded,

according to the Democrat's survey, 83 percent favored the death penalty in New York State for those found guilty of intentional murder.

A great majority — 83 percent of those questioned — believe people should be given the right to die by requesting in advance that they not be kept alive solely by life-sustaining machinery, Mrs. Connelly's survey showed. The remainder opposed such measures.

The survey indicated that many Staten Islanders remain confused about the concept of New York's no-fault insurance system, with only 60 percent taking time to answer the question, "Do you favor retaining the present \$500 threshold for personal injury?" Of those who answered, 22 percent said yes.

Many more people, however, responded to an inquiry about whether no-fault should be abolished. Of about 800 respondents, 46 percent want to see abolition of the system.

Asked about the expansion of home health care services, both in the public and private sector, 88 percent approved, provided such services are properly staffed and supervised.

Three-quarters of those Islanders answering Mrs. Connelly's survey said they leave the borough and go to New Jersey to shop because of the higher New York State sales tax.

And finally, about 960 of the 1,000 respondents agreed that mail from elected officials is a good thing, saying they appreciated receiving newsletters concerning community issues.