

Island issues presented to new board members

Urging them to display a social conscience in considering proposals for halfway houses and other social programs, Deputy Borough President Ralph Lamberti last night swore in members of Staten Island's three community boards.

Lamberti, filling in for Borough President Gaeta who was reported to be home suffering from the flu, said that the nearly 75 board members — either being appointed or reappointed — would face a number of important issues in the next several months.

"I urge you not to be a one-issue member and to instead to become familiar with all the important issues facing the borough," Lamberti said.

Speaking of a court decree mandating that Willowbrook's population be reduced to 250 residents from its current figure of 1,800, Lamberti said that community boards would face a number of proposals for halfway houses for the retarded.

"I know the typical response is that I'm for the concept of halfway houses but not in my neighborhood," Lamberti said. "But they have to go somewhere and if you're opposed to one location, well I think you have a responsibility to find an alternative site."

Among the other important issues that will come before the community boards, Lamberti said, was the selection of a new site for the methadone clinic, currently located in Stapleton, and neighborhood revitalization projects in several North Shore communities.

The appointments to the community boards were made by Borough President Gaeta, who based half of them — as called for in the new charter — on the recommendations of Councilmen Anth-

ony I. Giacobbe, Mary Codd, Nicholas LaPorte and Angelo Arculeo.

The appointments brought all three boards to their full 50-member strength for the first time in their history.

Newly sworn-in members said they were anxious to begin their work on their respective community boards. And they expressed different reasons for accepting positions on the board, which are non-salaried posts requiring attendance at several meetings a month.

"I hope I can bring a different point of view to Community Board 3," said Philip Blitz of Huguenot, a former president of the Staten Island Democratic Association. "I want to get the liberal and progressive point of view across."

Bruce Liozzi of New Brighton, a new appointee to Community Board 1, said that he hopes to insure that "only the right kind of development" is encouraged on the North Shore. "I think that unchecked development has been one of the Island's biggest problems," he said.

Christina Joseph of Dongan Hills, appointed to Community Board 2, said that as chairman of the consumer council of the Staten Island Community Mental Health Society she will push for adequate mental health programs in the borough.