

## Board backs industrial park tower, proposed Willowbrook counseling site

Community Board 1 voted to support the proposed microwave tower in the Mariners Harbor Industrial Park and reaffirmed its choice of the former site of the Pantry Pride supermarket on Richmond Ave. in Port Richmond for a training and counseling program by the Willowbrook Developmental Center.

The board voted to support the tower, to be located at 3075 Richmond Terr. despite opposition by community residents at the board's meeting last night in the St. George campus of Community College of Staten Island.

It's designed to effect better ship control in the harbor.

The tower would relay its transmissions to another proposed microwave tower on Todt Hill, but despite the interdependence, the two applications are treated separately by city planners.

The board reaffirmed its earlier decision to support the use of the vacant

Pantry Pride store on Forest Ave. for a districtwide counseling center for former Willowbrook residents.

New opposition recently emerged from the Decker Ave. Civic Association against the Pantry Pride site which would include a staff of 30 or 40 to serve a similar number of clients over a 10-hour day.

Vice chairman Ernst Bendix, in supporting the resolution, said no new evidence on the issue had been presented at the board's hearing recently and the board was compelled by a court mandate to help return Willowbrook residents to their original communities to select a viable site.

In another matter, Vito Fossella, chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals, said that many applicants for variances do not understand the proper function of the board.

In a brief presentation, Fossella said

the board did not have "total latitude and discretion" in deciding on zoning changes and noted it was constrained by city zoning resolutions.

He said "One of the basic functions of the board is to make zoning regulation laws constitutional," he said. "It was established to protect the rights of the individual."

In other action, the board voted to support the following resolutions:

¶ To upgrade Transit Authority operations at the Edgewater St. bus facility in Clifton by acting upon a number of board recommendations including the installation of a wash rack to clean buses.

¶ To emphasize the importance of the industrial development of the North Shore following a recent statement by Robert Wagner Jr., city planning chairman, that the latter was the most important priority on the Island.

¶ To support the use of East Shore piers to provide a base for explorations by oil companies off the East Coast.

¶ To assume the responsibility for the handling of the board's vouchers by July 1. Presently Borough Hall is handling personnel and payroll responsibilities for the board.

¶ To oppose two current pieces of legislation calling for a new system of appointing board members and selecting board members on the basis of the population estimations from designated neighborhoods within the board's area.

— DOUGLAS PATRICK