

## Stein charges patients get poor care

Associated Press

Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein said today Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital is giving inadequate care to 156 former Willowbrook mental patients and is charging the state an "unjustifiably high" price of \$89,000 a year per patient.

He said the 156 patients are multiply-handicapped and profoundly retarded, but the staff at Flower-Fifth Avenue's Mental Retardation Institute were not initially trained to deal with their special problems, including inability to speak and an inability to feed themselves in many cases.

He also said three chronically-ill patients in their 20s have died at the hospital and the administration there has not supplied "sufficient information" about the cause of the deaths, listed as pneumonia.

Nevertheless, Stein said, Flower-Fifth Avenue is charging the state \$89,000 a year for the care of each patient. That comes to \$245 a day, he noted, as compared to the \$72-a-day cost at the facility where they were housed previously, the state-run Gouverneur Development Center.

The patients were moved out of Gouverneur in June because of what Stein called its "obsolete and unsafe conditions."