

Krupsak backs merchants

in move to oust methadone clinic

By BRUCE ALPERT

Lt. Gov. Mary Anne Krupsak yesterday voiced her support for efforts by Stapleton merchants and residents to oust the controversial methadone clinic on Water St. and pledged to personally contact Island hospitals to see if they might be willing to house the facility.

"The state has shown so little vision in catching a community before it goes down the road of deterioration," Miss Krupsak said. "Certainly the methadone clinic is perceived as being a negative force in this community and the state should work with the people in Stapleton to find an alternative."

The lieutenant governor made the comment during a daylong tour of Staten Island communities as she pressed her "people come first" campaign to dethrone Gov. Carey as the Democratic nominee in the Sept. 12 gubernatorial primary. Also challenging Carey in the primary is State Sen. Jeremiah Bloom of Brooklyn.

On other Island issues, Miss Krupsak said she was opposed to the proposed Travis power plant and the Rossville liquefied natural gas tanks and promised residents of flood-prone areas that she would ask the state to halt all hearings for construction permits in their communities.

Talking to victims of the Election Day floods last November and the flooding that followed last Saturday's downpour, Miss Krupsak said the state's Department of Environmental Conservation should be working on solutions to the problem instead of holding hearings on proposed development that she claimed would only worsen the situation.

"This is the type of problem in which the state should get involved," Miss Krupsak said as residents of Liberty Ave. in Dongan Hills showed her pictures of flood damage. "I'm going to call Peter Berle (EnCon commissioner) and see what the state can do for these people."

Asked to comment on Miss Krupsak's call for a suspension of state wetlands hearings, Gordon Colvin, regional EnCon director, said the state was mandated by law to grant a hearing to any developer who seeks one.

Miss Krupsak, who was accompanied on her Island tour by Councilwoman Mary Codd, contrasted herself to Gov. Carey. Carey, she said, relies only a few close advisers and rarely talks to even his commissioners. "I'll continue to go into the neighborhoods and meet with community groups and then report back to my commissioners at regular cabinet meetings," she said.

"After all, even if a particular issue isn't directly related to state government, the governor can do a lot to focus attention on the problems and work with people in and out of state government to develop solutions," Miss Krupsak said.

In Stapleton, where the lieutenant governor had a box lunch in Tappen Park and toured the Stapleton branch of the New York Public Library, she vowed to fight for the removal of the methadone clinic and seek state subsidies for residents interested in upgrading their homes.

"Certainly, there can be no more important priority than saving our communities," Miss Krupsak said, as she sipped punch on a park bench across the street from the methadone center. "Stapleton is at a crossroads right now, and we should do all we can to make sure that the excellent housing stock is preserved and the efforts of community residents and merchants to upgrade the community are successful."

To save the Travis community, Miss Krupsak said the state should drop all plans to build the 700,000-kilowatt coal and refuse-fired generating plant in that community. The plant is not needed and would add yet another source of air pollution to a community she said was already besieged with pollutants from an existing Con Edison plant and industry in New Jersey. The state Power Author-

ity recently announced it was re-evaluating the project, a decision that some officials said indicated the proposed Island site is a dead issue.

During other Island stops, Miss Krupsak told residents of the Broadview Manor Home in South Beach that she would fight for increased allowances for patients in adult homes. Employees at the Staten Island Developmental Center were told that the state should allocate more money to retrain workers for employment in smaller community facilities being set up as part of the state's deinstitutionalization program.

Miss Krupsak was also endorsed by Councilwoman Codd, who said the lieutenant governor first encouraged her to enter politics by "showing me what a woman can accomplish in government with talent and determination."

But not all went smoothly. Miss Krupsak was nearly two hours late for a campaign appearance in St. George ferry terminal yesterday morning. And nobody on her staff bothered to tell her waiting supporters or members of the press.

Miss Krupsak apologized, explaining that she was up late the night before on campaign business and just couldn't awaken early enough to keep the appointment.