

## **Group protests group home action**

We have sent this letter to Community Board 3:

"Because of conditions and events brought to the community by Community Board 3, the Department of Mental Hygiene, et. al., we feel compelled to make our feelings known. This organization wishes to go on record as stating we are not against the concept of group homes for the retarded if handled properly and it meets with the satisfaction of the existing residents who are directly affected. However, it is quite evident that this program is not acceptable if procedures implemented by your board and the aforementioned agencies are any example of what we can expect.

"This organization supports the stand of the residents who expressed opposition as well as the positions taken by our fellow civic groups within the confines of Board 3 boundaries appearing at the so-called "public hearing" at IS 34, Tottenville. It is the consensus of the residents of the area that proper public notice was not given, nor sufficient time afforded to those directly involved. The

public notice was listed in the Staten Island Advance on Thursday, Nov. 9. Due to circumstances, not the fault of the carriers, papers on the South Shore arrived very late and in some instances were not received at all. The next day the Board 3 office was closed so residents had to wait until Monday, the day of the "hearing" for information, none of which was available over the phone.

"It is also our opinion that information on the proposed sites was secured underhandedly and without any form of representation to the communities on the part of resident members of the board. We are particularly indignant and concerned about the fact that a resident of Tottenville is a member of the Health and Hospitals Committee and has been aware of this situation but never acted in the capacity of a representative of the community or its interests, which we thought was one of the first requisites for placement on the board.

"It is a fact that this matter went into Committee and was stated in your minutes of March 10, 1978. The "hearing" was held on Nov. 13, a period of over eight months, yet this community or any other Community in your boundaries was never approached for input. This isn't what we call representation. Owners of houses for sale and realtors were faced with misrepresentation and information was obtained by devious means which evidently your Health and Hospitals Committee condoned. If they claim to have no knowledge of this, then they are taking their positions for granted, and are not doing their jobs. They should be more selective of those they work with and should have utilized more scrutiny into information received. It also leads us to question the Board in its entirety, if they were aware of what was going on. If they were not then

there is no rapport. Therefore, how can you make important decisions as a unit, which is necessary for voting. If the whole board was aware, however, then it is quite necessary that the membership be reviewed. Communities deserve proper representation if board members are given the future of communities in their hands.

"We ask that the borough president look seriously into this matter with a view towards obtaining proper representation for the people. We also ask that our state representatives appraise both the workings of state agencies involved and those they personally may have recommended for placement on Board 3.

"Something is very improper here and should be investigated."

ART FEMINELLA,  
President,  
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Civic League of United Tottenville  
(CLOUT)