



The seat of Staten Island's government, Borough Hall, is located in the Island business district — St. George, part of Community Board 1.

S.I. Advance Photo by Barry Schwartz

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confident manner came from facing more difficult issues than less difficult ones.

"A combination of factors on the North Shore make this a perfect place for a board to work in," said board member Vincent Montalbano. "More issues of broader substance come before Board 1."

Almost to a member, however, is a feeling that the board goes largely unappreciated by the general community.

"We really don't have enough exposure," said board member Dan Icolari. "People still don't know that we exist, never mind what our mandates are."

Harold Greene, a vice chairman, said: "The public by and large has no awareness of what the community board is and what it's supposed to do. I doubt if people really know the intent of the City Charter is to have the board act as a government with the force of law almost."

As a result of the public's lack of awareness, "we don't get the input we'd like from our own communities," board member Joseph Gatto said.

He added that civic associations,

which most closely represent the North Shore communities, "aren't vocal until some sort of crisis arises in their particular neighborhood. That's when they come out in force."

A number of board members said that Board 1 has a "true mix" and a "good cross-section" of members represented on the board, while others said that the board is lacking in this respect.

in their movement. Even if it isn't a matter germane to their employment, they still might be hesitant to vote...it might upset the hierarchy."

LaManna believes that there aren't enough blue-collar workers and an "over abundance" of lawyers on the board.

Robert Domina agrees that there are not enough blue collars on the board, but adds: "By virtue of the appointments, it

Voice in the community

"There's not a lot of representation of minorities and poor on the board that I would like to see," Capelli said. "There are some members on the board from economically disadvantaged communities, but I would like to see more minority representation."

"On the surface," board member Robert Littrell said, "it seems the board might be a bit top heavy with members who are civil service employees and seem to be somewhat restricted

becomes a very political, almost patronage job. That's how I got appointed, by knowing someone in politics."

However they might have appeared on the board's roster, many of the 50 members take a great deal of pride in having won its biggest battles — the decision to oppose the Tenhill-Faymor development in Stapleton, which brought the board, along with civic groups, into a federal courthouse; the proposed move of the welfare office in St. George