

# **Disabilities panel to withhold approval of new UCP center**

The Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council voted yesterday to withhold approval of the new United Cerebral Palsy center in a former Mariners Harbor tennis club and recommended the issue be studied further.

"That leaves us in limbo," said Fred Stein, UCP director of preferred living arrangements for children. "Should the council feel it is not within their province to vote on the matter, that is acceptable, but the council is leaving us in the middle. It is grossly unfair."

United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State purchased the building

grams but the expansion of programs already in existence at the Eaton and Warner centers, and therefore should not be subject to review.

Critics of the move who are council members said it does not address the needs of UCP children as required by the Willowbrook Review Panel. Keith Penman, program director at the Warner center, said that providing expanded facilities for adults would allow expansion of programs for children, thereby addressing children's needs.

A stop-work order has been issued by the city Department of Buildings against UCP. Renovations have been

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at 2324 Forest Ave. to house day programs for about 200 UCP clients currently located in the Nina Eaton Center at the South Beach Psychiatric Center, and the Karl Warner Center at the Staten Island Developmental Center, as provided for by the Willowbrook Consent Decree.

The transaction which carried a \$1.3 million price tag, was not formally submitted to the council's review procedures. Proposal review is required before any member organization changes programs or facilities.

UCP submitted the proposal for the new day program center in June. Last week, members of the proposal review committee voted to recommend withholding approval.

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grams but the expansion of programs already in existence at the Eaton and Warner centers, and therefore should not be subject to review.

Other business at yesterday's meeting, conducted in the Staten Island Developmental Center, included an announcement by center director Elin Howe that the center has proposed hosting the boroughwide Special Olympics in 1980, and possibly the state's game's in 1981.

She further reported that new respite centers in SIDC's building 50 have full schedules through the summer.

"They have been extremely well responded to and are totally booked up," Ms. Howe said. "You can really see the need."

—CLAIRE WILSON