

J. D. Cavonius
3/2/50

Group homes provide much-needed care

In reply to your editorial published Feb. 12, coincidentally and incongruously on Lincoln's Birthday, allow me to state the following:

With respect to neighborhood acceptance of group homes, since passage of the Padavan legislation which calls for alerting a community board as to where and when a group home is planned, no, I repeat no neighborhood has willingly accepted one.

While Community Board 1 may have a disproportionate number of homes, many of them have been in existence for a number of years and have truly been accepted by the community.

Your contention that Staten Island Development Center is "dumping" clients is inaccurate and totally irresponsible. Every effort is made to return residents to their borough of interest. Obviously, exceptions to this practice must be made. Define for me, if you will, who is a Staten Islander? Cannot anyone move to this borough at any time and thus become a Staten Islander? This being the case, how can you justify placing someone who has lived at the Developmental Center for five, 10 or 15 years, gone to a local day program, been travel trained on Staten Island, established personal relationships here, in short been a Staten Islander, in another borough?

With respect to the saturation issue, Community Board 2 is definitely not in that category. Perhaps the fact that most of our more affluent areas are in Community Board 2's district exempts them from the "horror" of group homes...

With respect to your statement that there "ought to be an absolute cap on group homes on the Island..." to "grant the Island needed relief" leads me to ask "Relief from what?" Relief from dealing with children who have problems? Do not our children living at home have the same problems? (Granted Staten Island parents have the "not my kid" syndrome, but the vicious acts of vandalism in our communities speak for themselves.) Relief from children whose parents, at the present time, are unable to provide a home for them? Are not some Staten Island families experiencing these same problems?...

KATHY MAHONEY,

Concord