

## Willowbrook patient dies of fall injuries

A 34-year-old resident at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, who had been hospitalized since July 28 after he fell out a window at the institution, died yesterday in St. Vincent's Medical Center.

A spokesman for St. Vincent's confirmed that the patient, Michael Hollender, died sometime yesterday, but would not release any details.

Hollender was taken to St. Vincent's after he fell out of the second-floor hall window of Building 7 at the Willowbrook facility.

At the time Hollender's accident occurred, some employees at the institution were participating in a "sick-out" to protest what members of the center's union said was a serious shortage of staffing to care for the Willowbrook institution's 1,100 residents.

The sick-out ended July 28, two days after the accident. During the four-day protest, absenteeism ranged between 20 and 33 percent, two to three times the normal rate for the summer months.

James Shea, deputy director of the institution for the retarded, told the Advance the day after the accident that a state probe was under way to determine what caused Hollender to fall two stories to the ground. A three-foot ledge extends horizontally outside the base of the window.

Felton King, president of Local 149 of the Civil Service Employees Association, the union which represents the center's employees, said after the accident that the windows are supposed to be locked to prevent such accidents. King charged that windows and buildings at the institution are badly deteriorating.

King said he believed the window that Hollender toppled out of was closed, "only to be forced open" when a resident leaned against it.

Anthony Pinto, president of the Willowbrook Benevolent Society, a parents' group, said at the time of the accident that 17 residents on the second floor of Building 7 were supervised by only two employees. When Hollender fell out the window, Pinto said, only one employee was on duty because the other was on a dinner break.

Pinto said that because of the physical layout of the ward, it is virtually impossible for one employee to keep track of 17 residents.

Officials at Willowbrook and officials conducting the state probe could not be reached for comment last night.