

# Street's residents oppose placement of group home

A proposed group home for the mentally retarded at 72 Ionia Ave., Annadale, has drawn stiff opposition from community residents who contend it will further aggravate the area's inadequate septic tank system and parking problems.

Randy Lee, an Eltingville attorney, who was hired by approximately 3 area families to represent them, said the state Office of Mental Retardation has also supplied the community with inadequate and sometimes inaccurate information about the proposed home.

At Community Board 3's monthly meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria of Richmond Memorial hospital, the board will decide whether it will approve the group home, which would serve eight to 10 mentally retarded people.

Last week, the community board conducted a public hearing

on the group home, which would be operated by the Staten Island Aid for the Retarded. Approximately 100 neighborhood residents showed up to voice their opposition.

"For one thing," Lee said, "the state has failed to conduct an environmental impact study as required by the state Environmental Quality Review Act of 1975.

"There is absolutely no doubt about it — the state has not complied with the law," Lee continued.

Lee said that the state first said it would be a group home for eight children. Then later, in their own feasibility study, increased the number of residents to 10.

"You have to realize that this is a dead-end street with two-family homes on both sides of the street and they already have a real problem with septic tanks and parking," Lee said.

Lee said the community might not have opposed the group home had the state agreed to specific conditions for it, like the number of people who could inhabit the home.

"But the state said it was not interested in giving anything like this," Lee said.

Carol Rothfeld, who is in charge of group home proposals on the Island for the state Office of Mental Retardation, was unavailable for comment.