

Civic group requests hepatitis investigation

Members of the Dongan Hills United Civic Association are calling for an investigation by public officials and Community Board 2 into a group home for the mentally retarded, where a resident has reportedly been identified as a carrier of infectious hepatitis.

"Our community advisory board visited the group home recently and became concerned when we saw signs urging employees to use caution and wash their hands, because one of the clients was identified as a carrier of hepatitis," said Bernard Kosinski, president of the civic association.

"We asked the director about this, and he admitted that there is one client who is a carrier of the disease. We are concerned because this client is apparently being allowed to go to church in the community and appear in other public places," he added.

Kosinski said that when the group home was established, "Residents were promised that clients would be carefully screened to avoid just this kind of thing."

In other actions taken during the civic association's monthly meeting in the Dongan Hills

United Units Building, Kosinski announced that new lighting will be installed under the railroad trestles of the Staten Island Rapid Transit stations.

Athan Foundos, district Sanitation Department supervisor, discussed the department's crackdown on illegal dumpers in the area.

David Linner, of the Staten Island Social Security office, discussed the impact of President Reagan's budget proposals upon the Social Security system.

Members also voted to support the "bottle bill" currently before the state Legislature, which would require a nickel deposit on all beer and soda containers.

Homeowners will also petition the city to reduce property tax assessments in the community. "There are many homeowners," Kosinski said, "who are still experiencing flooding, or whose homes are still below grade level," even after extensive sewer construction in the area. "Since they are still experiencing many problems, these homeowners feel that there have been no real improvements that should increase the assessment of their property," he explained.

The next meeting will be April 19.