

September 12, 1982

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MARC DAVIS

MN. Daily News

SEPT-8-1982

Set hearing on proposed group home

By BILL FARRELL

A public hearing on a proposed new group home to be established in Tottenville will be held one week from today at the offices of Community Board 3 at 1000 Johnston Terrace.

According to notices that were mailed out to area residents earlier this week, a group home for 10 adolescent to young adult retardates ranging in disability from moderate to severe is planned for 7768-7770 Amboy Road.

"Based on some of the reaction I've received from people in that area, next Wednesday's hearing should be very interesting," said Frank Beard, district manager for the community board.

While no one from the state could be reached for a comment on the home, people with interest in the area are concerned. "There already is a group home in Tottenville," said Barney Taranto, a Staten Island builder, who just built eight houses across from the proposed group home site.

"I had no idea that the state planned to set up this group home there. I just finished building eight houses in the \$250,000 range adjacent to those two houses.

"In fact," added Taranto. "I even built those houses that are going to be used for the group home."

While Taranto would not state what his specific objections were to the home, he said, "Anyone

who wants to hear what I've got to say should be at the hearing next week."

According to Beard, the facility will house two residents from the area and eight residents from Willowbrook.

"I know these people have got to go some where," said Taranto. "But I am really concerned with putting these people out at the end of Amboy Road. If you look at the site, it is less than half of a block from the water.

"What is going to happen if these people find themselves in the water? It is a dangerous situation. Who is going to be responsible if one of these people, who are severely retarded, falls in the water?"