

No new leads on missing retarded man

Police have no new leads on the disappearance of a severely retarded Staten Island Developmental Center resident who was discovered missing Friday during a trip with other residents aboard the Staten Island Ferry.

The missing man, 46-year-old John Connelly, is able to communicate only by waving his hands.

Neither police nor the Willowbrook center has received any information on Connelly since Friday night, when the Missing Persons Squad in Manhattan received reports that a man fitting his description was spotted on a northbound IRT subway and later in an abandoned Harlem building. Police were unable to confirm those reports.

Connelly, along with 17 other people who receive training with him during the week at the Federation Employment Guidance Service in lower Manhattan, was on a round-trip ferry outing when he was discovered missing, police said.

According to a developmental center administrator, Connelly was aboard when the boat left the White hall terminal at 12:30 p.m. Friday. He was also aboard when it left the St. George terminal for the return trip just after 1 p.m., they said.

Connelly was present for a line-up before the group left the boat in Manhattan, but when the group got off the boat he was gone, a supervisor at the center said.

Connelly is white, about 5 feet, 1 inch tall, weighs 100 pounds, has brown hair and brown eyes and was wearing jeans, a gray, red and blue pullover shirt and sneakers. Though he is unable to speak, he responds to his own last name, according to center officials.