

# What use for SIDC property?

The Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook has housed the mentally retarded for almost 30 years. The center is scheduled to close in 1987 and its residents are to be put in group homes throughout the area. The state is trying to determine whether 90 acres of land on the property of the center should be redeveloped. What do you think the state should do with the center and the property?

**Nelson Garcia, Port Richmond:** "I feel they should keep it open because closing it would jeopardize the retarded. If they close it, they'll just have to open another place for them."



Nelson Garcia



Mary McKeon

**Mary McKeon, Mariners Harbor:** "I think they should keep them in Willowbrook because if they're put in a group home, the neighborhood kids may torment them."

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**Olga Robles, Mariners Harbor:** "They should not close it. Where are they going to put all those people? There's going to be a lot of people out of work, too."



Olga Robles



Rodolfo Nicholson

**Rodolfo Nicholson, St. George:** "I believe they should turn it (the property and center) over to the community. There may be better service if they give it to the community. It should be co-operated."

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**Edward Johnson, Westerleigh:** "I think they should preserve the property and make it a part of the Green-

## Just Asking

belt. I understand the conditions at Willowbrook aren't too great, so I think the people should be moved into group homes."



Edward Johnson



David Bonamo

**David Bonamo, Todt Hill:** "If they close it down, they'll have to do something with the people. In my opinion, they should put money into the center to try to improve it."

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**Gene Christian, Westerleigh:** "It (the property) should go for public use, either a college or a recreation center. Don't let the land developers get to it. Moving the people is the bottom line, I guess. Some of those people need an awful lot of care."



Gene Christian



Charles Carr

**Charles Carr, Westerleigh:** "I'm in favor of moving the people into the group homes. Any type of development would be welcome as opposed to having it waste like the old Staten Island Hospital."