

CB 2 vote tables debate on Mrs. Prado's work

With several dozen sign-waving supporters of District Manager Lillian Prado in attendance, Community Board 2 last night voted to table any discussion of changes in her working conditions.

The vote, sought by Chairman Edmund Murphy, followed an agreement reached Monday between Murphy and Mrs. Prado's counsel, Jack Deitch. Until that agreement came, Murphy and a majority of the board's executive committee had sought to have Mrs. Prado sign a letter of agreement, or contract, which would have placed her under Murphy's direct supervision.

"There's no use having any misunderstandings because no one's attacking Mrs. Prado," Murphy told the board at its monthly meeting at Sea View Hospital and Home. "I can tell you that as of this moment, the cooperation between us has never been better in my short term of office than it is now."

Murphy, whose three-year appointment to the board is up for renewal by Borough Hall next month, was elected chairman last spring.

Reading from a statement to which he, Deitch and First Vice Chairman Raymond Watson had agreed, Murphy also said, "We are withdrawing any attempt to impose a new contract upon her at this time."

"I sincerely regret any statements which may have been made in the heat of the controversy, by myself and others, which may have in any way impugned the integrity of Lillian Prado or the manner in which she conducts her office," Murphy said. "I should like it to be known that Lillian has at all times operated in accordance with the law and the rules of this board and has never given any-

one cause to consider her delinquent in her office."

Deitch told the board he and Mrs. Prado "entered into the agreement (to table discussion) in the best interest of everybody concerned," adding, "I don't think at this time it's right to air our dirty laundry in public."

The board's vote to table, which passed by a 34-4 margin, with two abstentions, also called for the establishment of a committee to look into the roles and function of the district manager, who serves as paid administrator to the board. "The findings and functions of this committee will in no way interfere with Mrs. Prado's existing contract, which will continue at the pleasure of the full board," Murphy said.

Following the vote, land use committee Chairman Phil Scampas asked the board for a vote of confidence for Mrs. Prado. But when he agreed, in the spirit of conciliation, to another board member's request that the motion also include Murphy, confusion erupted. After a vote to table that motion failed by a 15-20 margin, its sponsors withdrew it from consideration.

Among those in attendance to support Mrs. Prado were large contingents from the New Dorp Central and the Dongan Hills United Civic associations, many of whose members brought hand-lettered signs expressing their feelings.

Sign-waving was also evident from another quarter: about 25 people opposing construction of four group homes on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

The contingent included several members of the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, which has been granted a temporary injunction against the project in

an attempt to prevent the removal of trees in part of Corson's Brook Woods.

Though the homes are not subject to community board approval because they are being built on state property, the contingent hoped to convince the board to pass a resolution stating opposition to the project.

After discussing the merits of passing judgment on a matter tied up in the courts, no member presented a resolution, and the matter was dropped. (*For the latest development in the group home controversy, see Page A 18.*)

In other business, the board:

- Heard Murphy announce that the executive committee has agreed to a request by Sea View to move its office to another building on the hospital grounds early next month. The move to the newly remodeled Community Services Building will leave the board with less space than it has in its current Administration Building quarters. If the board had refused the change, Murphy said, Sea View might have taken advantage of an escape clause in its rental contract to evict the board from the hospital complex, where it pays a bargain rent of \$6,000 a year.

- Voted 21-14 to approve extension of a special permit covering a video arcade at Master's Department Store, New Dorp. The extension includes a provision allowing the arcade to open at noon, rather than at 3 p.m., on school days.

- Resolved unanimously to ask the city to provide a van and monitoring equipment to sample air quality in the Mid-Island area.

- Resolved by a 35-4 vote to ask the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to develop a new transit sufficiency study for Staten Island. The resolution asks also that Community Boards 1, 2 and 3 and the Borough Board be involved in each step of the study.