

"very polite but Webb essentially said that he made his decision a year ago and he wasn't going to change.

"I'm disappointed, but I'm not surprised," Stern added.

Stern said his agency will "take the matter further" but "I'm not saying exactly what we are going to do."

Walsh said construction on the homes cannot proceed until the court case is settled. "We are awaiting the legal decision and trying to keep our options open," he said. However, he said no further meetings between state and city officials are planned.

At yesterday's meeting of the Staten Island Regional Retarda-

tion and Disabilities Council, members expressed their dismay over attempts to relocate the group homes, which were initially proposed more than two years ago. The opening of the homes — two 12-bed and two 24-bed facilities — would be the final step in SIDC's deinstitutionalization program.

The institution is scheduled to close in 1987. The vast majority of its 1,000 patients will be placed in community residences in the boroughs where they live, and the four group homes would serve those SIDC patients from Staten Island.

Kevin Sullivan of the Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development said he fears a delay in building the

homes and completing deinstitutionalization would set back expansion of community-based services, since the state has said it must concentrate first on closing down SIDC.

"I think the council needs to be very vocal about the need to build that complex," he said.

Genevieve Benoit, director of A Very Special Place, an agency that provides services for developmentally disabled adults, agreed that "there has to be an outcry telling our side of the story.

"We want to preserve trees," she said. "And maybe Corson's Brook is incredibly important to the environment. But the question is, if the homes don't go there, where do they go?"