

Speak out for disadvantaged

I have been following the controversy regarding the building of four group homes for the developmentally disabled in the area called Corson's Brook Woods. I have read, with great interest, Fiorello Cicero's letter to Gov. Mario Cuomo supporting the Corson Woods building site. I have also read Mr. Donald J. Gillam's letter to the governor criticizing Mr. Cicero's support of the proposed site. I am quite saddened to learn that Mr. Gillam and the environmentalists continue to object to the current construction site.

We, as concerned and informed citizens, should support individuals who, as Mr. Cicero has done, speak out on behalf of our disabled fellow citizens who are unable to speak for themselves.

If we are truly a Staten Island family, then as family we have the responsibility to include all the members of this family by supporting the rights of those who are disabled and less fortunate than us. Obviously, those retarded citizens cannot advocate for themselves. Let us support "people oriented" advocates such as Mr. Cicero in obtaining a dignified residential setting, as was proposed in his letter to Gov. Cuomo.

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