

Patient found paralyzed after fall from window

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A profoundly retarded man from the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) is paralyzed from the waist down after either falling or leaping from a second-story window at the facility three weeks ago, the Advance has learned.

The patient, John Galletta, 35, was found at 6:30 a.m. Sept. 22 outside Building 7, officials said.

Louis Ganim, a spokesman for the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), which is

investigating the incident, said the patient was taken to Bayley Seton Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition last night.

"At this point the only thing I can say is that it's under investigation," Ganim said.

Ganim said he had no additional information about Galletta and did not know if he was from Staten Island.

Building 7 had been in the process of closing for several months as part of the phaseout of SIDC. Twenty-two patients were in the building at the time, Ganim said.

The building was closed Sept. 30, he said, and its patients were transferred to group homes or other facilities statewide.

Ganim said it did not appear that the incident was directly related to the transfer of patients out of the building.

"It happened in the morning, before everyone had been awakened," he said. "There was no movement going on. Everyone was asleep."

Ganim said he could not comment on how many staff mem-

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