

Police investigating alleged rape of SIDC resident

By GLENN CHAPMAN
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Detectives last night launched an investigation into the rape of a blind and profoundly mentally retarded woman at Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) 10 weeks ago, according to police.

Officials from SIDC discovered the crime after learning yesterday that the 21-year-old resident of the center is 10-weeks pregnant, said Sgt. Richard Bracken of the Crimes Against Persons Squad. According to police, the woman had been nauseous earlier in the day, and was taken to Bayley Seton Hospital to be examined. Doctors at the hospital discovered the pregnancy, according to Bracken.

Authorities believe the woman was raped because she is physically and mentally unable to resist or give consent. She acts "on command," according to police.

Detectives last night had just begun an investigation into the

crime, which was reported to police at 6 p.m.

In 1984, detectives were involved in a similar investigation at the center. In November of the preceeding year, it was discovered that a 31-year-old quadriplegic, who was profoundly retarded and mute, was six-months pregnant. The woman had been raped some time in the preceeding May, and gave birth to a healthy six-pound, five-ounce boy in St. Vincent's Medical Center on the following Jan. 10.

The baby was adopted by foster parents, according to police.

A man who was an SIDC employee at the time was arrested and charged with the rape, but was later cleared by a grand jury. Although he was cleared by the grand jury, he was found guilty in administrative proceedings and dismissed from his job.