

Statens Island Advance

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Island needs 35 homes for disabled



"These group homes seem to ignite such fear, opposition and in some cases just out and out hatred of the unknown. It's up to us, the mental health advocates, to make the extra efforts, to make a dent in those fears, those hatreds."

Councilman Steve Fiala
(R-South Shore)



"I'm not going to fall victim to a mob mentality. So [opponents of community residences] can threaten to vote for the other guy all they want. I'm going to stand up for what I believe in and do the right thing."

Councilman James Oddo
(R-Mid-Island)

■ An uproar on the South Shore over the placement of 1 home for 6 retarded adults highlights the fact that Islanders do not understand who these people are, proponents maintain

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