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Community board members named

3 ousted from positions because of poor attendance

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Borough President Guy V. Molinari announced the names of four new community board members this week, while the borough's three City Council members collectively made only one appointment.

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For two of the councilmen, the recent furor over residences for the developmentally disabled has added a different dynamic to the selection process.

Three board members were ousted from their positions because of poor attendance, said Molinari spokeswoman Jennifer M. Nelson.

Kevin Santino and Herbert Maletz of Community Board 1, and Moshe Hikind of Community Board 2 were removed. Former Board 1 member Channell Graham asked to not be reappointed because he was too busy.

Theresa Rafferty, chairwoman of Board 1, said Santino missed many meetings.

"Kevin should have expected it," she said.

The executive committee met with Santino to discuss his poor attendance, she said, noting Santino is a taxi-cab dispatcher who often had to leave meetings early because of his job. Board members who miss three consecutive meetings receive warnings, she said.

Lou Caravone, chairman of Board 2, said Hikind often arrived late for meetings because of other obligations.

Hikind, community relations director with the Department of Health, is the husband of Libby Hikind, who ran unsuccessfully against James Oddo for the Mid-Island City Council seat in February 1999. He is also the older brother of Democratic Brooklyn Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

"A lot of it had to do with my wife running last year," Hikind said. "There is no question it was political. This was more of a personal issue. When it comes to attendance it means you're never there and only go once.

"I think it had to do with the running. I think it had to do personally with Guy Molinari even through he's stepping down. I've always considered him a friend."

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