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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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Hikind added, "I'm not losing any sleep over it because my job is too important to me now. As far as I'm concerned it will give me more time to do what I am doing."

Fiala recently made one new appointment to Community Board 3, and may make two more.

Anna Pisano, a Rossville resident and the mother of a fifth-grade student at PS 56, Rossville, said she would like to serve on the education or health committee.

"I'm concerned about overcrowding of schools in elementary and intermediate schools," said Ms. Pisano, a member of the executive board of the PTA and School Leadership Team of PS 56.

Also joining Board 3 are Richard Corno and Matthew Sciarrino, Jr., who are Molinari's appointees.

Corno is borough chief of recreation for the city Parks Department. He previously served seven years on Board 3, from the mid-1980s through the early 1990s. Corno said he will bring knowledge of city government to the board post.

Molinari's appointment to Board 2 is Joseph Aquilino, a member of the Young Republicans of Staten Island and the Republican Richmond County Committee. He is president of the borough chapter of the FIERI National Italian Organization. He said he hopes to work on education, transportation and environmental issues.

Anthony Agridiano was appointed to Board 1 by Molinari.

Councilman Jerome X. O'Donovan (D-North Shore) hasn't made any recent appointments to Board 1, which serves the North Shore. Five board vacancies remain.

The councilmen and Molinari stopped short of saying their new appointees must agree with them on issues.

However, O'Donovan, Fiala and Oddo said their appointees should be sensitive to the needs of developmentally disabled Islanders.

Many on the Island were distressed when Board 3 rejected a proposed group home in Greenridge last month.

Thomas LaManna, O'Donovan's chief of staff, said residences for the developmentally disabled "ought to be approved as a matter of routine. This population does not present issues that impact in any negative way in a community."

Because the homes are funded by the state, the city is not primarily involved. Choosing representatives who reflect an elected official's opinion is a tangible way to be active on the issue, said LaManna.

Oddo may add one more person to Board 2, which oversees the Mid-Island. Before filling the slot, Oddo will discuss the group home issue with the potential member, he said. He has not made any recent appointments.

"You should go in with the mindset that [the homes for the disabled] are necessary and we should embrace them on Staten Island. With that, you should address them on an individual basis," said Oddo. The Mid-Island Republican said each sponsoring agency must be reputable.

Fiala (R-South Shore) said he will appoint people who have not taken a blanket position on either side of the issue.

"I want community board members who can reason, who have the courage for their convictions. Not people who take a blind allegiance to a position I may or may not have," he said.

Fiala said he was disgusted by the "for-it-or-against-it" mentality that seems to have developed over group homes.

"To me, being supportive of group homes, which I am, means you don't address concerns through threats. If you want to achieve the full integration and full acceptance of all of God's children, you do it through a thoughtful exchange."

With respect to group homes and appointments, Ms. Nelson said although the borough president supports group homes, he does not use issue-based criteria to select community board appointees.

"We always look for community board appointees who will be sensitive to community concerns. However, Borough President Molinari does not ask people to vote a particular way on any issue," she said.

Boards are composed of volunteers who advise the city on land use, transportation, education and other issues. Molinari appoints half of them and the council members recommend the other half to him. Ultimately, the borough president has the final say. Members may be appointed at any time during the year.

The remaining roster of community board positions are reappointments.