

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.