

THE ISLAND

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Residence for developmentally disabled gets support

But some Port Richmond residents raise issues of saturation and safety

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While there were a few heated words exchanged, Port Richmond residents offered support last night for a proposed residence for the developmentally disabled during a meeting of a Community Board 1 panel in PS 44, Mariners Harbor.

But the support was mixed with concern over what some at the meeting called the saturation of social service agencies on the North Shore and the safety of the residents in an area where they said violence is on every corner.

Community Resources presented its proposal to house six developmentally disabled adults at 1589 Castleton Ave., at the corner of Faber Street, to the Human Resources and Mariners Harbor/Port Richmond area committees (including Elm Park, Arlington and Graniteville). About 20 members of the public attended.

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— James Maloney,
former president of
the Port Richmond
Civic Association

"Our intention is to do major renovations, including siding, roof work and major, major renovation inside the house to make it home for six men and women," said Dana Thomas Magee, executive director of Community Resources. "We hope to make a difference and add to the community."

The residents voted to support the residence in what the board called a community consensus vote, but many said they feel the area is being invaded by social services agencies.

The four committee members in attendance voted to support the residence. The votes taken last night will be evaluated before the full board makes its vote.

"We are really concerned that there are a lot of group homes in Port Richmond already and now we are being asked to take another," said James Maloney, former president of the Port Richmond Civic Association. "We feel we've got our share. What everyone doesn't want, we take. Other communities should take these homes."

While Magee acknowledged that Community Board 1 has a large number of social service agencies, he explained that saturation is determined by the Padavan Law, which determines saturation by the number of similar facilities in the area, not just the number of social service agencies.

Magee pledged his commitment to work with the community to improve the quality of life in the area and said any problems that come up in the residence will be taken care of immediately.

But even with Magee's pledge, residents