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## State gives go-ahead on residence for disabled

Objection by Community Board 3 to proposed Greenridge home is overruled; Huguenot home will be subject of a hearing tonight

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As Community Board 3 prepares to hear angry residents tonight over a proposed Huguenot community residence for developmentally disabled people, board members recently received word that the state vetoed their last recommendation to reject a similar residence in Greenridge.

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In March, the board voted against a proposal by HeartShare, a Brooklyn-based social services provider, to house six mildly and moderately retarded Staten Islanders, ages 19 to 24, at 119 End Pl. The merely advisory vote was made at an emotional meeting to the cheers of more than 200 neighbors vehemently opposed to the proposal.

William D'Ambrosio, chairman of the board's Human Resources Committee, which recommended the board oppose the plan, had argued the presence of the residence would "alter" the environment and "hamper the fundamental goal of socialization and integration" of the residents into the community because of the relatively remote location of the house and the "deep-rooted and intense resistance of the community."

The state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) -- which funds the homes and requires community input, but not approval -- labeled Board 3's reasons as "speculative" and gave HeartShare the green light. The board has no plans to appeal the state's decision.

Despite the resistance of neighbors, HeartShare intends on starting renovations on the home this summer and opening it to residents by November.

"We are very excited to go ahead with our plans. The family and residents are more than delighted to have their own new home and be part of the End Place neighborhood," said Katie Meskell, executive director of HeartShare.

Although HeartShare runs 13 similar homes in Brooklyn and Queens, this is its first community residence on Staten Island. Ms. Meskell said the agency will

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