

Appeals.

Members of the board are pleased that due process was done and they had a chance to defend their stance. "It was a fair process. The trial was done in a very professional manner. To me it showed the system worked. They took everything into consideration," said Board 3 chairman John Antoniello.

The controversy regarding the Greenridge community residence sparked an aggressive campaign by community leaders, elected officials and the agencies to better educate neighbors about the homes.

"It is my hope that the community will embrace them. It may not happen overnight," said Councilman Stephen Fiala (R-South Shore), who will attend tonight's Human Resources Committee meeting on the latest community residence proposal for the South Shore.

At the meeting, members will vote on a proposal by On Your Mark, a West Brighton-based human services agency that plans to house seven developmentally disabled adults in a two-family home at 840 Stafford Ave.

This is the first community residence the board will vote on since unanimously rejecting the End Place site. The prior case was only the fifth time the board rejected a community residence in more than 20 years.

Five men and two women between the ages of 20 and 30 are slated to live in the Huguenot home. All are labeled within the moderate-to-mild range of retardation. They are Staten Island residents, with five residing on the South Shore and two from Mid-Island.

When word of the home reached residents about a month ago, the board and Fiala's office were swamped with fearful calls the first week, but have experienced a lull since.

The current homeowners of the End Place residence have received threatening phone calls and attribute a recent fistfight with a neighbor to the controversy.

Residents on the seemingly quiet block fear the home will reduce property values and that once the sale is approved, the house could potentially be used by other social-service agencies with more controversial missions. They will voice their concerns at tonight's meeting, which is scheduled for 7:30 in the board's headquarters at 655-218 Rossville Ave.

"I hope people will come in [to the meeting] better-educated and recognize it is something we can embrace as a civilized society," Fiala said.