

Angry residents shouted at and interrupted Borough President Guy Molinari and Monsignor John Servodidio, pastor of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Rosebank, as they gave unwavering support for the home.

"We as a community have a responsibility to take care of our own," Molinari said, disturbed by the disrespect shown the monsignor.

"I always have to defend them. It is a sin. If you are a believer, they have God-given rights to live where they want. If you are not a believer, it is a constitutional right," stated Monsignor Servodidio.

Five men and two women between the ages of 19 and 30 are slated to move into the \$400,000 mother-daughter home. All have moderate to mild retardation. Some require medication, but not psychiatric drugs.

The state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) is funding the home and requires community input, but not community approval. Most of the residents at the meeting said they understood the board's limitations, and expected the unanimous vote of support the committee gave.

The heated meeting last night was the latest in a series of confrontations over the plan. Last month, one of the Stafford Avenue home's owners got into a fistfight with a neighbor. The homeowners said they have also received threatening phone calls.

All the residents slated for the Stafford Avenue home currently live on Staten Island, with five from the South Shore and two from the Mid-Island.

Some of the homeowners at the meeting said they know the mother of one potential home resident, and attested she is "the nicest lady in the world."

Parents of the young adults told tearful stories about their children's excitement at being independent, and their own fears that one day they will die, leaving their children alone.

holding a picture of a handsome, raven-haired 19-year-old with a semi-smile, Karen Principato pleaded with residents to accept her son, Nicholas.

Residents, though, asked why the parents aren't caring for the young adults in their own homes. They also worried the facility would contribute to parking problems, explaining they moved from Brooklyn to avoid such hassles.

"He doesn't want to live with mommy," said Ms. Principato. The Great Kills resident described Nicholas as a typical young adult eager to live on his own, but who needs some assistance.

The house sits near the corner of busy Foster Road, which neighbors argue is another risk to the home residents. It is sandwiched between Michael's Landscaping and a smaller home. There is no fence between the two homes.

Residents also fear property values will be reduced, and questioned the competence of the home's staffers and how safe the developmentally disabled will be on the seemingly quiet block.

"Pity is the last thing my daughter needs. Let me worry about her safety. If you open your hearts you could gain more than property value and parking on the street," said Ida Pastena, whose 25-year-old daughter will live in the house.

"We are not against the disabled. Our block, whether you know it or not, is a problem," explained Terry Papineau. She cited vandalism, rowdy youths blasting radios and reckless cars making U-turns on the horseshoe-shaped street as some of the problems the neighborhood faces.

However, Felicia DeBetta, whose son also will also reside in the home, said "Some parents made good points and I hope the safety issues will be addressed," she said, bragging about her son Frank, who is on the wrestling team at Tottenville High School.

Joshua Gutterman, president of the Elmwood and Treetop Homeowners Association and a special education teacher for the Board of Education, said the developmentally disabled are always a target. "Some people love them, for others they are creatures of prey," he said.

"There are a dozen felons who live in this area," said Robert Kranpost a police lieutenant who lives on Stafford Avenue. "I came tonight because I was afraid, but after hearing people tonight, I welcome these people," he admits.

The borough president has been to the site and spoke with police at the 123rd Precinct stationhouse

about potential problems. He said

Another concern was that once the sale is approved, the house