

site. 2. Suggest alternative sites. 3. Object on the grounds of saturation, meaning the proposed site is within a neighborhood that already has too many similar residences.

New Brighton residents Michael McGregor, Lindy Crescitelli and Janet Cinramello all said they support community residences, but feel other neighborhoods should take them.

Rosemarie Lohr, of New Brighton, read from a list of figures she said she received from Borough Hall, which said there are 68 community residences in Board 1, while there are 31 in Board 2 and 26 in Board 3.

"Is that fair share? No way," she said. "We're not opposed to helping people, but we want Community Board 2 and Community Board 3 to give their fair share."

Tom LaManna, chief of staff for Councilman Jerome X. O'Donovan (D-North Shore), read a statement from the councilman in favor of the residence on Lafayette Avenue.

"The only negative for the community I see is the adverse publicity that is generated by meetings such as this, which unfortunately feed into the misconceptions among some people," O'Donovan wrote.

The Watchogue Road residence got some support from Valerie Michetti, of St. John Avenue, who said her sister is mildly retarded.

"No one needs to tell me about bad manners," said Ms. Michetti about the people she and sister grew up with, who, she said, behaved much worse than developmentally disabled people.

George Smith, of Clyde Place, said he approved of the Lafayette Avenue site, and said "it's fear, ignorance and bigotry" that makes people want to keep developmentally disabled people out of a community.

Many audience members cried "No" after Smith said this, and again insisted that New Brighton residents accept community residences, but feel they should be in other parts of Staten Island as well.

Dan Rieu, a Westerleigh resident who said he was on the board for 16 years, said he was disappointed in the board because it did not listen enough to the community before taking a vote.

"[Carroll] gets up and says the group home is here, and that's it. They should be taking information," Rieu said after the meeting.

"The Padavan Law should have teeth in it," according to Lindy Crescitelli, president of the New Brighton Citizens' Committee and a son of the man who spoke earlier, who said the state law should have a stronger definition of what saturation is.

"We laid it out for them," said Carroll, referring to his description of the Padavan Law. "To say you don't have options is a great disservice."