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# NEWS

Staten Island Advance

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## Finally: Disabled welcomed

Residences proposed for Charleston and Oakwood go before Community Board 3 tonight with some community backing

September 21, 2000

By KATHLEEN LUCADAMO  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

After a year of fighting to boot community residences for the developmentally disabled off the block, some South Shore residents are now rolling out the welcome mat.

The Manhattan-based United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) is proposing two residences -- at 31 Englewood Ave., Charleston, and 102 Champlain Ave., Oakwood.

Each home will have four residents, two men and two women, in the mild to moderate range of mental retardation and cerebral palsy. The residents of the Charleston site will range in age from 11 to 23. Residents of the Oakwood site will be in their 20s and 30s.

The Charleston Civic Association has already sent a letter of support to UCP.

"It is a lot better than Willowbrook and the community may benefit from it," said Pat Walker, president of the group.

Borough President Guy Molinari, a strong advocate for such homes, sent a letter to the civic association praising its initiative.

"It is refreshing to see that we have some civic leaders and community residents who will not turn their backs on Staten Islanders who have physical problems not of their own doing and will benefit from decent housing accommodations with professional help," the letter read.

Some people notified by UCP said they have no problems with the proposal as long as the homes are physically consistent with the neighborhood.

"We don't want an eyesore," said John LaFemina, president of the Oakwood Civic Association. He said he

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