

S.S. Advance

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do our job," she said. "We went above and beyond what we have to do."

Residents, citing four other homes in a six-mile radius, contended the area is saturated with community residences, a common complaint wherever community residences are proposed. They said nobody has given them a clear definition of the Community Residence Site Selection Law — also known as the Padavan Law.

"The only issue that this board has to decide on is oversaturation, which is defined not in miles or distance," said William D'Ambrosio, chairman of the board's human resources committee. "Oversaturation is defined basically in the terms of if the community residence will substantially change the character of the neighborhood. That's the only issue and, quite frankly, it won't change the area."

Rosemarie Zuliani also voiced her concern over the safety of the area's senior citizens. "Besides having young children on Champlain, we also have lots of senior citizens who are afraid to leave their homes for fears they are being watched when they leave," she said after the meeting.

Quang and Van Nguyen moved to the block from Vietnam on Wednesday, having no idea what was to become of the home di-

rectly next door. The couple have a 12-year-old daughter and a 9-year-old son.

"It makes me scared and it makes my kids scared," said Mrs. Nguyen. "I want my kids to have a happy day and good dreams. My kids are my life and I want them to have an American future. I don't want them to be scared and mess up school. I don't want them to worry they can't go outside."

Residents also said after the meeting that they want adequate lighting on the street and a written guarantee that 102 Champlain Ave. will never be converted to a halfway house or used for substance abuse or mental health rehabilitation programs. They also suggested the principal and faculty of PS 50 on Adelaide Avenue should have some input.

They claim the Charleston home received no community opposition because it is in an industrial, not a residential area.

In reality, there are several homes on Englewood Avenue in Charleston, where the other UCP home is slated, and the Charleston Civic Association — which sent a letter to officials welcoming the UCP home — represents scores of families living in the area. Charleston is a mixed-use zone where residential and industrial uses co-exist.

In a less heated exchange, resi-

dents of Brooke Avenue, also in Oakwood, voiced their concerns that what was a two-way street up until Sept. 7 has now become a dead end. The city recently planted two massive concrete barricades to close off a portion of the street near Grayson Avenue because it turns out the patch of road was actually a privately owned lot.

The owner's decision to shut it down is perfectly legal, but residents feel the closure will limit and restrict access for emergency vehicles, sanitation trucks and school buses.

The full board unanimously approved the proposal that the city buy the property from the owner, restore the street and open it for community access.

"We have now created a situation where a person purchased a private parcel of land for \$7,000 and limited access to all, especially service vehicles including fire, ambulances, sanitation and plowing," said Ilyssa DeCasperis in an address to the board members. Ms. DeCasperis said a FedEx package was returned to its sender because the carrier could not find her home.

Approximately 25 residents of Brooke Avenue showed up at the meeting, with two speaking publicly for the group. They still don't

understand why the portion of Brooke Avenue had official city street signs and was paved if it wasn't a real thoroughfare.

While they were pleased with the board's support, they are still angry over the situation.

"There is a no parking sign directly in front of my house," said Rosemary DeCesare after the meeting, saying the sign was put up yesterday. "I have nowhere to park and I have three cars." Ms. DeCesare said her garage and driveway take care of two cars, but she is left with no place to park her car. She said when she returned after the meeting that she would most likely have to block her driveway for which she could get a ticket — that is if the police can get down the block.

"We're one family with five cars; where can we go?" asked Elizabeth Flynn. They only parking option, Brooke Avenue residents said, is to park on what they call a dangerous area of Hylan Boulevard.

Also attending the meeting were representatives from the offices of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Borough President Guy V. Molinari, state Sen. John Marchi (R-Statens Island), Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano (D-Mid-Island), and Councilmen Stephen Fiala (R-South Shore) and James Oddo (R-Mid-Island).