

THE ISLAND

REPORTER
BY

of Community Board
final vote on the
group homes during
meeting last night in
Episcopal Church, Wil-

rd voted to approve a
residence proposed by
Resources for five de-

velopmentally disabled adults be-
tween 28 and 43 years old at 55
Madison Ave., Graniteville at the
meeting, which was attended by
about 100 people.

After tallying the vote, Board 1
Chairman George Caputo said in
the future, the board will hold "in-
formational meetings," but will no
longer hold public hearings or
vote on such residences.
Caputo said the decision to

forego future hearings and votes
was made because state law
doesn't give a clear definition of
"oversaturation" of such homes.

Over the last several months,
residents attending public hear-
ings on proposed facilities often
questioned the Padavan Law, offi-
cially called the Community Resi-
dence Site Selection Law, charg-
ing it discounts public opinion
count and only allows community

boards to give approval of sites.
Caputo said the board has asked
state Sen. Vincent Gentile (D-East
Shore) to examine the issue.

Future informational meetings
will be held by the board's area
committees, with the public in-
vited, to hear the proposing agen-
cies describe their community
residences.
There were two such meetings
hosted by Board 1, with represen-
tatives from Community Re-
sources and the community at-
tending.

Prior to last night's vote, three
people spoke against the resi-
dence. The future neighbors wor-
ried the home would create park-
ing problems and decrease
property values.
Clement Marotte of Madison
Avenue, said he feared lax secu-
rity in the home could cause an at-
tack such as that of Nov. 4, when a
19-year-old man from a West
Brighton foster group home alleg-
edly raped and stabbed a young
woman and knifed another woman
in Silver Mount Cemetery, Silver
Lake.

Board 1 member George Doyle
interrupted, saying the residents
of the West Brighton home are
from a different population than
the Community Resources resi-
dents will be. "They are two dis-
tinct homes," said Doyle. The resi-
dents of the foster group home are
children involved with the court
system, not people with develop-
mental disabilities, he said.

Marotte also criticized
Magee, executive director of
Community Resources, whom he said
did not allow the public the oppor-
tunity to visit other residences op-
erated by the agency.

Magee, one of three people last
night who asked the board to ap-
prove the home, said last night
was the fourth meeting in which
he offered visits to other Commu-
nity Resources residences. He said
neighbors did not take him up on
his previous offers.

The board voted 28-3 with one
abstention to approve the home's
siting.
In other business, Rory McGinn
of Bard Avenue complained that
113 and 115 Davis Ave., Living-
ston, may be separated by a 30-foot
easement in order to build seven
smaller two-family detached
houses, even though the area was
recently downzoned.

Richard Brown, president of the
Livingston Civic Association, also
criticized the plan by builder
Randy Lee, who was not at last
night's meeting.

Michael McMahon, president of
the Randall Manor Civic Associa-
tion, said the new houses would in-
crease traffic congestion in the
area and might cause problems
for emergency vehicles.

The board also approved a mo-
tion requesting that the Borough
Board, the office of Borough Pres-
ident Guy Molinari and various
city agencies address the problem
of crowded streets around Island
schools at arrival and dismissal
times.

The board asked for improved
signs, the creation of speed humps
and drop-off and pick-up zones, in-
creasing penalties for traffic vio-
lators and possibly reducing speed
limits around schools.

CB 1 approves community residence in Graniteville

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11/15/00
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