

Clinic's troubles no surprise to area

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The federal government's threat to close down Beth Israel Medical Center's methadone clinic in Stapleton after an undercover probe found clients were selling the drug outside the center, came as no surprise yesterday to area residents and community officials.

But those in the program said the clinic must stay open for the majority of the clients who are trying to get off drugs.

Community Board 1 officials say the problem has existed for years, but repeated requests to Beth Israel officials to stop the black market sale of methadone outside the clinic have proven fruitless.

"We've been trying to get Beth Israel to do something about this problem for years," said Joseph Marotta, chairman of Community Board 1. "The problem creates a dangerous situation for residents and is ruining the quality of life in the neighborhood."

On Thursday federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents issued a "show-cause" order to Beth Israel, saying the center was improperly dispensing medication and was aware of a methadone-for-profit scam by clients.

The DEA said because of lax control by the clinic, many patients had begun selling doses of

Same how we felt
Must change

What is around here I CAN NOT STAY

To see what ~~is~~ Beth-Israhel

HA's Done to MAKE A
BUCK \$

Graffiti on an abandoned building near the methadone clinic indicate how the neighborhood feels.