

Group-home plan should be stopped

We ... would like to inform you of a June 27 meeting regarding the desired purchase of 55 Galloway Avenue by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. If purchased, it will be used as a residential facility for On Your Mark, Inc. (OYM).

We were confused and concerned that the voting results were not released that evening by Community Board 1's Westerleigh Area Committee as promised ... Port Richmond and the North Shore are oversaturated with group homes in comparison to ... the South Shore...

We feel OYM is inexperienced

in group home management, since its first facility opened only six months ago. It is too soon for this organization to purchase another group home. OYM should have to wait a few years in order to establish credibility. [In] the 10 years that OYM has been in operation, the focus has been on afternoon and evening programs, not operating group homes ...

We are seeking to stop the purchase of 55 Galloway Avenue for On Your Mark, Inc ...

LORRAINE MOTOLA
Livingston

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The following was sent to Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly:

On June 27, I attended [a meeting], along with about 80 of my neighbors... to find out about the sale of 55 Galloway Avenue to On Your Mark [for use as a group home]...

...I cite the following reasons...[in] opposition to the sale of this home as a group home:...

● We live in Port Richmond Center, an area already saturated with its share of group homes.

● Only 1 percent of the people applying for residence in this group home come from this area

● 55 Galloway is hidden at the end of a very congested dead-end street ...

● We have absolutely no guarantee of how a group home is maintained and what its future will be.

● What kind of supervision is provided for the residents? How well qualified are these supervisors?

● What about the value of my home? Will the state give me money when I can't sell my home?

● We on the North Shore feel it's only fair that efforts be made to establish group homes on the South Shore to create a more satisfactory balance between the two areas. ...

ELAINE MORESCO
Port Richmond Center

[Similar letters were received from neighborhood residents Mr. and Mrs. I. Bulger, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lumen and Mary Ann Foley.]