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Residents object to proposed group home

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An association hoping to set up a group home for mentally retarded adults has offered a Westleigh homeowner \$340,000.

John Welch, executive director of Independent Living Association, yesterday confirmed that his agency made the offer for the house at 183 S. Greenleaf Ave.

He said that although the 5-bedroom house has not been for-

mally selected as a site, he hopes to go to contract by October.

Welch said the house, which stands on a half-acre plot set back from the street, would require only minor alterations, such as the addition of fire alarms. He hopes to obtain state approvals and funds in a few months and place clients there in April of next year.

The house would be home to 8 to 10 retarded people ages 25 to 45,

all from Staten Island. Unlike facilities that are transitory residences for retarded people progressing toward independent living, the site would be "home for life" for those located there, he said.

"These people are not capable of doing most things for themselves. They need assistance with grooming and preparing meals," he said, indicating most have the

intellectual capacity of a 3-year old.

Some live with parents who are aging beyond the point where they can care for the retarded person.

The Independent Living Association plans to open another group home on Hope Avenue, Fort Wadsworth, in October.

Welch said the developmentally disabled are "very trusting, very

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