

lacked adequate youth services.

"In the summer, they're in the Midland Beach parking lot getting pregnant," in part, because they have nothing else to do, she said.

Ms. Kelly cited teen pregnancy as an example of a pervasive but often invisible problem.

"I think many Staten Islanders do not like to recognize we have real problems. Perhaps those needs will not be recognized, and therefore not supported (under secession)," she said.

At issue for some was the basic character of Islanders: Would they want to spend their tax dollars on services for pregnant teens, building homeless shelters, counseling people with AIDS and housing the mentally ill? Among those who doubted Islanders would give such services a high priority were Schierenbeck and the Rev. Terry Troia, executive director of Project Hospitality, which runs services for the hungry and homeless.

Schierenbeck, citing vocal community opposition to two of Camelot's facilities, said the "not-in-my-back yard" attitude did not bode well for agencies like his in a City of Staten Island.

And Ms. Troia worried that

funds could dry up for what she called essential, but unpopular, causes:

"Where's the political power to push for the funding? I don't see anybody out there ... yelling that we need more mental health beds ... I don't see communities gathering thousands at a clip saying we need residential treatment centers on Staten Island."

But Popler said "Staten Islanders are not any more afflicted with the Not In My Back Yard Syndrome ... We find Staten Islanders supportive of mental health issues compared to other areas."

Added Naples: "People care here because they have a small-

town attitude."

All but Ms. Troia, who declined comment, and Jane Ernst, who can't vote here because she lives in New Jersey, said they would vote yes in November. But those interviewed last night said they would reserve final judgement until the charter commission releases its results.

Arlene Koeppel, president of the Community Agency for Senior Citizens, seemed to speak for the entire group when she said: "I would vote yes, obviously with the option to be able to say no later. My major concern is that social services is funded ..."

Advance reporter Carl Campanile contributed to this story.

Steps to Secession

Before November 6, 1990
Staten Island is a borough of the
City of New York governed by New York City

Election Day -- November 6, 1990
Referendum on Staten Island Self-Governance (Secession)

If you vote YES

A study of Staten Island self-governance will begin.

If you vote NO

No study of Staten Island self-governance will take place with the possibility of an independent Staten Island ended.

Approximately 3 years later after studies and public hearings, a new charter will be written and two questions will be submitted for vote:

- 1.) Do you want to approve the new charter and secede?
- 2.) Do you reject the new charter but wish to keep studying secession?

If you vote NO

on the charter, but **YES** to continue the study, another charter will be presented for a vote in six months.

If you then vote YES

on the charter Staten Island would become the City of Staten Island, if approved by the State Legislature and Governor.

If you vote NO

Staten Island remains part of the City of New York.