

# CB 1 chairman cans panel chairwoman

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Community Board 1's human resource committee chairwoman, Sheila Brown-Blei, was removed from her post yesterday, sparking bitter rebukes from her and criticism from her committee.

Board member Audrey Biase will replace her immediately, according to Board 1's first vice chairman, George Doyle, who watched the members of the committee receive the news at a human resource committee meeting last night.

Doyle said the decision to "immediately" remove Ms. Brown-Blei from the post was made by the board's executive committee, and initiated by Board 1 Chairman Joseph Marotta.

Doyle said Ms. Brown-Blei was removed because of complaints from residents — who were protesting the placement of a group home for mentally retarded adults on Galloway Avenue, in Port Richmond. The board approved the home in December.

Doyle declined to discuss the nature of the complaints, except to say the residents believed Ms. Brown-Blei was biased toward the home.

Ms. Brown-Blei said she believed she was ousted as punishment by Marotta.

She also complained she didn't receive a phone call on the matter from him. Instead, she said a board office employee phoned her, telling her to call Marotta. When she did, he told her she was

being removed, she said.

In response to the news, the committee voted to request the board's rules and legislative affairs committee review for possible changes the advisory panel's guidelines to include specific reasons for shifts in committee chairs.

Some members expressed concern over the sudden removal. Committee member David Jones was one of those who pushed for the amendment. He called the act "capricious and arbitrary."

Doyle defended Marotta and his power to remove Ms. Brown-Blei, saying: "You have to look at the chair as the mayor" whose commissioners serve at his pleasure.

Marotta recommended Ms. Brown-Blei be removed from the board with another member, Joann McCarthy.

The two have been at odds after a dispute at a social function.

Marotta pressed Councilman Jerome X. O'Donovan to remove them from the board in a March letter, but O'Donovan declined, reappointing both of them.

A social worker, Ms. Brown-Blei was instrumental in creating the recently formed tri-board task force for the siting of social service facilities on Staten Island.

Her most recent project is warming relations with Camelot Counseling Center; the board and organization have been at odds with each other over the siting of drug treatment facilities for years.