

# Westerleigh residents decry plans for home

## Residents fuming over proposed group home for 8 adults

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Last night's Community Board 1 committee hearing on a proposed group home for profoundly retarded adults was met with angry responses from Westerleigh residents.

The board's human resource committee held the hearing, which took place at the College of Staten Island, St. George, so community members could comment on the home and question representatives from the not-for-profit Independent Living Association.

Earlier in the summer, the association had recommended the intermediate care facility be located on 183 South Greenleaf Ave., Westerleigh.

Associate Executive Director Arthur Palevsky announced that the federally funded home would house eight severely retarded adults over the age of 21, with care provided by a trained staff.

He said the house and property would cost about \$340,000 and alterations to change the bathrooms, give the building wheelchair accessibility and conform

to the house to fire codes would cost an additional \$171,000.

"No one is saying this isn't a good idea, but the state is spending too much. This is a disgrace," called out a resident, as most of the 40-person audience applauded.

"Who initiated this? Half a million for eight residents? Is that normal?" yelled a woman in the audience.

Palevsky replied that three different appraisers estimated the value of the house and it was a fair price, but failed to provide a name when residents asked him to

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