

# 2 group homes proposed in CB2

## A Very Special Place plans homes for 22

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Two group homes for developmentally disabled and mentally retarded adults and senior citizens have been proposed for Dongan Hills and Grasmere, Community Board 2 members said last night.

A Very Special Place, Inc., plans to house 22 residents in the two homes, according to letters of notification submitted to the board by the New Dorp-based not-for-profit organization.

According to the letters, the Dongan Hills facility would be located at 70 Benton Ave., near Hylan Boulevard, and would house 10 adults. The Grasmere home has been slated for the corner of Steuben Street and Hylan Boulevard and would house 12 senior citizens.

Community Board 2 will hold a public hearing on the proposals 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the board's headquarters on the grounds of Sea View Hospital and Home, 460 Brielle Ave.

Lou Caravone, board chairman, said A Very Special Place seemed to have chosen the sites so as to have a minimal impact on residential neighborhoods. Still, Caravone said he expected some community opposition to the pro-

posals.

Both facilities require certification from the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). The board has until early next month to submit any comments to OMRDD, including suggestions of alternate sites or objections to the sites on the grounds that the homes would lead to an oversaturation of such facilities in the neighborhoods for which they are slated.

According to the letters submitted by A Very Special Place, both sites were selected after evaluations by an independent architect and the organization.

"These homes provide services to people whose needs can no longer be addressed in their present residences due to a variety of reasons," wrote Genevieve R. Benoit, executive director of A Very Special Place.

Both homes would be staffed 24 hours a day and provide intensive assistance to the residents, all of whom attend community programs.

The Grasmere site is currently wooded and vacant. A portion of the Dongan Hills site is occupied by a home, which would be removed in order to construct a two-story building.