

# CB3 approves group home for developmentally disabled

## New facility in Richmond Valley designed to house 12 adults

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Community Board 3 yesterday approved an application by United Cerebral Palsy to construct a group home for 12 developmentally disabled adults in Richmond Valley.

Thirty-two members voted to approve the application, three abstained and three voted in opposition during the full board meeting held yesterday at Staten Island University Hospital, Princes Bay. Earlier this month, the board's human resources committee held a public hearing on the proposed site and 30 Richmond Valley residents attended to ask questions and express concerns. The committee voted unanimously to approve the site.

Unlike other full board meetings at which dozens of concerned residents attended to angrily express their opposition to the proposed sites, there were no Richmond Valley residents in last night's audience.

Some board members questioned Esther Nitzburg, assistant

to the executive director of United Cerebral Palsy, about the size of the proposed house and the type of residents who will be housed there. She explained that the house, to be built at 62-66 Madsen Ave., will be a large, one-story ranch and will house 12 non-ambulatory adults with profound disabilities.

The board watched "Right at Home, Right in the Neighborhood," a videotape put together by United Cerebral Palsy about the different types of group homes and programs for the developmentally disabled.

The board voted to accept a correction to last month's full board meeting minutes concerning information about the previous community board and the five homes Project Hospitality purchased at Avon at Huguenot that former board chairwoman Maxine Spierer said was inaccurate.

The sentence in question stated: "It was the previous board that told Project Hospitality they want the transitional housing for homeless families near the (Fresh

Kills) landfill off Arthur Kill Road."

Ms. Spierer sent a letter to the board that was read during the meeting stating the previous board never told Project Hospitality to look in that area and asking that the minutes be corrected to reflect this.

The board passed a motion requesting an extension to the 30-day comment period given to community boards on the city's Solid Waste Management Plan. Public service committee chairman Dennis Sarlo said it was ludicrous to expect the boards to read the multi-volume report in 30 days when the city spent more than a year preparing the plan.

During her report, district manager Dorothy Fitzpatrick thanked the board's intern, Michael Accurso, for his service since September. Accurso, who graduated from St. John's University Saturday, worked on issues concerning the city's plans for the homeless and the Staten Island secession movement.