

Racial slur costs Nassau supervisor her job

A supervisor in a Nassau County agency who was accused of uttering racial slurs in a secretly recorded telephone conversation was fired yesterday.

Linda Alberti, a labor supervisor in the public works department, used the slurs to refer to a black equipment operator with whom she had once competed for a promotion, said Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi.

A tape of the recorded conversation was played at a news conference. Suozzi said he listened to the tape last week and ordered an investigation.

"This is a sad day for Nassau County," Suozzi said in a statement. "This tape shows a very ugly and sordid side of human nature, but I hope this sends a message to others that racism in any form will not be tolerated."

Alberti, 45, admitted to investigators last week that her voice was on the recording, and a labor supervisor who made the tape reportedly told officials he had recorded his conversation with Alberti.

"I'm not a racist," Alberti reportedly said. "Trust me." In 1997, the equipment operator, Willie Warren, filed a bias complaint with the state Division of Human Rights after he was turned down for a promotion that Alberti received.

Warren's attorney, Frederick Brewington, said he plans to file a civil rights lawsuit against the county over the remarks.

The Associated Press



DENNIS CLARK

PROOF Attorney Frederick Brewington (c.) holds tape recording of call including racial epithet yesterday during press conference, where he is joined by his client, Willie Warren (l.), and Nassau County Executive Suozzi.