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## Ex-agency chief says firing unjust

HENDERSON

The recently ousted head of the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights filed a wrongful termination claim against the county yesterday, asserting that her firing was motivated by politics, racism and sexism.

Renaire Frierson, a Republican hired in 2001, was flanked by county and community leaders yesterday who praised her work and called for her reinstatement. Commissioners voted 8 to 4

to remove her Monday night, pointing to poor staff oversight among other issues. One com-missioner abstained, another was absent and one position is

"I feel that I was terminated because Mr. Suozzi does not want me," Frierson said, referwant file, Frierson said, refer-ring to Democratic County Exec-utive Thomas Suozzi. "His incen-tive is to get rid of me and to put somebody he wants in there." Frierson's attorney, Frederick Brewington, said that his client made 20 requests for stoffing

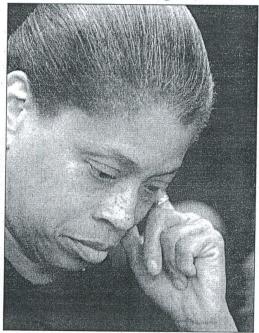
made 20 requests for staffing and support over the last two years, but all were denied — a de-liberate attempt, Frierson said, to make her look incompetent. "It was sort of like cutting off

my leg and then blaming me for being cripple," she said.

A spokesman for Suozzi said that the hiring and firing of Frierson was the sole decision of the 15-member commission. 15-member commission.

The Rev. Allan Ramirez, chairman of the commission, said the decision was based on a county audit of the commission, which is charged with investigating discrimination claims and promot-

ing diversity through education. County Comptroller Howard Weitzman reported in January that oversight of the commis-sion's office staff was inefficient and that between 2004 and 2006 most employees were paid for days not worked. Weitzman also faulted Frierson for submitting time sheets for county work when she was teaching at Nas-



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sau Community College.

commission. months, has been studying, discussing and reflecting on the recent audit and also discussed her leadership and it came to a decision," Ramirez said. "Soon-er or later people have to ac-cept the reality of what hap-

Frierson's claim, which is against Suozzi, the commission and commissioners, was filed with the county attorney and the commission.

Nassau County Legis. Roger orbin (D-Westbury) and Corbin Kevan Abrahams (D-Hemp-stead) were joined by several ministers who called for Frierson's rehiring in the \$99,279-ayear post.



"We are not going to stand for it," Corbin said. "I'd like for Kevan and myself to walk Ms. Frierson back to her office Mon-

day morning."
A rally is scheduled for noon Monday in front of Suozzi's of-