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APPLE SAUCE

By OWEN MORITZ

He's no loose Cannon, says Bronx center head

Dr. **Levester Cannon**, director of the Bronx Developmental Services Center, says he's no loose cannon. And he resents charges of racism and anti-Semitism leveled against him by Assemblyman **Dov Hikind** (D-Brooklyn).

Last week, investigators for the state Office of Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities reported "no credible evidence to substantiate any of these allegations."

Nonetheless, Hikind wants Cannon ousted. In a letter to **Gov. Cuomo** demanding an independent investigation, Hikind says that long-time employes have been forced to leave "due to the fact of being Jewish and/or white and professional."

The investigation, he complains, came up empty because "Dr. Cannon is black."

Cannon fired back yesterday, telling our Ingrid Devita: "I deeply resent this effort to damage or smear a career of which I am extremely proud. . . . There are always going to be people that don't like affirmative-action programs because they would be adversely affected by them."

Cannon says the anti-Semitism allegations came from two former employes with a "personal vendetta."

"The composition of the work force is reflective of the makeup of the larger Bronx community," states Cannon.