

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Charges dismissed against 9 who violated political sign ordinance

• By Harold McNeil Feb 11, 2018



After she posted a sign supporting the Boston town clerk on her property, Barbara Moore received a summons from the Town of Boston ordering her to appear in court for violating the town's temporary sign ordinance. She says she was not required to pay the \$10 fee for her "No fracking" sign. (Derek Gee/Buffalo News)

Town of Boston Judge Kelly A. Vacco has dismissed all charges against nine residents who posted political signs on their own property in the town.

Local attorney James Ostrowski moved to have the charges dismissed against his client, Barbara Moore, on the grounds that they were a violation of her First Amendment rights, a result of selective prosecution and based on jurisdictional grounds.

The other defendants in the case, including the late David Blank, Joanne Bonsack, Bruce D. Hanson, Kenneth P. Klopfer, Elizabeth Martin, and Lois and Jay Jackson, all joined in the

motion. All were supporters of former Boston Town Clerk Jennifer A. Mule in her feud with the Town Board over improvements to a home that she owned, and they posted signs on their properties in support of her in that battle. Mule resigned in June.

Several of the defendants filed suit in federal court in August 2016 against then Town of Boston Supervisor Martin Ballowe. They also sought an injunction against any enforcement of the town sign ordinance, as well as money damages. The suit is pending.