

East Quogue Woman Awarded \$1.112 Million In Damages For 2009 False Arrest Claim

Publication: The Southampton Press

By Alexa Gorman Dec 12, 2014 3:33 PM

UPDATED Dec 14, 2014 8:59 AM

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previously told The Press that she did not realize she was under arrest until she had been questioned without an attorney present for about eight hours.

The charges were dropped that November and Ms. Genovese filed the lawsuit in July.

The eight-day trial concluded Thursday, according to Mr. Brewington's office.

"This is a relief that the jury heard the truth and that I now have had the chance to clear my name," Ms. Genovese said in a prepared statement sent by the law office. "If this can happen to me, and officers can abuse their power like this, I can only imagine how other people who are not as fortunate as me have been treated."

Ms. Genovese and her attorney could not immediately be reached Friday afternoon.

A representative from the Sheriff's Office could not immediately be reached for comment.

An East Quogue woman who was arrested and held for four nights on a misdemeanor trespassing charge after taking photos of a model of a helicopter at the Air National Guard 106th Rescue Wing in 2009 was awarded \$1.112 million in damages by a federal jury Thursday following a trial on her false arrest lawsuit.

Nancy Genovese, 58, filed the lawsuit in 2010 against Suffolk County and Southampton Town—the latter of the two was dropped in 2013—claiming she was humiliated and physically abused during her time in County Jail, according to a release sent by the law offices of Frederick K. Brewington, Ms. Genovese's attorney.

The jury awarded Ms. Genovese \$1.112 million to compensate for her being held in jail, but was hung on the amount of punitive damages, which could be set at a later date, according to the release.

Ms. Genovese was arrested on July 30, 2009 by Suffolk County Sheriff's deputies after Air National Guard officials said they saw her taking photographs of a HH-3E "Jolly Green Giant" helicopter near the entrance of the base at Gabreski Airport.

Authorities said they found an XM-15 assault rifle and a shotgun—both registered and unloaded—in her car, and an estimated 500 rounds of ammunition in her trunk at the time of her arrest. She said she was on the way home from a shooting range in Ridge at the time.

She was charged with third-degree criminal trespassing and was released four days later from the Suffolk County Jail in Riverside after posting \$50,000 bail. She