

★ Police contract on hold

Suit: Nassau superior officers' deal approved improperly

BY MICHAEL O'KEEFFE
AND SCOTT EIDLER

michael.okeeffe@newsday.com
scott.eidler@newsday.com

A Nassau judge issued a temporary restraining order Thursday barring implementation of a police labor agreement — approved by the county legislature last month — in response to a lawsuit that said lawmakers wrongly voted for the contract on an emergency basis.

State Supreme Court Justice

James McCormack issued the order two days after Nassau resident Doris Sharpe filed a lawsuit that said the legislature's approval of an 8½-year contract with the Nassau Superior Officers Association was illegal because lawmakers gave it the green light outside of the normal legislative process. The lawsuit says that the emergency approval of the collective bargaining agreement didn't afford the public a chance to comment.

Nassau Interim Finance Au-

thority directors on Thursday approved the labor agreement in a 5-0 vote. "We think it conforms to the pattern that was originally set, and we think it's a fair contract for the county and for the Superior Officers," NIFA chairman Adam Barsky said in an interview.

SOA president Ricky Frassetto declined to comment. A spokeswoman for Nassau County Executive Laura Curran declined to comment.

"The judge's issuance of the

TRO is warranted in light of multiple levels of inappropriate actions conducted on an emergency basis by legislators," said Sharpe's attorney, civil rights lawyer Frederick Brewington.

Brewington and Nassau activists say the county should hold off on approving police contracts until it settles on a comprehensive police reform plan, as required under a June directive from Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. The directive requires municipalities with police departments to develop plans to reform and reinvent law enforcement by April 1, following this May's

death of George Floyd while in Minneapolis police custody.

Brewington said Nassau officials have ignored input from activists and residents about reinventing policing.

"The voices of the citizens of Nassau County need to be heard," Brewington said.

The suit names as defendants Curran, a Democrat, and 16 of 19 county legislators who voted to approve the contract, including 11 Republicans and five Democrats. Also named are Barsky, NIFA board members and Nassau's clerk of the Legislature, Michael Pulitzer.