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— Elyse, Mochi patient

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- Becoming the most confident version of you
- Living a healthy life for you and the ones you love

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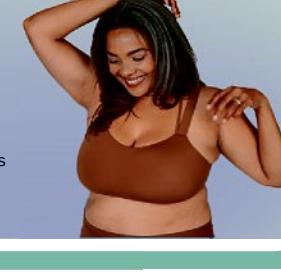
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- ✓ 24/7 support and online app to track progress

Average weight loss at one year. Mochi members lose on average 1-2 lbs a week for the first six months.

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HEALTH



The Journal News

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Rockland judge to resign post

Action for not disclosing lawyer friendships

Jonathan Bandler

Rockland/Westchester Journal News

USA TODAY NETWORK

A longtime judge in Rockland will resign after routinely failing to notify lawyers in cases she handled that she was friends with – and often vacationed and shared text chains with – their adversaries.

State Supreme Court Justice Sherri Eisenpress was facing charges by the state Commission on Judicial Conduct that accused her of failing to recuse herself or at least disclose relationships that posed potential conflicts of interest in numerous cases.

She reached a stipulation ending the investigation Jan. 28 without admitting any misconduct and agreed to never hold judicial office again. Her resignation takes effect April 28.

Robert Tembeckjian, the commission's administrator, said the serious allegations made Eisenpress' departure from the judiciary appropriate.

"For the public to have confidence in the courts, judges must be and appear to be impartial," he said in a statement. "That means stepping aside from cases where they have clear conflicts, and disclosing arguably disqualifying conflicts so the parties have an opportunity to ask that the judge step aside."

One of the accusations against Eisenpress stemmed from close ties she had with five attorneys who practiced matrimonial law in her court. She was

part of text chains with them, three court employees and others entitled "Punta Cana Partiers", "Bougie B---es" and "Queen Dara & her loyal subjects". According to the charges, the text exchanges included off-color jokes and sexually explicit images.

In 2019 the judge vacationed with the group in the Dominican Republic and in November 2021, 2022 and 2023 they traveled to resorts in Mexico.

There were at least 55 cases that she handled involving those lawyers and disclosures of the relationships were not made, according to the commission.

In her answer to the formal charges in August, Eisenpress said she relied on an ethics opinion that said the judge is in

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PETER CARR/THE JOURNAL NEWS



Rockland County Democratic Legislator Beth J. Davidson speaks at a press conference at the county legislature in New City announcing a proposed law limiting ICE actions in Rockland County. PHOTOS BY PETER CARR/THE JOURNAL NEWS



U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler, speaks at a press conference at Clarkstown Town Hall in New City against a proposed law limiting ICE actions in Rockland County brought forward by Democrats in the county legislature.

Possible limit on ICE help spurs dispute

Dueling sides hold press conferences to air views

Chris McKenna

New York State Team

USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW CITY – A new proposal to limit Rockland County's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement sparked a war of words at dueling events.

The clash played out in back-to-back press conferences staged at the county office building and nearby Clarkstown Town Hall on Feb. 2. Supporters went first, laying out the case for restricting

interaction between county employees and federal agencies and discounting the "fear-mongering" they said opponents were already conducting.

County Legislator Beth Davidson led off by declaring her support for local law enforcement and explaining the scope of the bill she and fellow Democratic lawmakers were crafting based on a 2018 Westchester County law.

"It simply defines what county law enforcement can ask about a person's citizenship or immigration status, and what information the county will share with federal officials, including ICE, while honoring judicial warrants and following the law," she said.

A barrage of opposition was leveled

an hour later by Rep. Mike Lawler and other Republican officials, who were backed by local law enforcement representatives. They warned the proposal would hinder needed coordination between county and federal agencies and could enable dangerous people sought by ICE to elude capture.

"Rockland County stands for public safety," Lawler said. "And Rockland County will not adopt policies that make our communities less safe. As long as I am a congressman, Rockland County will not become a sanctuary county."

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Official 'regrets' comment at meeting

Kenny says it was in jest, out of context

Nancy Cutler

Rockland/Westchester Journal News

USA TODAY NETWORK

Orangetown Supervisor Teresa Kenny said she regrets comments about a man's immigration status during U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler's heated town hall Sunday at Rockland Community College.

Kenny, a Republican like Lawler, said the Feb. 1 statements were made "in jest and taken out of context."

Her exchange, made as she was near the front of the audience at RCC's Cultural Arts Center, were captured on video and shared via social media by the group Indivisible Rockland.

A man, who had identified himself as a U.S. Navy veteran, was told to leave by Lawler after he had used an expletive. Law enforcement escorted him out.

"I hope they check his immigration status," said Kenny to someone nearby as she sat near the front of the Rock-

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"To be an elected official in a town that has immigrant families, how are they supposed to feel safe hearing the words that she said that night."

Nicole Hines

Nyack NAACP

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