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**City of Vinita and Mayor Sued for Violation of Constitutional Rights**

**VINITA, OK. (April 13, 2020)** – Our country has been fighting an invisible and dangerous enemy that has undoubtedly caused much sickness and sorrow across our state. We agree that our government should act to protect the citizens from harm; and we acknowledge that they have the power to do so. However, that power is not and cannot be unlimited. Nor can it go unchecked.

As citizens, we believe that fear does not give the government a blank check to revoke the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the citizens in any way it sees fit. Its invasion of rights must be reasonable, necessary, and limited. We have watched our leaders almost brag on the news about being the first to ban something or the one to issue the most restrictive orders. It has become a race to the bottom with perceivably little to no caution of going too far.

Our courts have long been the defenders of the constitution and the final arbiters of what is and what is not constitutional. It appears that we can no longer trust all of our leaders to limit themselves. There is simply too much political pressure encouraging them to suspend constitutional rights at all costs. Many of the actions taken do not even further the government’s interest of halting disease spread. At some point we must say enough.

LEE | COATS LAW, along with other concerned citizens, has filed a Petition for Declaratory Relief and Injunctive Relief against the City of Vinita, the Mayor, City Council, City Prosecutor, and Chief of Police. This suit challenges the constitutionality of Vinita Municipal Supplemental Emergency Ordinance 3725, which was enacted on April 7, 2020. This Ordinance goes far beyond previous actions of the State of Oklahoma and the City of Vinita. It violates numerous constitutional rights of Oklahoma citizens, including the freedom of religion, speech, assembly, travel, and many others.

“At some point the government can go too far,” said Plaintiff Geordie Jamarik, a Vinita businessman. “If our fundamental rights ever have meaning and purpose it is now. Enough is enough.”

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