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**News Release**

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**Seeking Answers on Smith County Contract for Traffic Cameras,  
Grassroots America Initiates Request for Investigation  
with Office of Texas Attorney General**

**Smith County, Texas** – Today, Grassroots America’s Executive Director, JoAnn Fleming, filed a detailed narrative with the Office of the Texas Attorney General that is the basis for a formal complaint and a request for an investigation into the process by which County Judge Joel Baker signed a contract with American Traffic Solutions, Inc.

Fleming says after reviewing the January 28, 2015 contract, the August 12, 2014 Commissioners Court agenda/meeting minutes, and media statements made by the County Judge and Commissioners over the last couple of weeks, there was enough “probable cause” to ask for an investigation. **A copy of the complaint was also forwarded to Smith County District Attorney Matt Bingham.**

The Grassroots America complaint raises numerous questions and reveals several possible conflicts between the county’s actions, the contract language, the implementation plan, and state law.

**The complaint narrative includes questions about the contract’s:**

- Constitutionality under both state and federal law;
- Legality, legitimacy, enforceability due to a possible violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act;
- Process through the Commissioners Court, the lack of due diligence, and possible breach of fiduciary duty;
- Per camera, per month costs being \$5,800 per camera higher than those reported for Kaufman County’s 2014 contract with the very same vendor;
- Possible violation of the state transportation code, relating to enforcement and civil citations;
- Possible revenue-driven quota system criteria for camera placement;
- Implementation status without support from municipal courts, the sheriff, the county tax assessor/collector and what this means for taxpayers who may face contract penalties;
- Legal status, pursuant to public statements made by the County Judge that are in conflict with actual contract language and public statements made by several County Commissioners.