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News Release

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Grassroots America Says, “Today’s “suspension” of plans for county traffic cameras changes nothing in our pursuit of a full and thorough investigation.”

Smith County, Texas – Today, Grassroots America’s Executive Director, JoAnn Fleming, reaffirmed the organization’s commitment to a full and thorough investigation into the process by which County Judge Joel Baker signed a contract with American Traffic Solutions, Inc.

Fleming says after examining the January 28, 2015 contract, the August 12, 2014 Commissioners Court agenda/meeting minutes, media statements made by the County Judge, County Commissioners, and other involved parties, and the documents obtained from the County through her open records request, there is more than enough “probable cause” for such an investigation.

Fleming also disclosed that the Office of the Texas Attorney General had informed her that two divisions of the AG’s office are reviewing the complaint documents and District Attorney Matt Bingham’s May 21st letter citing his recusal from the investigation and his request that the Texas Attorney General’s Office step in as Attorney Pro Tem.

Mrs. Fleming concluded, “There are simply too many unanswered questions and conflicting statements about the route by which a signed contract between Smith County and American Traffic Solutions came to be. The fact is, there is not only one, but an **egregious pattern** of violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act that we are not willing to overlook. ***We simply cannot afford elected officials who think they have a right to pick and choose which laws they will obey and what the people are allowed to know about their government. Politicians in Washington and Austin might get away with that mindset and that behavior, but we should not and must not tolerate it in Smith County.***”

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