

# NEWS

## OPINION

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enough to nauseate a person.

Our own local community is looking to expand Big Brother even more in Harper County, which I find terribly unfortunate and as anti-freedom and anti-liberty as it comes.

There is a huge push now for these license plate reading camera systems just about anywhere and everywhere in Kansas. They are popping up all over the place. There are several deployed in Harper County already and at last week’s city council meeting the Harper Police Department is wanting some of its own.

Not only that, but there was overall general support to expand that Orwellian technology even more by bringing in camera-based radar systems that are capable of issuing speeding citations without involving an HPD officer pulling a violator over and issuing the citation in the old-fashioned manner.

Folks when is enough going to be enough? What has happened to the spirit of “give me liberty or give me death” in this country?

Technology is most often incorporated into our lives for two reasons – convenience or safety. But, if said technology violates our freedom and liberty we must take a stand against it before this country is no longer the land of the free. We continue to get closer and closer to that reality each time we cave into bigger government with some new technology or law that steals these two vital and foundational cornerstones of our democratic republic.

While this technology

is not “illegal” in Kansas currently, it doesn’t mean we should support its implementation.

We have the fundamental right to travel public roads without being surveilled. Richard Sobel addresses this in the abstract of “The Right To Travel And Privacy: Intersecting Fundamental Freedoms” found in the UIC John Marshall Journal of Information & Technology Privacy Law, Vol. 30.

“As a fundamental right inherent in American citizenship and the nature of the federal union, the right to travel in the United States is basic to American liberty. The right precedes the creation of the United States and appears in the Articles of Confederation. The U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court recognize and protect the right to interstate travel. The travel right entails privacy and free domestic movement without governmental abridgement.

In the era of surveillance, the imposition of official photo identification for travel, watchlist prescreening programs, and invasive airport scans and searches unreasonably burden the right to travel. They undermine citizen rights to travel and to privacy. These regulations impermissibly require citizens to relinquish one fundamental right of privacy in order to exercise another fundamental right of travel. The government must preserve these rights in addressing policy goals. The original conception of the right to travel embodies it as a broadly-based freedom that encompasses all modes of transport. Its explicit articulation in the Articles of Confederation became implicit in the Privileges

and Immunities Clause of the Constitution. Contrary to the appellate ‘single mode doctrine,’ abridgement of any mode of transportation undermines the constitutionally enshrined travel right. The U.S. Supreme Court needs to rearticulate an originally consistent and politically robust multi-modal right to travel.”

Not only do license plate readers violate your right to privacy while traveling within this state and into others, the system has already seen abuse of those readers by government officials, and the technology is less than 10 years old. Multiple cases have popped up in Kansas, Pennsylvania and Florida.

Back to the copless speeding citations. Despite the privacy questions, which are grounds enough to oppose them, these tech-based solutions lack humanity and the grace and mercy that comes along with that.

Do we really want a heartless system issuing tickets no matter what the circumstance just to pad the city coffers?

There are already laws in place to deter speeding. There are already fines in place for violators as a further deterrent. If council members believe our children are so important – and they are – then the city council can mandate a police officer be stationed in the school zone at all times when the lights are flashing.

If it’s deemed there are not enough police officers available, then the council can authorize the hiring of more officers. We all know the government has the ability to squeeze the turnips a little harder to make more funds appear. And, if the

council doesn’t want to increase property taxes to hire more officers, then cut from somewhere else and show everyone how important the children are when it comes to the budget.

Not only are these systems an infringement on your rights as citizens, but they can end up being a waste of taxpayer dollars. These citations and systems are being fought in courts, so they are proving to be a waste of time and personal resources of citizens. And, the legality of the systems themselves have been questioned leading some states to ban their usage including Texas. The legislature in Missouri is considering a bill to ban the use of traffic cameras to issue citations after the Missouri Supreme Court recently ruled use of such systems is unconstitutional unless the state has proof of the driver’s identity at the time of the offense.

So, while there may not be a law against the system now in Kansas, what about a year from now or five years from now? Do you really want your tax dollars being spent on equipment that could be found unconstitutional at some point and have to be taken down.

At the end of the day, I’m all for safety – within reason. And, I love kids. I have three of them myself. I have nieces and nephews. But at some point we’ve got to say enough is enough to big government and Big Brother before this democratic republic is nothing more than a land of a tyranny we fought to destroy some 250 years ago.

It’s time to stop big government from stealing any more of our freedom and liberty!

## NEWS BRIEFS

### COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

The Public Transportation Service assists all Harper County residents of any age to stay independent with transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping, errands, Patterson Health Center and locations less than 70 miles. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Every county resident can ride with public transit regardless of age or mobility. Equal access is provided to the public. Although out of county trips are available, rides need to be scheduled 24 hours in advance, and the bus returns for Harper County by 3 p.m. Call (620) 842-5104 for reservations and rates. First come, first served. Advance reservations are recommended.

## HARPER SENIOR MEALS

**April 7:** Hamburger steak, baked beans, coleslaw, bread, oatmeal raisin cookie, milk

**April 8:** Baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, spinach salad, biscuit, milk

**April 9:** Roast beef, candied carrots, peaches, milk

**April 10:** Tuna noodle casserole, green beans, tossed salad, garlic bread, pears, milk

**April 11:** Vegetable beef soup, sunshine salad, cookie, milk

Please order/cancel by 1 p.m. the day prior. Call (620) 896-2063 for reservations.

St. Joseph Altar

Society Annual

## Quilt Party

21 Handmade Quilts

– One will be auctioned

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Conway Springs, KS

Refreshments: 12:30 p.m. / Games: 2 p.m.

**Thank you for supporting local news coverage.**

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

To advertise your service or to make changes to your listing call Jason at (620) 896-7311.

### HOSPITAL



#### Hospital & Family Clinic

750 West D Avenue  
Kingman, KS 67068  
**620-532-3147**

#### Rehab Services

760 West D Avenue  
Kingman, KS 67068  
**620-532-0110**

#### Cunningham Clinic

112 North Main  
Cunningham, KS 67035  
**620-298-2397**

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### OPTOMETRY

Seth Thibault, OD

Andrew Piester, OD

Visual Analysis / Contact Lenses  
104 W Ave C / Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-3154

Andrew Piester, OD

In Harper on Thursdays  
214 W. Main / Harper, KS 67058

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, March 27, 2025) 21

### RESOLUTION NO. 906-25

**A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME AND PLACE AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS, AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED AS AN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS STRUCTURE.**

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Harper, Kansas, did on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022 file with the governing body of said city, a statement in writing that the structure, hereinafter described, is unsafe and dangerous;

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Harper, Kansas, did on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 file with the governing body of said city, a statement in writing that the structure, hereinafter described, continues to be unsafe and dangerous;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, before the governing body of the city at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 201 W. Main, Harper, Kansas 67058 at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure located at:

West half of Lot 03 and all of Lot 04 in Block 06 of the original addition in the City of Harper Harper County, Kansas

Commonly referred to as: 216 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Harper, KS 67058

may appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

(SEAL)  
ATTEST:

Tiffany M. Cooperrider, City Clerk

Eric Latta, Mayor

## PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

(First published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, March 27, 2025) 21

**CITY OF HARPER INVITATION TO BID  
2025-04 CURB AND GUTTER REPLACEMENT  
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL/ BID OPENING: April 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

The City of Harper is seeking bids from qualified contractors to provide concrete curb and gutter installation and replacement services. Work shall be completed on or adjacent to the following streets within the City of Harper: Walnut Street (from HWY-160 to 21st St), HWY-160 (from Spruce St to Pine St), Ash Street (from Main St to HWY-160), and 12th Street (from Ash St to Pine St). The Contractor will be responsible for all curb and gutter replacement work as described within the Project Specifications (Scope of Work). Complete Invitation to Bid is available at City Hall or on www.cityofharper.com.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

**CALL STEPHANIE AT 620.532.3151  
OR GO ONLINE AT  
THEHARPERADVOCATE.COM**

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