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December 11, 2024

Town of Carrollton
206 W. Washington Street
Carrollton, MO 64633

Subject: Formal Request Regarding Retaliatory Code Enforcement Actions

Dear Dana,

I am writing in response to a code enforcement letter I received regarding fencing materials staged in my yard. These materials were temporarily placed to prevent leaves from being blown into the street. At no time were these materials configured to constitute an actual fence.

The enforcement letter in question is dated **November 25, 2024**, only three days after I filed a petition for injunctive relief after having pleaded with the mayor to enforce the fire code due to health issues caused by smoke disturbances. Given the timing, it appears the Town of Carrollton's actions were retaliatory.

Request for Information

1. **Complaints Received:**

Please provide a list of all complaints made that prompted this enforcement action, along with the names of complainants.

2. **Nature of Complaints:**

Of those complaints, please indicate which ones were from individuals claiming injury or emotional distress due to the temporarily staged fencing materials.

3. **Internal Communications:**

All communication by and between representatives of the Town of Carrollton relating to the enforcement action.

Background of Retaliatory Conduct

On **November 22, 2024**, I visited with the mayor and requested enforcement of the fire code to address fires causing significant health issues for my mother and me. The mayor produced a single paragraph from the fire code that described recreational fires not requiring permits and insisted that those responsible for the fire had the right to it. I informed her that the Town's failure to act was forcing me to file for injunctive relief.

The enforcement letter was issued shortly thereafter. At the last council meeting I attended, the code enforcement officer stated that enforcement actions had been slow, yet my unassembled fencing—staged as a temporary measure to manage leaves—was suddenly prioritized without apparent valid justification.

The fencing materials were placed temporarily to catch leaves from my Ginkgo tree, which could otherwise present road hazards. The materials were never assembled into a fence and are clearly not a permanent structure.

Harassment and Retaliation

This code enforcement action appears to constitute harassment under the Town's own ordinances, as it was carried out without good cause and with the intent to intimidate and coerce me following my petition for injunctive relief. Such actions have caused me significant emotional distress. This action, of-course, violates state laws as well.

Resolution Demanded

I request that the Town of Carrollton:

- Provide the requested records promptly, including all complaints and their details.
- Acknowledge whether this enforcement action was influenced by my legal filing or interactions with Town officials.

Retaliatory actions by public officials are a serious matter which undermines the integrity of the Town's governance and may potentially cause the town to be liable for potential damages - it is not a very responsible course of action. I expect a full and transparent response to this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Christopher Larsen

