

For the International Municipal Lawyer's Association - IMLA's 5 things to know for May 30<sup>th</sup>

1. Just outside of DC in Mt. Rainier Maryland, the city has hired a very environmentally friendly company to clear a lot. The company puts goats to work. Goats clear the fields of poison ivy and other invasive and brambly weeds, so workers can do the final job of turning the lot into a park. I saw recently that Savannah, Georgia is adopting the same approach.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/theyre-kind-of-mesmerizing-these-nine-goats-draw-spectators-while-devouring-an-overgrown-maryland-park/2018/05/24/ecc6e6cc-5f54-11e8-a4a4-c070ef53f315\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.84f145da11f9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/theyre-kind-of-mesmerizing-these-nine-goats-draw-spectators-while-devouring-an-overgrown-maryland-park/2018/05/24/ecc6e6cc-5f54-11e8-a4a4-c070ef53f315_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.84f145da11f9)

[https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/savannah-to-use-goats-to-clear-vegetation/?utm\\_source=referral&utm\\_medium=mobile-app&utm\\_campaign=ios](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/savannah-to-use-goats-to-clear-vegetation/?utm_source=referral&utm_medium=mobile-app&utm_campaign=ios)

2. We've recently reported on some cities using security cameras to deal with crime. The NYT reported recently that Chicago is employing some 30,000 cameras to address what has become a significant increase in crime in that city. Finding the right balance between privacy and surveillance measures can help a city address crime and deter criminal activity. The issues of privacy vs big brother will no doubt confound us over the coming years.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/26/us/chicago-police-surveillance.html>

3. In another innovative use of emerging technology, South Carolina has begun employing drones to flyover its prisons to surveil against contraband entering the facilities. This is a major twist for South Carolina, where it had seen inmates work with friends outside to use drones to deliver contraband in the past couple of years. Now the drones are working for the guards.

[https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/sc-prisons-embrace-drones-to-keep-remote-eye-on-inmates/?utm\\_source=referral&utm\\_medium=mobile-app&utm\\_campaign=ios](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/sc-prisons-embrace-drones-to-keep-remote-eye-on-inmates/?utm_source=referral&utm_medium=mobile-app&utm_campaign=ios)

4. Yesterday, the Supreme Court dismissed the case of *City of Hayes vs. Vogt* after it had heard argument as having been improvidently granted certiorari. That means that the Tenth Circuit's decision to hold that the use of a compelled statement at a preliminary hearing violates the Fifth Amendment rights of a police officer. The issue before the court was whether the Fifth Amendment only protects a person from use of a compelled statement at a criminal trial or during all aspects of a criminal proceeding. Now we'll have to wait to see.

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-1495\\_e1pf.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-1495_e1pf.pdf)

5. Finally, out of the strange but true file: The Rhode Island Supreme Court recently concluded that a 33 year old inmate could not sue the correctional institution because the inmate was "dead" under Rhode Island law. Yes, dead! In Rhode Island a person committed to life in prison is considered dead for all purposes. The inmate in this case

was doubly dead as he was serving two life sentences plus 45 years.

[https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/court-inmate-serving-life-cant-sue-because-hes-dead/?utm\\_source=referral&utm\\_medium=mobile-app&utm\\_campaign=ios](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/court-inmate-serving-life-cant-sue-because-hes-dead/?utm_source=referral&utm_medium=mobile-app&utm_campaign=ios)

We're already getting ready for our conference in Houston. Have you heard of the Beer Can House? It's in Houston and you'll want to be registered for a land use tour that goes there. Remember, it's a city without zoning. Register now before the rates go up tomorrow. Get more from IMLA by joining. Not a member? Contact us. Sign up at [www.imla.org](http://www.imla.org). Have a great day and make it an inspirational one.