For the International Municipal Lawyer’s Association  - IMLA’s 5 things to know for May 22nd

1. In Cambridge, Massachusetts the city is looking to surveillance cameras to help address problems in the city’s core. The cameras are located at intersections, parking lots, and trails to try to reduce criminal activity. The city’s plan will be to record activity but not use live feeds except under unusual circumstances.


2. In Ocean City, Maryland the city is looking to find ways to deal with a large contingent of homeless loitering around a public restroom. The city hopes to reduce the problem by eliminating benches and making the benches less comfortable for sleeping. While the city bans sleeping on the beaches, it does not ban sleeping on municipal property. The problem is not Ocean City’s alone and most taxpayers looking to enjoy a day out in a park or at the beach with the family likely question if the Constitution really meant to eliminate their enjoyment of public spaces.

https://www.oceancitytoday.net/p/council-seeks-solutions-for-loitering/1749474

3. In Seattle, the city settled a case for $13M with members of a family whose relatives were killed by a repeat drunk driver. The claim was that the city could and should have done more to restrict the driver’s ability to drive where a probation order had required the driver to install an alcohol sensor ignition lock in his pick-up. But he did not and the probation officer did not follow up to see if he had.


4. In a great win for the City of Miami, the Florida Supreme Court recently affirmed the city’s actions in declaring a financial emergency so it could address budgetary issues back during the Great Recession and amend its labor agreement with the FOP. The union argued that the law was vague, that it had been denied Equal Protection, and Due Process all of which the court rejected. Congratulations to Victoria Mendez, City Attorney and her great team in Miami.


5. The Supreme Court yesterday granted certiorari in a case having the potential to create havoc in Oklahoma. In *Royal v. Murphy* the 10th Circuit concluded that large portions of the state were “Indian Country” which for purposes of the case means that serious criminal matters must be prosecuted by the federal government when Native Americans are involved. But, lurking within the consequence of this decision are millions of dollars in taxing authority and other issues that affect almost a million non-Native Americans and the City of Tulsa.
We’re already getting ready for our conference in Houston. Have you heard of the Art Car 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. Get more from IMLA by joining. Not a member? Contact us. Sign up at www.imla.org. Have a great day and make it an inspirational one.