

1     STATE OF ILLINOIS             )  
2     COUNTY OF WILL             )     SS:  
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4     IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
5                     WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
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7     IN RE: THE MATTER OF             )  
8     CONNIE FORSYTHE,             )  
9                     Plaintiff,             )  
10                     vs             )     No. 19 OP 1740  
11                     JOHN NORTON,             )  
12                     Defendant.             )  
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14                     REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the above-entitled  
15     cause before the HON. FRED HARVEY, Judge of the Circuit  
16     Court of Will County, Illinois, on the 16th day of  
17     January, 2020.  
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19                     APPEARANCES:  
20  
21                     MR. ROBERT HANLON,  
22                     Attorney at Law,  
23                     Appeared on behalf of the Plaintiff;  
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25                     MR. JOHN NORTON,  
26                     Appeared as a self-represented litigant.  
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1 THE COURT: All right. For the record, this is  
2 Connie Forsythe versus John Norton, Case No. 19 OP 1740.

3 Show Miss Forsythe is present by her attorney,  
4 Mr. Hanlon. And Mr. Norton is present representing  
5 himself.

6 Come up here and have a seat, Mr. Norton.

7 (Whereupon, a brief pause was had.)

8 THE COURT: Good afternoon, gentlemen.

9 MR. NORTON: Good afternoon, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: And I believe we are here on  
11 Mr. Norton's motion to reconsider.

12 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor --

13 THE COURT: Mr. Norton, it's your -- well, hold on  
14 a second before we begin.

15 It is your motion. Are you ready to proceed to  
16 hearing this afternoon?

17 MR. NORTON: No, your Honor.

18 Actually, what -- I request a two-week  
19 continuance because the Attorney General's Office said  
20 they need seven more business days to get me some  
21 documentation due to the fact that I have a, a document  
22 that counsel, counsel has not seen yet.

23 That the Attorney's General Office is  
24 investigating due to a lack of what you call

1 "inaccessibility" at above-reference facility. And it  
2 is it's currently under investigation. They have made a  
3 determination.

4 I was informed as of yesterday it will take  
5 another seven business days for them to forward me the  
6 documentation to find the Township is in violation of  
7 the Americans with Dis -- Disabilities Act.

8 Meaning, there is no valid --

9 THE COURT: Well --

10 MR. NORTON: -- parking spot outside the building.

11 THE COURT: Let -- let me ask you this, Mr. Norton.

12 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: How -- what relevance does that have to  
14 my order and to your motion to reconsider?

15 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

16 In part one of her complaint, she stated that I  
17 was utilizing a, a disabled parking spot in front of  
18 this facility, which there is none.

19 And she has made the complaint -- the evidence  
20 she provided was not clear and convincing. It was a  
21 grainy photo, your Honor. I believe it was evident --  
22 it was evidence -- or Exhibit No. A.

23 It showed a, a black and white photo of a  
24 vehicle -- which I admit is mine -- at a -- what they

1 call a port hundred twenty degree angle on the bow  
2 showing across from the left rear corner panel -- across  
3 to a sign that was further off -- 45 degrees off to the  
4 side, which also was noncompliant with ADA standards.

5 No lines on the parking lot, since it's a  
6 gravel parking lot. There's no lines in accordance with  
7 the -- have it just right here -- that -- 2018 Illinois  
8 Accessibility Code, Section 501, shows the, the  
9 guidelines -- this is right off the Attorney General's  
10 website -- showing the parameters required for this kind  
11 of parking spot, proper lines park, proper signage.

12 None of the -- the photo he showed -- none of  
13 that was in there. Which means if, if that -- if none  
14 of that's there, there's no violation here.

15 That, that Section 1 of her complaint, it's  
16 just her word against mine. Because I remember stating  
17 when I was up here in that chair right there, your  
18 Honor, I did clearly state, that is a -- that the spot  
19 is a non ADA complaint.

20 In the State of Illinois -- the Attorney  
21 General's Office has agreed with me. But they haven't  
22 sent me the paperwork yet. It will be another seven day  
23 business days before it gets here. They did send --  
24 initially, sent the letter saying they were investigate.

1 I'm just now finding out about it. They need another  
2 seven days to, to send me their ruling --

3 THE COURT: Well --

4 MR. NORTON: -- that's why I am asking for a  
5 continuance for two weeks to -- so that I can present  
6 that in court, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: I'll tell ya, Mister -- Mr. Norton,  
8 what, what I will do is this.

9 I'm not inclined to, to grant your continuance  
10 today. I kinda -- I wanna get to the -- I wanna put  
11 this to bed --

12 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: -- your motion to reconsider.

14 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: But I will tell you what I will do --  
16 because I don't think it is quite relevant.

17 And I know it wasn't -- the, the -- whether or  
18 not you violated parking in a valid handicap spot versus  
19 a non-valid handicap spot, if this were -- if we were  
20 fighting some kind of traffic ticket, if that was a  
21 trial based on that, then I think your, your grounds for  
22 continuance is well-founded. Okay?

23 But I think as far as for today's purposes go,  
24 the -- I'll, I'll take you at your word. This, this

1 proof you want, I'll give it to ya. For sake of today's  
2 argument, that's a bad spot. How's that?

3 So you don't need the Attorney General's  
4 Office. I'm taking it -- I am -- for today's hearing,  
5 I'm even considering that you're 100 percent right about  
6 them not complying with whatever it is that you rattled  
7 off that they have to complied with --

8 MR. NORTON: Yes, Judge.

9 THE COURT: -- do you understand that?

10 How about that?

11 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Can we do it that way?

13 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. Any objection with that,  
15 Mr. Hanlon?

16 MR. HANLON: No, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

18 You want some water? You sound like you're a  
19 little horse.

20 MR. HANLON: No. No. I'm fine. Perhaps, I --  
21 (inaudible) reserve my comments on that.

22 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, Mr. Norton. It's  
23 your moe -- I'm sorry.

24 And you're right. So with that exception,

1 means just taking that as true, are you ready to proceed  
2 on your motion?

3 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 Mr. Hanlon, how about you?

6 MR. HANLON: I'm always ready, Judge.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. All right.

8 Go ahead, Mr. Norton, it's your motion. Go  
9 ahead.

10 MR. NORTON: Okay. Going on what I had previously  
11 stated and the fact that the -- counsel at the time,  
12 like I said, presented a black-and-white photograph,  
13 grainy, that -- I believe that -- was not taken for what  
14 it should have been was -- it's rough -- it shows a  
15 vehicle, a building, it looks like a sign off in the  
16 distance.

17 That -- they showed there was no intent for --  
18 there was no intent that I intentionally wanted to do  
19 this as a point of aggregation or anything.

20 Matter of fact, that spot I'd been parking in  
21 for years off and on off to the side. I've always tried  
22 to avoid parking in front of the sign because I know  
23 somebody would complain. So, I always parked off to the  
24 side of it.

1           It's just unfortunately, finally, that the  
2 petitioner in this situation -- which has become an  
3 ongoing legal battle with, with us.

4           And as you stated last month when you said I  
5 was no stranger to this courtroom, your Honor, well,  
6 that's only been for the last year. Because for the 50  
7 years previous to that, you never saw me in this  
8 courtroom. And there's no record of really -- other  
9 than a traffic violation, which got dismissed -- of me  
10 ever being in this courtroom for the last 50 years, your  
11 Honor.

12           It's just why all the sudden lately case of  
13 Counselor Hanlon's other client, Cynthia Brzana who --

14       MR. HANLON: Objection. Relevance, Judge.

15       MR. NORTON: Yeah --

16       THE COURT: Hold on. Let me do my job up here,  
17 Mr. Norton --

18       MR. NORTON: Sorry. Sorry, your Honor.

19       THE COURT: Mr. Hanlon, it -- it's argument. I'll  
20 -- your objection's noted, but it's overruled.

21           Go ahead, Mr. Norton. You --

22       MR. NORTON: That one of the common denominators of  
23 all the individuals, he's been the counselor for all  
24 these individuals that, in the past year to a little



1 over a year and a half -- Cynthia Brzana, Connie  
2 Forsythe, one or two others I can't think of at the time  
3 top of my head -- Leonard McCubbin, which is also been  
4 in this courtroom, your Honor, attempting to get an  
5 order against me and which you denied it. Cynthia  
6 Brzana (inaudible) prior to that, which you also denied.

7 That this is all -- and even you noted in your  
8 final ruling, saying that your order was not to be in --  
9 to be construed as an attempt to violate my rights under  
10 the Citizen's Participation Act, which --

11 THE COURT: You're paraphrasing a little bit, but  
12 that was the gist of my ruling.

13 MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor.

14 But that's the -- I am -- I been trying to show  
15 you on a pattern of behavior, ever since Cynthia Brzana  
16 a year and a half ago -- October 30th of -- little over  
17 a year ago -- I indicated to you this is a pattern of  
18 behavior of these individuals. All of them against one  
19 of me.

20 And I've now proven to the point where they --  
21 it's them trying to deprive me of my right to, to  
22 participate in local government, that as of 31st -- 30th  
23 of October of this year -- just for the Court's  
24 information, a lawsuit has been filed against eight of

1 those individuals. And as of this morning -- and which  
2 Petitioner Forsythe will be receiving a summons on a  
3 case number -- where'd it go -- Case No. 19 L 943,  
4 18, February, at 9:00 a.m. They will be receiving their  
5 summons here very shortly, because that's going out  
6 today.

7           Where the group of that, including one of the  
8 other members, who's sitting right there in the front  
9 row, is part of that little group. But it is not him  
10 specifically. (Inaudible) his partner of the Edgar  
11 County Watchdog groups, Kurt Dowling, is now being  
12 summons to court in -- for violating my constitutional  
13 civil rights under Citizen's Participation Act.

14           It's -- what it comes down to is, as I stated  
15 once before, I was the highway commissioner of this town  
16 -- of the Township. These individuals didn't like the  
17 way I run it. Out of 2200 residents, a group of about  
18 10 or 11 of 'em, didn't like the way I didn't play their  
19 good ole boys network.

20           I came in, I did my job, duties and  
21 responsibilities as prescribed by law, as I learned from  
22 being ex- military, ex-federal communication commission  
23 -- I worked a short time until Bill Clinton decided to  
24 downsize the government, put us all on the unemployment

1 line -- at which time, later on, after a few years out  
2 of the country, came back here, took the position,  
3 first, as an employee of the Township, and then got  
4 thrown into the highway commissioners position.

5 I knew small-town politics. I knew there was  
6 gonna be issues. I just didn't realize that -- in those  
7 years I was gone, with the advancements of Facebook and  
8 all the social media, that little groups like this can  
9 target one individual.

10 And, unfortunately, their sights got set on me.  
11 That's why in the last year and a half or so, I keep  
12 getting dragged into this courtroom, in which, like I  
13 said, all the years prior too -- I was in two -- let's  
14 see, one, one ticket over here, which was dismissed and  
15 one about 12 -- 22 years ago, automobile in -- accident  
16 involving a trucking company, rear-ended my car, which  
17 resulted in my wife's death, eventually.

18 That ended up going overseas, because my wife  
19 was a non U.S. citizen. She was from the Republic of  
20 Ireland. That, that got dragged out and is still being  
21 dragged out after 22 years. So I'm still -- I'll deal  
22 with that later. But I'm fighting two countries on this  
23 one.

24 But, like I said, in my, my motion, I knew that

1 this was a non-compliance spot. She's using it as a  
2 means of personally attacking me, both personally and  
3 politically. And -- because I won't play (inaudible)  
4 little mind games. I've never done that.

5 Like I said, I was -- came -- when I came out  
6 -- went into the military, I learned discipline. I  
7 learned to follow rules and regulations.

8 And given our current climate of our political  
9 system right now, I'm kind of glad I'm out of it. It's  
10 like -- I see the stuff going on with -- especially with  
11 this Trump impeachment and that, all the fallout from  
12 that, I'm glad I'm out of that.

13 I have nothing to do with any part of that  
14 because of the fact that it's one of those -- I always  
15 played by the -- played by the rules. I didn't play  
16 safe. Played this good ole boys network.

17 Then I got involved with the Edgar County  
18 Watchdog group, who is spurring these people on. And,  
19 so I decided, I'm taking action against them. Like I  
20 said, I filed the suit back October 30th, the summons is  
21 going out today. We're gonna let this fight out in a  
22 different courtroom.

23 But she is one of the participants in this  
24 case, in which she's doing this -- like I say, claim

1 that I be parking in a spot that's not a valid spot as a  
2 form of harassment.

3 Then the -- Section 2 of that, the Dollar  
4 General incident. Your Honor, you saw clear evidence.  
5 In one minute 43 seconds, most of that video, you seen  
6 me come in the door. Took me a couple minutes to try to  
7 find what (inaudible). Come back around, stand in line,  
8 wait for the person in front of me to leave.

9 And you could see -- you saw it yourself, your  
10 Honor. (Inaudible) you saw her stalking back and forth  
11 and coming around behind me. Actually, I had no idea  
12 she was there. Your Honor, I indicated that on court  
13 records and in the video, didn't even know she was  
14 there. She's claiming, yes, I did, and I was stalking  
15 and harassing her.

16 (Inaudible). There are two incidents -- two  
17 separate incidents, two separate things you have to --  
18 what I'm concerned with is her, her accusation is being  
19 used as a -- is sufficient to meet the burden of proof  
20 in this situation.

21 She has no supporting documentation to support  
22 (inaudible), showing valid spot and I was intentionally  
23 doing it regardless.

24 And second -- on the second part of it, she did

1 (inaudible) show even on vid -- the videotape did not  
2 correspond to her statement.

3 I came in, got what I wanted, stood there and  
4 talked to the cashier, which I've done for a little  
5 while -- told her shut up, called her a bad name, and  
6 walked out.

7 Protected speech, your Honor. So I used foul  
8 language. And that's still protected speech; First  
9 Amendment.

10 Two insignificant little instances that I don't  
11 think she met the burden of -- burden of proof, even  
12 under preponderance of the evidence, still seems  
13 insufficient, your Honor.

14 But I'm trying to show you -- like I started  
15 when I said back with Cynthia Brzana over a year ago, I  
16 was trying to establish a pattern of behavior.

17 And one of the -- two common denominators, two  
18 common threads between this is, one, this counselor  
19 sitting right here, and the second, the Edgar County  
20 Watchdogs, which there -- one of their representatives  
21 is sitting in the back -- in the courtroom here. This  
22 seems to be the two that's circling around to come after  
23 me.

24 And since, and since that time, since I've not

1 had any -- really any success in stopping these, this is  
2 why I filed the lawsuit against that group, like I said,  
3 19 L 943. It'll be heard next month over in the Annex  
4 building, and we'll just take it from there.

5 Because, so far, none of the -- what they've  
6 done has really caused me any financial burden. I mean,  
7 I think I could handle, pretty much, both (inaudible),  
8 with the exception of Attorney Brown and -- that really  
9 didn't cost me anything, so I wasn't worried about that.

10 I know she's -- in his response to my motion,  
11 it's claimed -- I'm glad (inaudible) -- moment to think  
12 about this, your Honor. She claimed it's caused her  
13 financial burden.

14 Your Honor, she's proven not, not one single  
15 document to show she's anywhere gainfully employed in --  
16 let -- on planet Earth, let alone the United States or  
17 the State of Illinois.

18 She says, Oh, financial burden. Where's the  
19 receipt? Where's your employment record? You're  
20 claiming, Oh, I work here. Where's your check stubs?  
21 Where -- where's your tax (inaudible)?

22 Your Honor, when I was over here filing this  
23 one, I put in for a fee waiver. And the judge was over  
24 there satisfied on that case. He granted me a fee

1 waiver based on the fact that he did review my tax  
2 documents and all that and granted me a fee waiver.

3 Because one -- a couple things that are not  
4 included in my income, my federal retirement, my VA  
5 benefits, and that, are not required to be because  
6 they're not -- they're tax, tax exempt, because disabled  
7 veteran.

8 I don't have to file taxes on that, state --  
9 especially State of Illinois. Military active duty and  
10 retired personnel do not have to pay taxes on that.  
11 That's state law. It's been like that since -- long  
12 before I was in the Navy and got out.

13 So -- otherwise, I have no other income. I  
14 have to live on that. If it wasn't for the VA benefits,  
15 I'd be screwed because my medical bills would go right  
16 through the roof right now, so.

17 But she has provided no documentation that  
18 she's gainfully employed due to the fact that when I get  
19 her into the case over there, I am gonna subpoena her  
20 tax records and that.

21 They're get -- they're concerned that she's --  
22 with her -- one of the previous plaintiff -- or  
23 petitioners in this, Lenny McCubbin, her life partner,  
24 income tax evasion. Because they live together. And he



1 says -- well, he pays -- he's not provided any  
2 documentation she's -- she can't prove she even works in  
3 the State of Illinois or anywhere on planet Earth.

4 So -- and who's paying for -- if she has no  
5 documentation to prove she works and the money's not  
6 coming from her, more, more than likely it's coming from  
7 her boy -- or her boyfriend. That the financial burden  
8 falls on him, not her.

9 They have not proved -- provided documentation  
10 that this has cost them anything. For best I know, he  
11 could be sitting here doing this as pro bono work backed  
12 up by that political organization I, I mentioned  
13 earlier.

14 So -- and I kept it very simple on one page.  
15 And I know it's Counselor Hanlon in his response  
16 multiple pages long, he went into colorful language and  
17 that.

18 Your Honor, simply put, the law says that the  
19 parking spot has to meet this valid parameters. It did  
20 not. And I'm waiting on the documentation to prove that  
21 they've ruled that that is. So I don't need case law  
22 and that.

23 Your Honor, I actually found it quite offensive  
24 that I needed to come up with case law when I was under

1 the understanding, always (inaudible) my civics course,  
2 that judges are here to interpret the law -- interpret  
3 the legislation of law.

4 I think -- you're fully capable of interpreting  
5 the law or else you wouldn't be sitting here. Why do I  
6 need case laws from other judges to support what I said?  
7 I mean, that's -- I found that he is offending you, your  
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: And, Mr. Norton, I'll, I'll stop you  
10 just for a minute.

11 MR. NORTON: Okay.

12 THE COURT: Sometimes -- and you're looking --  
13 you're looking for something that's not there.

14 It is routine, it is routine for licensed  
15 attorneys, when they prepare motions, to cite their  
16 relevant case law --

17 MR. NORTON: Okay.

18 THE COURT: -- to set -- it's called "precedent."  
19 Okay? And they're for -- the, the judges rely on it  
20 from time to time.

21 Even though I can know every single case that  
22 Mr. Hanlon cites, which, quite frankly, you know, I  
23 heard some of those cases, not all of them, but for the  
24 general propositions that he's using them to support, I

1 obviously do know that law. He's doing his job.

2           There's not a shot at this Court. There's not  
3 a judge in this building that would consider it to be a  
4 shot at the court. He's just, he's just representing  
5 his clients to the best of his ability. And it's really  
6 -- it's standard fare, okay, for lawyers to do that.  
7 And we certainly -- no judge takes any offense to that  
8 whatsoever. Okay?

9       MR. NORTON: Okay.

10       THE COURT: But I appreciate you looking out for  
11 me. Thanks.

12       MR. NORTON: I -- like I said, I was afraid that's  
13 what was happening.

14       THE COURT: All right. No. No.

15       MR. NORTON: I thought I'd throw a red flag up and  
16 say something just in case I was right. (Inaudible)  
17 play it safe.

18       THE COURT: All right. Mr. Norton, do you have  
19 anything else for me?

20                   (Whereupon, a brief pause was had.)

21       MR. NORTON: Something he said and I can't remember  
22 off the top -- I just spewed out so much I forgot what  
23 (inaudible). Wrong piece of paper. Damn.

24                   (Whereupon, a brief pause was had.)

1           MR. NORTON:  Something he said in his response.  
2                           (Whereupon, a brief pause was had.)  
3           MR. NORTON:  Your Honor, the, the notes -- this is  
4   not an abusive process.  I'm just following due process  
5   as in Section C of his response.  
6                    I was trying to do everything by the letter,  
7   even -- following your instructions back in November  
8   about filing a motion to reconsider.  I was following  
9   what you had said, which is what I did.  And then we  
10  came back in December and you said -- set it for -- to  
11  today.  
12                   And, by the way, I wanted to thank you for  
13  something you said in the -- during that brief -- it was  
14  not on the call -- something you said during that time  
15  to me -- or said on the record.  Thank you, your Honor.  
16  You just used it to, to help me in a previous case  
17  against him -- against his client.  
18                   I'm use -- I got the court transcripts.  And  
19  Attorney Scott Pyles, in the other case involving one of  
20  his other clients, is, is -- that was the goose that  
21  laid the golden egg.  And you help -- you actually roll  
22  -- said something about it and we're using that in that  
23  case over there, your Honor.  
24                   I just didn't -- I realized it at the moment in

1 time when you said it back in December. I was standing  
2 there biting me tongue, trying not to real -- show that  
3 -- I realize what you were telling me and telling all of  
4 us. And I had to go -- I realized what I had to do.

5 You were right, and I know -- I caught it. And  
6 I am taking action on that. It's something that you  
7 said to the two of us standing in here about being here  
8 in the courtroom. And (inaudible).

9 I got a couple of attorneys that said, You were  
10 right. And I was -- good thing I remembered it -- got  
11 the documentation, because it's been used against his  
12 counselor in another case that you were right. And I  
13 wanted to thank you for that, your Honor. I want to  
14 make sure I got that out before I forgot.

15 But now I was doing -- following due process.  
16 And this not an abusive process. I am following due  
17 process as per your guidelines back in November.

18 He did all these documents, (inaudible) five or  
19 six that counter one. A lot the language, I don't even  
20 (inaudible). Most of (inaudible) still learning about.  
21 (Inaudible) in time I'll understand it.

22 And then as to -- and then one last thing was  
23 -- how do I put this? (Inaudible) the court of appeals  
24 one -- did say not too long ago, you could never go into

1 court with, with too little evidence. You have to go  
2 in, throw everything on the table. You can never have  
3 too much evidence in the court of law, I think is what  
4 they said.

5           Sadly enough, I -- some of the documents I need  
6 haven't arrived yet. That's why I initially asked for a  
7 continuation for two weeks so I could get them, because  
8 I know that you're not accepting new evidence right now.

9           But in case something came up after-the-fact,  
10 then I got -- know, by the law, I can -- that's  
11 permissible for me to, to include it, which I was  
12 waiting on and hoping. But since I'm not gonna get  
13 that, decide I'll proceed with this.

14           And I apologize for my rambling and going on  
15 about this, your Honor. Like I say, I -- like I say, in  
16 the last year, this is the most time I've spent in the  
17 courtroom in the last 50-plus years. I'm still  
18 learning.

19           Unfortunately, I don't wanna learn this, but  
20 I'm being forced down this road due to the fact a group  
21 of individuals trying to deny me my rights under the  
22 Citizens with Participation Act.

23           That's about all I could put up, your Honor.

24           THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

1           Mr. Hanlon, are you -- I take it you're  
2     objecting to Mr. Norton's motion to reconsider, and  
3     you're standing on, on your written response?

4           MR. HANLON: I am standing on my written response.

5           I just wanted confirm that you've had an  
6     opportunity to read and understand it?

7           But I do have to take --

8           THE COURT: Go ahead.

9           MR. HANLON: -- exception with a few of the  
10    statements that Mr. Norton has made here today.

11           He had suggested that by the presence of an  
12    attorney in multiple different cases and various  
13    representations, that there is something improper in  
14    connection with that.

15           That is a -- patently against a multitude of  
16    decisions of the Second District Appellate Court, as  
17    well as the Supreme Court. The, the (inaudible)  
18    District Court of Appeals has addressed that matter on  
19    several occasions as well.

20           I represent my clients when I stand here as an  
21    attorney at law. To the extent there's commonality  
22    between some of my clients and claims against  
23    Mr. Norton, it's par for the course.

24           And I felt it was important for me to

1 articulate that, even though I know that the Court is  
2 fully, you know, apprised of that.

3 But we are here today on a motion to  
4 reconsider. He failed to meet his burden, his burden on  
5 a motion to reconsider.

6 And, frankly, he didn't even address any of  
7 the, the elements that are necessary underneath the  
8 motion to reconsider.

9 And based upon the pleading itself, as well as  
10 his ramblings on, you know, here today as he described  
11 them, this Court ought to deny his motion to reconsider.

12 That's it, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, everyone.

14 Okay. The arg -- the arguments are closed.  
15 Here's, here's my ruling.

16 Mr. Norton, there's a couple things I, I want  
17 to explain to you, okay, before I, I give you my ruling  
18 on your motion. Okay?

19 First of all, I, I know that you have mentioned  
20 your military service. So this Court and the entire  
21 judicial circuit wants to thank you for your service of  
22 to this country. That's thing No. 1.

23 Thing No. 2. This Court, when making my ruling  
24 originally, emphasized that in no way my ruling should



1 affect your right to participate in government, attend  
2 meetings of government, and, and as a resident and  
3 citizen of this country, to participate in the political  
4 process. That, that is a line that this Court was not  
5 willing to cross. And I emphasized that to you.

6           You, in your argument here today, made several  
7 references to an organization -- it's -- is it Edgar  
8 County Watchdogs? Which I believe is -- they -- have a  
9 website and whatnot? Right?

10          MR. NORTON: They are a, a 504 -- 501 (C-4) --

11          THE COURT: All right. Well, proof -- I don't need  
12 that. Proofs are closed, so I don't need that. All  
13 right?

14          MR. NORTON: No, I was just letting you know.

15          THE COURT: Well, they, they do so -- I know that  
16 they've popped up in the local news from time to time as  
17 a member of the press. Okay?

18                So much -- as much as this Court values your  
19 right to participate in the political process, this  
20 Court also values the right to a free press and the  
21 right to have reporters in the room, to essentially tell  
22 the public to make sure I'm doing my job and make sure  
23 that the, the government is working for the People. All  
24 right?

1           So, so, in no way is this Court ever going to  
2 consider press being present or anything like that in my  
3 rulings. Okay? I wanna make sure -- because this Court  
4 thinks that it is absolutely vital to, to this process;  
5 not only the courts, but in politics but in everything.  
6 Okay?

7           And I just wanted to touch upon that because  
8 you addressed it several times. Okay?

9           MR. NORTON: Yes, your Honor. And I agreed with  
10 what you said.

11          THE COURT: No. No. Mr. Norton, I don't need you  
12 to comment anymore. It is my turn to talk. Okay? You  
13 wanna talk after I talk, you gotta get yourself elected  
14 to the appellate court. Okay?

15           All right. Now, as far as your motion to  
16 reconsider. Okay? I am taking the Attorney General's  
17 ruling that you're telling me about this parking spot --  
18 and I -- I haven't looked at the transcript of my  
19 ruling, but I know that in my mind, it does not matter  
20 to me one bit whether or not that was a valid handicap  
21 spot or invalid handicap spot. Whether they comport to  
22 whatever code deals with those things doesn't matter.

23           What mattered to this Court was the intent  
24 behind the parking of the spot and then more importantly

1 was the, the exchange afterwards. Okay? And that is --  
2 that was the gist of, of that scenario.

3 The validity of the spot is neither here nor  
4 there, which is why I am taking you on at, at your word  
5 on that. Okay? So I am considering that in, in your  
6 motion to reconsider.

7 And, and to address Mr. Hanlon. I know that,  
8 that you -- the Court thanks you for your patience and  
9 professionalism in this matter. But I can't fault  
10 Mr. Norton for filing this motion, because, essentially,  
11 I kinda told him to do it. Okay? I told him if he  
12 wanted to file, you know, a motion to reconsider, he  
13 could, and he had 30 days to do it. And he's,  
14 essentially, just following what this Court was telling  
15 him to do.

16 And I -- I have read your motion. I have read  
17 the response to the motion. I am considering the  
18 arguments of Mr. Norton, as well as Mr. Hanlon on behalf  
19 of this.

20 And your -- Mr. Norton, your motion to  
21 reconsider is denied. Okay?

22 Many of the things you talked about, it seems  
23 like there's other litigation that this Court's unaware  
24 of. So I guess I'll wish both sides equally good luck

1 on that.

2 But hopefully this wraps things up and take  
3 care of yourselves. Okay?

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. NORTON: Thank you for your time, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. HANLON: Do you want me to prepare an order or  
8 --

9 THE COURT: Um --

10 THE CLERK: (Inaudible).

11 THE COURT: I -- I'll prepare an order. Thank you.  
12 You'll get a copy in a couple minutes.

13 (Whereupon, a brief pause was had.)

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, everyone. Take  
15 care. Okay?

16 MR. NORTON: Thank you, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 (Which were all the proceedings had.)  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

1           THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
2                           WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

3  
4  
5  
6           I, TRACY HOYT, a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
7 for the Circuit Court of Will County, Twelfth Judicial  
8 Circuit of Illinois, do hereby certify the foregoing to  
9 be a true and accurate transcript of the electronic  
10 recording of the proceeding of the above-entitled cause  
11 which recording contained a certification in accordance  
12 with rule or administrative order.

13

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22

23   Dated this 27th day

24   of January, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TRACY HOYT, CSR

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2 14 West Jefferson Street,  
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6 BILLING DATE: January 27, 2020  
7  
8 BILLED TO: Ms. Cindy Brzana  
9 815-953-6593  
10  
11 CASE: Forsythe v. Norton  
12 19 OP 1740  
13  
14 DATE TAKEN: January 16, 2020  
15  
16 REFERENCE: Motion to Reconsider  
17 by HON. FRED HARVEY  
18  
19 PAGES: 29 @ \$4.75 per page  
20  
21 CHARGES: \$ 137.75  
22  
23 DEPOSIT: \$ 166.25  
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