

**CECIL LEFORCE,**

Plaintiff

v.

**CITY OF JELICO,**

Defendant

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**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 7CH1-2025-CV-192**

Comes now the Plaintiff, Cecil Leforce, by and through undersigned counsel, pursuant to Rule 65.03 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, and respectfully moves this Honorable Court for relief as set forth below.

4. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, City of Jellico, intends to finalize and approve the conveyance of the Property imminently without proper legal authority.

5. On or about January 15, 2026, the City of Jellico voted to sell or convey the Property to Jellico Utilities, and the City intends to proceed with that transaction unless enjoined by this Court.

6. Pursuant to Tenn. R. Civ. P. 65.03(1), a Temporary Restraining Order may be granted where specific facts show that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result before the adverse party can be heard in opposition.

7. Once the City conveys the Property, the transaction cannot easily be undone, and the loss to the public interest will be irreparable.

8. Plaintiff, as a citizen and taxpayer, has standing to seek to enjoin unlawful or ultra vires acts by the City of Jellico. See *Badgett v. Rogers*, 436 S.W.2d 292 (Tenn. 1968); *Ferris v. Blanton*, 528 S.W.2d 549 (Tenn. 1975).

9. The balance of equities favors maintaining the status quo until the Court can determine whether Defendant's actions comply with the law, and the public interest is best served by ensuring that public property is not disposed of unlawfully or without required procedures pending adjudication of this matter on the merits.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully moves this Court to:

1. Issue a Temporary Restraining Order, immediately prohibiting the Defendant, City of Jellico, through its officers, agents, and employees, from taking any action to sell, transfer, or otherwise convey the Property pending a hearing on the merits of this matter;

2. Set an expedited hearing on a Preliminary Injunction pursuant to Rule 65.04 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*;

3. Upon hearing, issue injunctive relief enjoining Defendant from proceeding with any sale or conveyance of the Property unless and until all applicable charter, ordinance, and legal requirements are satisfied;

4. Waive bond or set a nominal bond pursuant to Tenn. R. Civ. P. 65.05, as Plaintiff acts in the public interest; and

5. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

**CECIL LEFORCE**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and exact copy of the foregoing has been served by facsimile, and/or electronic mail, and/or United States mail with sufficient postage thereon to ensure delivery, the following:

Elizabeth Burrell  
Law Offices of Burrell & Varsalona  
711 S. Charles G. Seivers Boulevard  
Clinton, Tennessee 37716  
Email: elizabeth@fbvlaw.com  
Facsimile: 865-463-6090

***Service Via Email Pursuant to Rule 5.02 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure***

This 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ameesh A. Kherani  
Attorney for Plaintiff





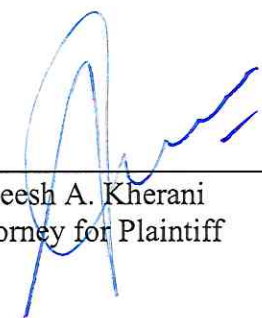
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This 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.



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Ameesh A. Kherani  
Attorney for Plaintiff