

To whom it may concern,

1. Yes, I am currently practicing as a Social Worker with Applewood Centers as a Therapist with Juvenile Justice in the Crossroads Diversion program where I see juveniles who are court remanded to treatment by the Lorain County Domestic Court.
2. My supervisor is Michelle Sims Director of Juvenile Justice.
3. I “carry a card to hand out” **[see Exhibit 15]** and if I had come in contact with a Human Trafficking Victim I would give the card to the victim, yes. I generally don’t come in contact with Human Trafficking victims but it is a question (exploitation) on the Cans assessment. I also do not have the “videos” as I withdrew the complaint and withdrew the request for the bodycam footage. If the Police wish to provide that is fine but my dashcam only stores videos for a short period and my body cam only showed me driving away so that wasn’t saved.
4. I have had the disclaimer on my email for legal reasons. I use my “personal” email for many purposes. I’ve used that email as a Per Se Litigant in my child’s custody case and as such send and receive confidential documents from that email so I utilize it often as a catch all. I utilize it in my capacity as a GAL for the county of Lorain and I do send myself Professional documents and training information to that email so it is my “everything” email. It should be noted prior to my employment at my current position this email was the email I utilized as my “advocacy email address” and was listed as my professional email on my Personal Business Cards that I had made for advocacy. So, I feel it is my “professional email” for MACRO level advocacy purposes. And as such MACRO Level advocacy, personal or professional, requires no actual supervision or specific clinical licensure other than my BSSW. I have my Licensure on my “personal email” as I believe I am mandated to the legal ethical standard in all my duties, both personal and professional, as both can affect my licensure status. SO as such I place my Licensure (**not my employer**) on my

personal email as it is **MY LICENSURE** and I am ultimately responsible for its good standing. I also feel it holds me accountable.

The Pre-Amble of the Code of Ethics for Social Workers reads:

“The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession’s dual focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

*Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. “Clients” is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and **communities**. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and **strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice**. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation, administration, **advocacy**, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek **to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals’ needs and social problems.***

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession’s history, are the foundation of social

work’s unique purpose and perspective:

- service
- **social justice**
- dignity and worth of the person

- *importance of human relationships*
 - *integrity*
 - *competence.*

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.”

It should be noted that this complaint centers around my advocacy on behalf of my community and as such it should be noted that all my actions are what DEFINES a Social Worker and I am PROUD to place my LSW behind those actions. It would be unethical to do otherwise. These 2 complaints span 2 incidents and neither of them are or were “personal in nature” to me. I do not personally know the family that was involved in the incident surrounding the original complaint nor do I personally know the chief of police. But through the course of my addressing issues that I feel were in direct support of my community and in advocacy and empowerment of individuals in my community who are traditionally oppressed, living in poverty, and are identified as vulnerable. It is also insinuated apparently that this action must somehow be attached to my actual day to day job to be considered Social Work but I would argue that any advocacy on Behalf of my community is Social Work and as the code Identifies “Clients” as being used *“inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and **communities**”*. Until I began to advocate on behalf of my community, I was unaware of the individual plight that was faced by the Hildrith family nor to the ire that the Lorain Police would formulate based off my advocacy. During this key time some very important things occurred least of which I suddenly was being “followed” on Facebook by the Chief and Mary Hildrith (the community member involved in the incident) although neither had attempted to contact me. **[Please See Exhibit 1 & 2]**. It should also be noted that Mary Hildriths husband did message me on Facebook discussing

my advocacy as well. **[Exhibit 3 & 4]** The Lorain Police would have you believe this is a “personal issue” for me, Aaron Knapp, not a Social Advocacy issue for the LSW Aaron Knapp, but they would be incorrect. (It should also be noted the video of the above incident went viral garnering over 500k views across multiple channels and shares so this was a community matter even if it wasn’t intended to be.

5. It should be noted that I withdrew the complaint where I discussed the information about handing out cards and the incident revolving around my being parked at 4000 Oberlin rd. and per police policy, they dismissed it. So that documentation is actually a moot point but I was checking emails in the parking lot and was going to text a client’s PO from the lot **[See Exhibit 5 Text message on March 31st to Probation Officer Ryan Green (redacted) March 31st at 20:01 hrs]**. After the officer engaged with me in the parking lot and stated he had concerns and in an attempt to alleviate them, I advised the officer I would move to the parking lot one block down where I had a bank to finish my emails and phone calls. I did drive to the next lot down and finished my business before heading home. As I said in the now dismissed complaint **[See Exhibit 6]**, I thought it was very coincidental that the officer stopped me shortly after all the stuff with the chief started. It is important to note that I recognized, in hindsight, that the Officer may have had other reason for his engagement with me and I even stated in my emails to the chief I was willing to admit it was coincidental about the officer if he admitted the issue with him befriending me on Facebook also seemed suspicious. This was VERY INTIMIDATING to out of nowhere have a Police Chief and a Civil Servant show such interest in me and I believe if that wasn’t heavy on my mind when I stopped in that parking lot to check emails and text (as I was driving when the client call came in and then as shown above, I messaged the Probation Officer after but had to pull in to a lot quickly as to not break the law by being on my phone while

driving a vehicle) I would probably reacted differently to the Officer and his “reasons” to come talk to me for sitting in my car checking emails in the parking lot. I am a salaried employee so while I log hours, I am technically not hourly so if something arises and I need to email a client or a PO I do so because I am with Juvenile Justice and it is a necessity to meet the clients where they are at in Juvenile Justice. As most Social Workers tend to do I take calls and texts outside of work hours and even responded to a text tonight while on vacation so I feel like as a Social Worker you are never really “off”.

6. After I went to the mayor and told him about my interactions with Law Enforcement and the Chief of Police I arrived at work and during my Supervision my supervisor directly asked me about the very public Facebook issue I was involved in with the City Police involving my non-work hours Social Work advocacy. Rest assured I do consider my off-employment hours advocacy Social Work and as such feel my Licensure, that I earned through study and testing, is appropriately placed when I am clearly doing MACRO Level advocacy work that requires no supervision but does require a BSSW. SO, in Order to properly advocate I must at minimum identify myself as a BSSW, which I clearly was doing. When I spoke to my Supervisor I did ask if I had signed any agreements preventing off work advocacy and was told no but that they [the Lorain Police] could refuse to work with you. My supervisor advised me the back channels such as email and official complaint forms were better to utilize as they were not “public”. At that time, I deleted every public post about the First Amendment issues I had posted and any and all comments I had posted, advocating for members of my community whom I felt were not being properly represented by anyone so I did what the Code tells me to do and attempted to ***“promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals’ needs and social problems.”*** And I followed up on my Official Complaint. I am unsure to date who contacted my employer (if anyone) and while the Police Department may

say they were not the people to call it is clear they filed this complaint so they are attempting to attack my employment or my licensure in order to silence me. To this point I would prefer my employer and/or supervisor not be involved in this action unless for some reason you deem my actions were inappropriate and not within the NASW Code of Ethics as the Police Chiefs frivolous complaints have already drawn enough attention to me at work (regardless of whom called my supervisor).

7. As you will see in the attachments to this email the Chief chose to respond in a direct manner to me as opposed to my complaint **[Exhibit 7 & 8]**. His emails felt more like blaming and hostile than wanting to work anything out. He and the Mayor both inquired as to my profession as well as insinuating why do I care? As Chief he failed to uphold his duty to be the example of top Law Enforcement. His responses left much to be desired, were condescending, released information about ongoing investigations, and accused the citizenry of being liars. He also took the opportunity to follow AND add me as a friend on Facebook (see previous exhibits). His actions felt as though they were meant to intimidate and later, he followed those statements up by stating I needed to know the consequences for taking legal action over a Civil Rights issue **[see Exhibit 9, 10, and 11 which contains a few emails in a chain of emails between the Chief and I]**.
8. To Clarify what I mean as a “Duly Licensed Officer of the Court” (I believe licensed should have been sworn which is what I meant in that statement) I believe that as a Guardian Ad Litem, who is sworn in as an Officer of the Court (Not to be confused with a Court Officer), and Officers of the court have legal and ethical obligations. They are tasked to participate to the best of their ability in the functioning of the judicial system to forge justice out of the application of the law and the simultaneous pursuit of the legitimate interests of all parties and the general good of society also as a Social Worker who works in Juvenile Justice as a Therapist who is contracted to the County and works within the courts, who enters through the employee entrance of the court

would be considered a "Officer of the Court" and as such I am obligated under the Ohio Revised Code to report any violations in regards to court documents being disseminated to the public at large. For reference, please refer to Section 149.43 | Availability of public records for inspection and copying. Ohio Revised Code/Title 1 State Government/Chapter 149 Documents, Reports, and Records Effective: April 7, 2023 Latest Legislation: House Bill 254 (GA 134), Senate Bill 288 (GA 134), House Bill 45 (GA 134), House Bill 558 (GA 134), House Bill 99 (GA 134), House Bill 343 (GA 134) (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Public record" means records kept by any public office, including, but not limited to, state, county, city, village, township, and school district units, and records pertaining to the delivery of educational services by an alternative school in this state kept by the nonprofit or for-profit entity operating the alternative school pursuant to section 3313.533 of the Revised Code. "Public record" does not mean any of the following:

(17) "Restricted portions of a body-worn camera or dashboard camera recording" means any visual or audio portion of a body-worn camera or dashboard camera recording that shows, communicates, or discloses any of the following:

The image or identity of a child or information that could lead to the identification of a child who is a primary subject of the recording when the department of rehabilitation and correction, department of youth services, or the law enforcement agency knows or has reason to know the person is a child based on the departments or law enforcement agency's records or the content of the recording;

(l) Personal information of a person who is not arrested, cited, charged, or issued a written warning by a peace officer.

I can cite numerous other codes requiring that these juveniles' names and information (beyond roster information for the school) if the board requests but rest assured these juvenile records are protected by law.

As the report contains protected juvenile court records and pictures of juveniles who were never arrested and charged with a crime, I don't feel comfortable sharing the actual report so please see the attached link:

<https://www.lorainpolice.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/126-W-27TH-ST-MEDIA-RELEASE-ADMINISTRATIVE-INVESTIGATION.pdf>.

But as I stated in my Official Complaint these Juveniles are not my clients, my kids, nor am I a Stake Holder in the eyes of the law when it comes to these children so all I am able to do is report the potential violations to the issuing agency (Lorain Police Department) in hopes they will redact the documentation, which I clearly was doing as a community service and not for "Personal Reasons".

9. I did have one last conversation with the father in question and I provided him with the necessary resources to advocate for his child informing him I was not "his worker" and as such I could not advocate for him or his child as "individuals" but that I would continue my "community advocacy" at a MACRO level behind the scenes as the father pursued the appropriate course of actions to have the protected information removed.
10. This Matter is not related to my "Professional Capacity" at my job as a Social Worker but it is related to my Professional Licensure in so much as I am a Change Agent and Our code of ethics calls us to engage in social and political action to ensure equitable access to resources, employment, and opportunities for people to meet their basic needs and then to expand choice and opportunity for all people, especially the vulnerable, disadvantaged, and oppressed. This isn't about Personal Gain its about being a Change Agent for my Community. As a Macro

Practitioner I have taken courses in Community Change and the importance of being a change agent within the communities we live in first. The Communities I'm advocating for in my Off time are the same communities I work with during work hours. So, since I am salaried, I feel like its all relative. What makes one advocacy opportunity professional vs private?

11. I am "accused of violating OAC 4757-5-02 (A) (1) & (2) which states:

(A) Responsibility to clients/consumers of services as to competency:

(1) Licensees and registrants shall be able to present reliable and substantial evidence of competency in the areas in which they practice. Licensees and registrants shall not misrepresent directly, indirectly or by implication their professional qualifications such as education, specialized training, experience, or area(s) of competence. Licensees or registrants shall not use a doctorate designation in their professional capacity unless it is related to the field of mental health and is from a recognized accredited educational institution.

(2) Licensees and registrants shall practice only within the competency areas for which they are qualified by education and training. Licensees and registrants shall maintain appropriate standards of care based on their individual professional license. Standards of care shall be defined as what an ordinary, reasonable professional with similar training would have done in a similar circumstance.

So first I would state ***1) Licensees and registrants shall be able to present reliable and substantial evidence of competency in the areas in which they practice. Licensees and registrants shall not misrepresent directly, indirectly or by implication their professional qualifications such as education, specialized training, experience, or area(s) of competence.***

So, I would state I am a BSSW, LSW and a CDCA (p). I have the degree and licensure to back that up along with having studied and feel competent in Community Engagement and Advocacy having taken specific courses on this area of MACRO practice. I also contract with the Juvenile Court System and I am a GAL so I do believe I have the qualifications, education, and competency in the areas I am practicing. I also have taken courses in Criminal Justice and Constitutional Criminal Procedure so these areas are also familiar to me.

The second part states:

(2) Licensees and registrants shall practice only within the competency areas for which they are qualified by education and training. Licensees and registrants shall maintain appropriate standards of care based on their individual professional license. Standards of care shall be defined as what an ordinary, reasonable professional with similar training would have done in a similar circumstance.

While I cannot and would not attempt to speak for or guess what another provider would do in a similar circumstance, I can tell you that I am without a doubt 100% competent in the areas of Social Advocacy within my Community and in being culturally appropriate and utilizing evidence-based practices. I believe my advocacy for my community meets the Standards of MACRO level Social Work and in as such I have my BSSW displayed as that is what I am practicing when advocating in my community. And I've never utilized Dr. in my title inappropriately.

As such I do not feel I am in any way in violation of the OAC 4757-5-02 (A) (1) & (2) and I believe this is in direct retaliation to my advocacy work within the community. It should be noted the Police did eventually re-open comments to their Facebook page, even after saying they would not do so multiple times and saying I was incorrect, and after that their Facebook comments were reopened. At that point I thanked them for their compliance with the stake holder requests and considered the matter closed, until receiving this complaint. **[See Exhibit 14].**

I utilize my Facebook page for advocacy only for the most part. The email is also utilized for advocacy because as a change agent I am always advocating for my clients in various ways. And regardless of what the Lorain Police want to acknowledge I service the citizens of Lorain just as they do and for them to attempt to go after my license after making a big show about finding out who called my work seems very retaliatory in nature. I am at a loss as to how utilizing my Professional Credentials, that I earned through education, monetary expense and testing on my emails is even considered wrong. On top of which I am still trying to figure out what exact weight my credentials have behind them?

Am I an LSW and a CDCA(p) with a BSSW? The Answer is Yes. And that's not misrepresentation.

I thank you for your time and please contact me with any further questions. I would like to request a Formal Hearing with an opportunity to address these concerns in person or over zoom if it is deemed necessary. I am willing to 100% support my actions with evidence-based literature and anecdotal evidence.

I believe I have covered everything requested of me in this letter along with including numerous pieces of evidence in support of my claims. But again, I would have to say none of this is "personal" which is why I say things in my emails like "asking for a city". If necessary, I can provide copies of the juvenile justice statistics showing how like in many areas African Americans make up a large portion of the incarcerated population and how that particular demographic is my client base. I can provide evidenced based peer reviewed articles showing that my methodologies are sound. I can tell you that the individual juveniles featured in this report are the exact population I work with and while they are not my clients, they are my population and as such deserve my advocacy in all areas of life especially in their communities. I believe that is Social Work. If the Chief wants to silence his critics he will need to find a different way to silence my advocacy. To date I've had my employment and now my license threatened and in all the

emails I sent the only fear I mentioned was “committing career suicide” and yet now here we are, coincidence? Just feels like a lot of coincidences that keep requiring me to answer punitive questions about my advocacy methodology which best and evidence-based practice says is an appropriate methodology for the current situation, in my opinion.

I thank you for this opportunity to offer this statement on my behalf and please feel free to reach out with any follow up questions.

Make it a wonderful Day!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AK' or 'A.K.', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Aaron C Knapp BSSW, LSW, CDCA(p)

22:30



Jim McCann



Jim McCann

My Face Book page & all comments are my personal opinion & don't represent any organization's opinion

Sent you a friend request



Respond



Message



Followed by 2 people



See Jim's About Info

Friends

Posts



Photos



Home



Friends



Watch



Dating



Notifications



Menu

22:30



About

Following

[See All](#)



Long Island Audit Inc.

New York, New York



Lorain County Sheriff's Office



Lorain County Safe Harbor / Genesis House

Groups

[See All](#)



Employment Opportunities in Lorain County

20,502 Members

A place where local, or neighboring businesses, &/or group members can place/submit Employ...



The M113 Interest Group

23,704 Members



Lorain county places rent only

9,386 Members

A place for Landlords to post only.....

Followers

[See All](#)



Jim McCann



Tracy Parker

Van Buren ISD



Mary J Hildreth



Home



Friends



Watch



Dating



Notifications



Menu

19:24



NoStress Jay

Active now



I just personally want to Thank you. Although you are not choosing sides in this matter you are stating facts. When I had the meeting with the he showed us the press release video. I told him right to his face that if he released that video he would get more backlash than respect and he assured me that they wouldn't. When it comes to social media WE THE PEOPLE some how discover we have a voice. Our video has over 10 million views via youtube twitter Facebook tik tok these are platforms were they have no choice but to listen. I respect what you are doing. You see, is there racism in this world yes. Bias against police yes pro police and pro defund police yes. But when you read these comments (and trust me I've read a lot I mean atleast 10k personally) and I can honestly say that racism pro police pro defund the police white black state to state c to country I truly believe our



Aa



19:25



NoStress Jay

Active now



Bias against police yes pro police and pro defund police yes. But when you read these comments (and trust me I've read a lot I mean atleast 10k personally) and I can honestly say that racism pro police pro defund the police white black state to state country to country I truly believe our CONSTITUTION 100% overrides everything I believe that no matter what side your on when it comes to our rights WE THE PEOPLE stand up together we fight together we stand up together. I've seen a lot of racist people side with us and I do believe it's because they believe more in the constitution and our rights then they do race. So again I've been watching you from day one and I will continue with no bias towards you you are doing the right thing and a hell of a good job. Your not going unnoticed that's for sure



I appreciate the response and I only post the way I do publicly because it's the only way I think



Aa



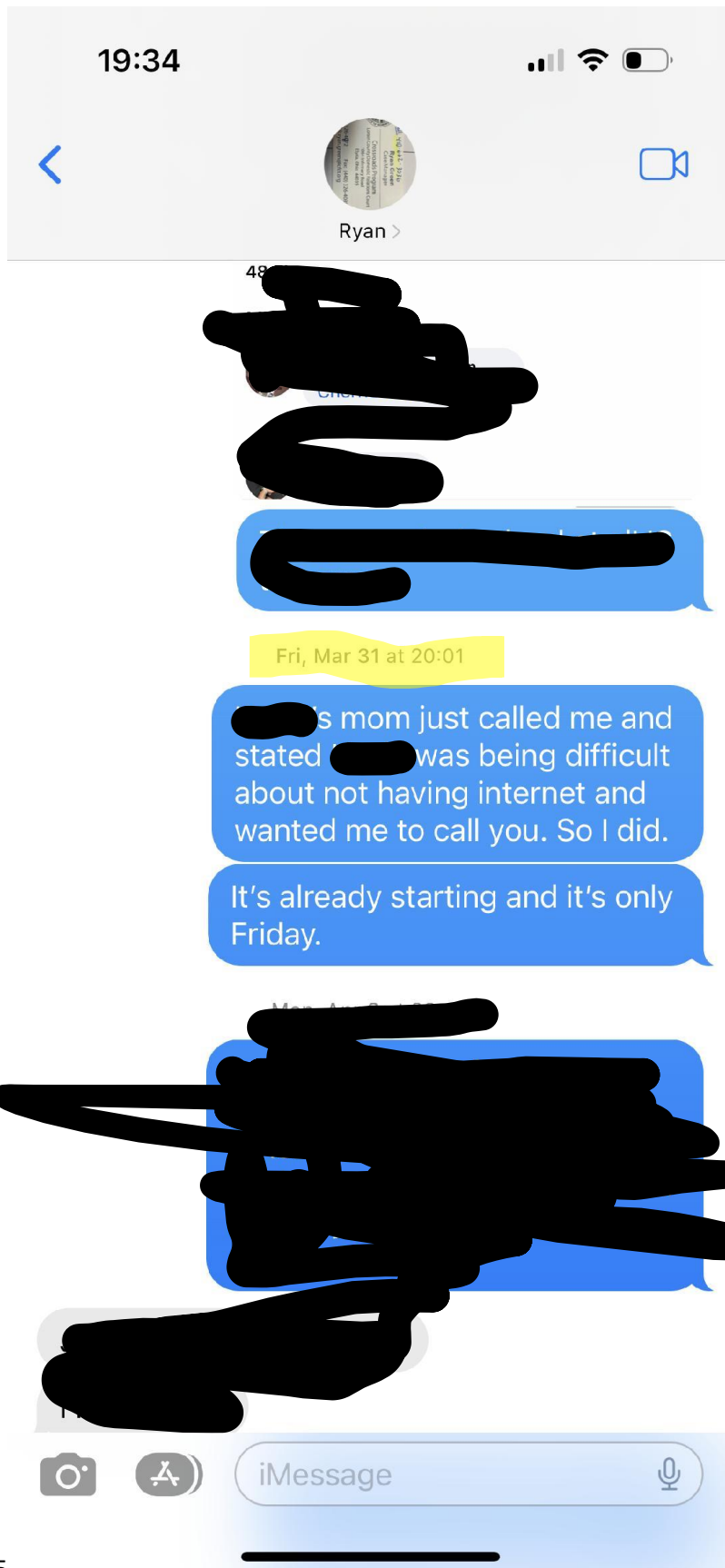


Exhibit 5

RE: Officer Complaint

From: Gelenius, Kyle (kyle_gelenius@cityoflorain.org)

To: a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 at 12:57 PM EDT

Mr. Knapp,

The Lorain Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is in receipt of your complaint (submitted on 4-2-23) and then your request to withdraw the complaint. It is been documented in our systems as IA-23-20 (inquiry). **Disposition: Complaint withdrawn at the request of complainant.** We consider the matter closed.

Regards,

Sgt. Kyle Gelenius, M.S.

Internal Affairs Investigator | Reconstructionist

Office of Professional Standards

P: 440.204.2107 | E: Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org



Warning: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use, distribution or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication. Permission to forward or distribute anything from this communication to any non-law enforcement contacts must be sought thru the originator/originating agency of the information contained herein.

From: Aaron Knapp [mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 12:41 PM
To: Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Officer Complaint

In Hindsight I wish to officially withdraw this complaint. I just want to be left alone.

Can we make that happen (unless I commit a crime obviously)?

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA(p)

NASW Member ID: 886836612

Mr. Knapp:

We are working with legal to review all our options concerning our social media accounts. I have also asked the Lorain County Prosecutor's office to review the entire incident at 126 W. 27th St., because in my view, this provides an external review of our actions. Once we receive that review and our Administrative Investigation is completed, it has always been our position to either restore commenting or delete our social media altogether. Social media has proven to be very time consuming and very difficult to manage. I believe our limited resources are better committed elsewhere. I have not made a final decision either way at this time.

I believe I have been one of the most transparent Police Chiefs in Lorain County and I have ALWAYS welcomed criticism from our citizens in Lorain, as they sometimes provide the best feedback to improve our services. Unfortunately, there was too much misinformation being posted about the 27th St. incident, which caused our social media to be hijacked by people from out of state and this caused the management of these accounts to become impossible.

LPD cannot react to an incident on social media until we properly investigate that incident or we would be accused of being reckless. As Chief, I am well-aware that a government agency operating a government social media page is subjugated to legal and constitutional constraints with regards to page management. This is not, nor will it ever be an issue for me. What is at issue is that the public is under no obligation to post honest and informed content. Again, this is not an issue for me; however, harm to the reputation and, in extreme cases physical well-being, of Lorain Police and City of Lorain employees, as well as to the organizations themselves can and has resulted from the misinformation and inaccurate posts on these social media pages. I have personally been the recipient of threats against myself, my family, and my property. Though I am confident in my abilities to protect myself and my family, I am not ok with the LPD social media accounts being used to convey these communications, or to spread the misinformation via public comment that serves as a basis for these threats. To be clear, I am willing and ready to stand in front a Federal Judge to state my case.

Many people, to include you, made up your mind about the 27th St incident after only seeing a portion of one video and not allowing LPD to respond with the totality of all events leading up to the specific incident. This doesn't seem impartial, at least in my opinion. Again, the public is free to form their own opinions, regardless of accuracy or partiality. When misinformation or lack of

information creates harm, I cannot stand by idly while the social media accounts that LPD manages are used to spread outright lies by way of comments and attachments from uninformed people. You claim to be an educated social worker, but one would think with your claim of being educated, you would have the ability and the “want” to get all the facts before you make assumptions or even a decision regarding what was right and wrong.

At this time, we have not been able to find any case law that specifically addresses the issue concerning our social media account and the actions we took to calm things down during our administrative investigation. There is, however, specific case law that does address deleting an individual's comments and or deleting or blocking an individual. If you have specific case law that deals with LPD's social media management decisions, I would be happy to review it. Additionally, courts have stated as has the ACLU, that off topic comments can be removed from a post. In other words, if there is a post about a basketball game, a comment that talks about a football game can be deleted. This is of course very time consuming.

Finally, Marcy Kaptur is NOT our Congressional Representative. The whole of Lorain County is within the 5th Congressional District and she represents the 9th district. Also, FOIA applies to records created by federal agencies and does not cover records held by state and local government agencies. In the spirit of cooperation and per your improper FOIA request, all communications between myself and the Law Department fall under attorney client privilege and you are not entitled to that information. It is my understanding that your improper FOIA request for information has been satisfied through our Records Department.

Semper Paratus!

Chief Jim McCann

Lorain Police Department
100 W. Erie Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Office: 440-204-2103
Fax: 440-204-2519

5/25/23, 6:28 PM

Yahoo Mail - Re: Update

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW

NOTICE: THIS ELECTRONIC MESSAGE TRANSMISSION CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED. THE INFORMATION IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) OR ENTITY(IES) NAMED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ANY DISCLOSURE, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION, OR USE OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS INFORMATION IS PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE SENDER AND DELETE THE COPY YOU RECEIVED.

On Apr 10, 2023, at 22:38, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I sent this on 03/17/2023 (see attached complaint).

In your response you requested I submit case law to back up my claims, which I did, and thought I would get an Official response back. Yes I did file a complaint with the US Attorneys Office (after I recieved no response to the attached complaint on the 16th of March). I am pretty sure they sent your department the same email they sent me advising I'd have to take action in Court in order to initiate an actual civil rights complaint.

After speaking with the Mayor at his office (where I had decided I was going to back down and not go to the lawsuit stage) I was spoken to at work and told that they had been notified of the Facebook issues between myself and the Lorain Police. Maybe it was the Mayor or his office, I am not sure, maybe it was coincidence that 2 hours after my employer was disclosed someone called? I cannot say for sure but after meeting with the mayor you stopped following me on Facebook and removed your "friend request" so I can only assume that my employer was disclosed to you when you were told that following me was a bad look?

Maybe the random stop that was conducted as I sat in a parking lot the day after wasn't connected either, where I was asked to ID without having committed a crime and my License Plate was ran (to circumvent my ID refusal), but I suppose if all the back and forth up to that point had been civil I'd have no cause to believe that it was someone retaliating against me. This is why we always 100 percent act polite when we interact with the public in our official duties. If I had been treated with respect from the start none of this looks retaliatory.

Either way I don't really care at this point, I removed my posts about the "Hildrith incident" and was hoping you might have completed the previous "investigation into the matter" and would reopen the comments on all posts or shut the page down as you had stated in your email. In the end attached is the original form I filed on the 16th of March that I was referring to. I figured I'd get a response on Lorain Police Letter Head (as opposed to our emails) and perhaps an answer to the various pieces of case law I provided?

I don't understand why this is so hard? You must love the Constitution and our Country if you were in the Coast Guard as well as a Police Officer? Why don't you see the danger this type of government action poses?

It just looks bad and it makes it very hard to defend your actions to the public in any forum.

I am a dog with a bone when it comes to the Constitution and I respect it. I am only asking you do WHAT IS RIGHT in this matter and not force me to go file a Civil Rights Lawsuit, for 401.00 dollars, to fix it. As a matter of principal I will go and pay the filing fee of 400 dollars and then ask for 1 dollar in damages to get this corrected but I don't want to. Hence why I was asking one more time for an OFFICIAL response to my initial query on 3-16-2023 along with the added specific case law I provided (at your request in your response) that you stated if I had specific case law you would review it (I also believe you and the department deserve the opportunity to respond to my official complaint outside of OUR email chain as I really don't think your email should be the departments "official response".

I truly believe with ALL MY HEART and with case law to back me up you or your department or the lawyers in this matter are INCORRECT and I am willing to go to court to prove it.

SO I did file an Official Complaint initially and that was what I was hoping for an Official response on soon? This was why I sent an email to the "complaint email" as opposed to back to your email, but as you were the one to respond, here is my response.

Make it a wonderful day!

Updated at 18:11

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA(p)
NASW Member ID: 886836612

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On Monday, April 10, 2023 at 03:28:31 PM EDT, McCann, James - Chief <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

If someone called your place of employment in their official capacity from the Lorain Police Department, they were not authorized to make any such phone call or notification. If you have proof of this accusation and a name of the employee, please forward that to me and it will be investigated. If it can be determined that a member of the police department in their official capacity called your employer, I will address it.

You filed your complaint with the US Attorney's Office, not with the Lorain Police Department. The matter is in their hands.

Chief Jim McCann
Lorain Police Department
100 W. Erie Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Office: 440-204-2103
Fax: 440-204-2519

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Exhibit 9

5/25/23, 6:28 PM

Yahoo Mail - Re: Update

From: Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 7:56 AM
To: McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: Update

From: Aaron Knapp [mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Fwd: Update

I'm just curious if this "email" is the police department's "Official Response" on the First amendment complaint I made? I was going to let the matter go after speaking to the mayor but since someone threatened my employment from your department and followed up with harassment while I was parked randomly checking my email where an officer demanded ID (and ran my plate when I refused) I'd really like an "official" response from the department as opposed to the snarky emails your chief sent me. If you want this to be the department's official response (chief's email) please respond accordingly as I need some form of OFFICIAL record stating you are leaving the comments turned off moving forward so I can proceed with the 1983 lawsuit.

I really wanted to let this go but after being inappropriately stopped and harassed by your department since making the complaint and having my freedom of speech "chilled" by departmental actions and those of your chief I feel this is now the only options I have.

So again consider this official notice of intent to file and please advise if an "official" response is in route or if I use the Chiefs snarky email as my official response.

I had you pull the complaint on the officer I did not ask the first amendment one be pulled. And as you continue to post on the page in violation of the constitution and have failed to complete your "investigation" in a timely matter I would ask you give an appropriate public response as opposed to continuing to not respond. I provided you with the case law your chief requested so I'm curious why I can get the same courtesy.

I wrote a 13 page document with Case law cited, per your request, I would think I would be entitled to a response for the free work I did advising the city on the matter. Again I'm not an attorney but I do read the law.

Thank you and make it a wonderful day!

(I apologize to the mayor as I stated my last email was the "last" but since we've been CC him in on all this I figured I'd cc him again.)

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Date: March 21, 2023 at 20:35:18 EDT
To: "Bradley, Jack" <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>, "McCann, James - Chief" <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur <oh09mk.outreach@mail.house.gov>, "Morris, Jacob" <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Update

Please see my attached signed response to your email.

Insiste Firmiter!

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA(p)
NASW Member ID: 886836612

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On Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 01:01:34 PM EDT, McCann, James - Chief <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

We are working with legal to review all our options concerning our social media accounts. I have also asked the Lorain County Prosecutor's office to review the entire incident at 126 W. 27th St., because in my view, this provides an external review of our actions. Once we receive that review and our Administrative Investigation is completed, it has always been our position to either restore commenting or delete our social media altogether. Social media has proven to be very time consuming and very difficult to manage. I believe our limited resources are better committed elsewhere. I have not made a final decision either way at this time.

I believe I have been one of the most transparent Police Chiefs in Lorain County and I have ALWAYS welcomed criticism from our citizens in Lorain, as they sometimes provide the best feedback to improve our

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services. Unfortunately, there was too much misinformation being posted about the 27th St. incident, which caused our social media to be hijacked by people from out of state and this caused the management of these accounts to become impossible.

LPD cannot react to an incident on social media until we properly investigate that incident or we would be accused of being reckless. As Chief, I am well-aware that a government agency operating a government social media page is subjugated to legal and constitutional constraints with regards to page management. This is not, nor will it ever be an issue for me. What is at issue is that the public is under no obligation to post honest and informed content. Again, this is not an issue for me; however, harm to the reputation and, in extreme cases physical well-being, of Lorain Police and City of Lorain employees, as well as to the organizations themselves can and has resulted from the misinformation and inaccurate posts on these social media pages. I have personally been the recipient of threats against myself, my family, and my property. Though I am confident in my abilities to protect myself and my family, I am not ok with the LPD social media accounts being used to convey these communications, or to spread the misinformation via public comment that serves as a basis for these threats. To be clear, I am willing and ready to stand in front a Federal Judge to state my case.

Many people, to include you, made up your mind about the 27th St incident after only seeing a portion of one video and not allowing LPD to respond with the totality of all events leading up to the specific incident. This doesn't seem impartial, at least in my opinion. Again, the public is free to form their own opinions, regardless of accuracy or partiality. When misinformation or lack of information creates harm, I cannot stand by idly while the social media accounts that LPD manages are used to spread outright lies by way of comments and attachments from uninformed people. You claim to be an educated social worker, but one would think with your claim of being educated, you would have the ability and the "want" to get all the facts before you make assumptions or even a decision regarding what was right and wrong.

At this time, we have not been able to find any case law that specifically addresses the issue concerning our social media account and the actions we took to calm things down during our administrative investigation. There is, however, specific case law that does address deleting an individual's comments and or deleting or blocking an individual. If you have specific case law that deals with LPD's social media management decisions, I would be happy to review it. Additionally, courts have stated as has the ACLU, that off topic comments can be removed from a post. In other words, if there is a post about a basketball game, a comment that talks about a football game can be deleted. This is of course very time consuming.

Finally, Marcy Kaptur is NOT our Congressional Representative. The whole of Lorain County is within the 5th Congressional District and she represents the 9th district. Also, FOIA applies to records created by federal agencies and does not cover records held by state and local government agencies. In the spirit of cooperation and per your improper FOIA request, all communications between myself and the Law Department fall under attorney client privilege and you are not entitled to that information. It is my understanding that your improper FOIA request for information has been satisfied through our Records Department.

Semper Paratus!

Chief Jim McCann

Lorain Police Department
100 W. Erie Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Office: 440-204-2103
Fax: 440-204-2519

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:30 AM
To: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur <ph09mk.outreach@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Update

I've had 0 response from the chief, I've filed a complaint, but Lorain Police continues to keep comments on their Facebook OFF, in violation of the First Amendment. I have begun the process of drafting my filing for opening a civil lawsuit to FORCE them into compliance. I've reached out to local news stations and a story should be coming out soon.
Make it a wonderful day!

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW

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Re: Public records request

From: Aaron Knapp (a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)
To: jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org
Cc: jack_bradley@cityoflorain.org; aj_mathewson@cityoflorain.org
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12:31 PM EDT

I just asked whom I would serve. Usually there is an individual whom you would serve and I found out who that was this morning. I recognize there are consequences to frivolous law suits, I could be named a vexatious litigant by the State and face repercussions. I could be held liable for any "legal costs" that the city uses to defend such a law suit, if it was in fact deemed to be brought under frivolous in the eyes of the law.

I as a citizen would also love to see you do the right thing and reopen the Facebook comments.

I am also going to state that again I would prefer you follow the proper procedures set in place for my complaint dated May 8th and respond via US Mail. Please dont waste any extra money registering it just a simply response via US Mail with the reasons you believe you had the right to release Juvenile Court Records and FERPA protected School Online for the Public to consume would be fine. I 100% believe you had and HAVE every right to see those records and utilize them in your investigation, which you did, I dont believe the PUBLIC should have access to the records and simply redacting the Juveniles information serves this purpose and still allows you to utilize the report to sell your narrative.

For the RECORD I dont want to sue anyone, and if I choose to file the Lawsuit it would be for 1 dollar, I am not trying to make money or cost the tax payers (me) any money. I am merely trying to point out the violation and get you to do the right thing. I gave you a clear cut way this could be considered government speech and you ignored it. The fact you left some of the page open for comment is evidenced in that.

I also feel like your attempting to use intimidation tactics (the following me on Facebook and attempting to befriend) and now "strongly suggesting" I seek legal counsel in a matter of the First Amendment, and responding directly to the complaint I filed this morning through email stating you wont even "investigate" it is just kind suspicious. This is just my opinion but it is how I see this interaction.

No-one has bothered to actually reach out or come to any solution on this matter. You could draft up a social media policy that you put out to the public explaining your new plans, you could communicate with the public about why you shut the comments off (no explanation to date), you could actually shut down ALL comments so you dont look like hypocrites (you only shut down comments from the Cleveland thin blue line badge forward. All you have to do is be nice to people. Every email you have ever sent me has been (in my opinion) rude and condescending and if this is how you speak to the public it kind of make things clear on why your officers cannot seem to be polite on the regular. It takes nothing to address a citizens concerns without all this extra back and forth. If you claim to be transparent then put a Statement out explaining to the people how Facebook is hard and you cant manage the comments you shut it down but plan to use the original open forum as a Government speech page. And you did state in a previous email you would either re-open comments or shut the page off completely when the investigation was complete, but you didn't do either of those things, so that's why I am confused and wanted your responses to be sent via mail because email doesnt seem to be working for you.

On the matter of the May 8th complaint about documentation being released online I would prefer an actual mailed response (as stated above) within the 30 days you state will be followed on the complaint form if that's possible. As the Juvenile isn't my case, my child or my purview I wouldn't be the one addressing that issue civilly as I have no reason I was only trying to give the City a heads-up so you could redact it and not give the Hildrith family more to complain about. As you've ignored me doing it the quiet way I filed an actual internal complaint form. Regardless I wont address anything publicly as its been made absolutely clear that it would be career suicide. I just dont understand why everything has to be so difficult? Why every interaction as to be like this? If you are the Public Face of the department why cany these interactions go less negative. Even if I came in hot its your responsibility to de-escalate the situation and I dont really see that happening.

For example you could have stated in todays email:

"Mr. Knapp we appreciate your time and the fact that you are spending it expressing concerns about the Lorain Police Department and its Policies and Procedures. As servants of the public we recognize the importance of the publics opinion of our Law Enforcement Officers and we value your opinion. If there is anything that I as the Chief of Police can

do to assist you I would be happy to do so. I recognize you are not satisfied with our investigation into the Facebook matter and would state I am unable to provide any Legal Advice on this possible open litigation. I would state that our Law Department would be the most likely individuals you would need to contact on the matter. Lastly I know you didn't inquire about the May 8th complaint you filed this morning but I wanted to let you know per Department Policy we will review your complaint and send you a response via US Mail, per our policy, within 30 days. I apologize you have had a less than pleasant experience dealing with our Department and I hope that we as public servants will make a better impression on you in our future interactions. Deepest sincerities, Chief James McCann.

Lastly You are correct I wasn't asking for a public record and I apologize if my request sounded like I was requesting any legal advice as I was not. I was only responding to the chain of emails as there are 3 people in it I assumed would either need to be served but most defiantly would have one individual whom would accept service, such as the Law Director, Mr. Soto, but I acquired that information after I sent the email. Either way I appreciate the timely response. and you also make it a wonderful day!

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA(p)
NASW Member ID: 886836612

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On Monday, May 8, 2023 at 11:34:16 AM EDT, McCann, James - Chief <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

First, I will first address your email from May 7, 2023 at 0800 hours:

I feel the need to help you understand what a Public Record actually is: ***According to the Ohio Revised Code a "Public record" means any document regardless of physical form including an electronic record, created or received by or coming under the jurisdiction of any public office, which serves to document the activities of the office.***

You have not asked for any public records in your email, you have asked for legal advice which we do not give. Your questions should be directed to your attorney.

Second, I will address the complaint you filed dated May 8, 2023:

There is no violation of law and we are within our rights to release the information. The complaint will not be investigated.

It is your right to file a law suit (s), but I would strongly suggest you speak to your attorney and ask him to explain the consequences of filing frivolous law suits and the potential repercussions that can come from them.

Make it a Great Day!!

22:43



Lorain Police Department



May 11 · 🌐

court case Davison v. Randall ruled that Government pages are public, and will be in violation of the 4th Amendment if they censor critics on their pages. Good luck. Sic Semper Tyrannis.

1w Like Reply

3



Top fan

Aaron Knapp

It really needs to be acknowledged. Regardless of how you feel about the previous actions of the department that they did Re-open the Facebook comments and they are now in compliance with the Constitution. Since we reward good behavior I honestly believe we should acknowledge this and say good job! I know many people are upset about previous issues but as for the content of the above post it is also Law that comments that are not subject matter specific can be removed. Fair is fair. That doesn't mean you can't criticize them but be realistic. And while it may be free speech to curse certain phrases on a public forum is really bad form, just saying. Regardless I want to acknowledge that the comments are reopen and say good job.

You are commenting as a top fan!

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Exhibit 15