

Beko, Michele

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 3:28 PM
To: Aaron Knapp
Subject: RE: I am requesting the warrant request by Lorain Police Chief James McCann to Mercy health hospital in Lorain, Ohio

Mr. Knapp, the Lorain Law Dept. is not the keeper/custodian nor does it have possession of documents responsive to your request for "... the warrant request by Lorain Police Chief James McCann to Mercy Hospital in Lorain ..."
You might direct your records request to the Lorain County Prosecutor.

Law Director Riley

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Kate Lenz <klenz@loraincounty.us>; Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Cc: Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org
Subject: Re: I am requesting the warrant request by Lorain Police Chief James McCann to Mercy health hospital in Lorain, Ohio

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

All warrants go through the clerk The Warrant and case are closed. Therefore the court would be ONE OF the records keepers of this document.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA
NASW Member ID 886836612

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On Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 08:29:11 AM EST, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

Good morning, If your office has any information on the subject then yes the Lorain County Clerk of Courts is included.
Thank you,
Garon Petty

> On Jan 21, 2025, at 8:23 AM, Kate Lenz <klenz@loraincounty.us> wrote:
>

> Good morning, Mr. Petty. Are you directing this request to the Clerk's office?
>
> Thanks,
> Kate Lenz, Dir. of Operations
> Tom Orlando, Lorain Co. Clerk of Court
> PH: 440.329.5297
> E-mail: klenz@loraincounty.us
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
> Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 10:12 AM
> To: Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Jim_McCann <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <jack_bradley@cityoflorain.org>; ClerkofCourts <clerkofcourts@loraincounty.us>
> Cc: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>
> Subject: I am requesting the warrant request by Lorain Police Chief James McCann to Mercy health hospital in Lorain, Ohio
>
> The Full and complete warrant request served to Mercy Hospital during the month of August 2024 per 149 43 ORC.
>
>
>
> Garon Petty
>

Beko, Michele

From: Bowles, Scott <Scott_Bowles@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 12:08 PM
To: Kokoski, Lori
Subject: RE: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

It appears to me that the initial request from Mr. Petty is asking for:

- (1) a list of names of all police officers that have resigned;
- (2) a list of names of all police officers that have retired; and
- (3) a list of police officers that have been disciplined for the years 2023, 2024, 2025.

If no such lists exist, the record holder is under no obligation to create such records. *State ex rel. Griffin v. Sehlmeier*, 166 Ohio St. 3d 258, P5 (2021); *State ex rel. Lanham v. Smith*, 112 Ohio St. 3d 527, P15 (2007) (“Respondents have no duty to create or provide access to nonexistent records.”); *Alt v. Cuyahoga Cty. Prob. Dep’t*, 2017-Ohio-4250, P16 (2017). However, if such records do exist, **and** they are not subject to any exception from public records request, then they must be provided. O.R.C. Ann. 149.43; *State ex rel. Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Ass’n v. City of Mentor*, 89 Ohio St. 3d 440, P1 (2000).

Regarding Mr. Knapp’s requests, it appears that he is asking for research to be conducted or to identify records containing the information. “The Public Records Act does not compel a public office ‘to do research or to identify records containing selected information.’” *State ex rel. Shaughnessy v. City of Cleveland*, 149 Ohio St. 3d 612, P10. “Public Officials are not required to research records in order to determine which records contain selected information sought by the requestor. *State ex rel. Howson v. Edmonson*, 2024-Ohio-4619, P25.

Knapp writes: “Each officer has a record in his file showing he left. Provide each one of those for every officer who left...”

If it is necessary to search each officer’s file to determine whether the file contains a responsive document, that would task the keeper of the records with researching and/or identifying records containing selected information, which the record holder is under no obligation to do. *State ex rel. Shaughnessy*, 149 Ohio St. 3d 612 at P10.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Scott Bowles
Assistant Prosecutor
City of Lorain Law Department
(440) 204-2250

From: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 11:10 AM
To: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Bowles, Scott <Scott_Bowles@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: RE: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

Lori,

I am looping Mr. Bowles into this conversation, as I will be out of the office here shortly.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052
joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:45 AM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: RE: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

This was the original request from Petty.

Hello Lori, Please send me the names of all police officers who have resigned, retired, been disciplined for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025 per ORC 149.43

Then Knapp requested:

So you are refusing to give us the names of these officers, correct?

I assume you have a "law" to reference?

Can't just say no. You guys like to play games. Let's just go back to the court of claims again. Stop stone walling.

Provide the law on which you are denying this request.

I provided the law you cited stating that I do not have to create a record...

From: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:07 AM
To: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: RE: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

Lori:

I am unsure as to what is exactly being requested? Does your office retain records indicating the termination of employment between the City of Lorain and the employee? You have a legal obligation to assist Mr. Knapp in obtaining what he is requesting, though based upon his emails it is unclear to me what exactly he has requested.

Thanks.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052
joseph.laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:06 AM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

Please advise....

Thanks,

Lori

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 8:48 AM
To: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Lindsay Carr <lindsay.carr@ohioago.gov>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Re: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I'm not asking you to create anything. I'm asking for all officers who'd left. You don't have retention records. Ok back to the court of claims. You really are this ignorant?

Each officer has a record in his file showing he left. Provide each one of those for every officer who left and stop trying to argue. It's not your money that you are costing taxpayers.

Stop. You do t have the education to fight me on this.

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

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INFORMATION IS PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE SENDER AND DELETE THE COPY YOU RECEIVED.

On Feb 6, 2025, at 08:30, Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Here is the legal authority:

"A public office has no duty under R.C. 149.43 to create new records by searching for and compiling information from existing records."

Reinel v. Butler City Auditor, 2018-Ohio-2914, 2018 Ohio Misc. LEXIS 63

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 5:55 PM
To: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Cc: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Lindsay Carr <lindsay.carr@ohioago.gov>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Re: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

So you are refusing to give us the names of these officers, correct?

I assume you have a "law" to reference?

Can't just say no. You guys like to play games. Let's just go back to the court of claims again. Stop stone walling.

Provide the law on which you are denying this request.

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

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On Feb 3, 2025, at 13:12, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

Thank you.

Garon Petty

On Feb 3, 2025, at 11:44 AM, Kokoski, Lori
<Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Petty,

Please see the response from the Law Department.

Thanks,

Lori

Lori,

Ohio law does not require you to produce a record in order to respond to a public records request.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052

-----Original Message-----

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2025 9:25 AM

To: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita

<Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don
<Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group
<CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey
<Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>

Subject: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello Lori, Please send me the names of all police officers who have resigned, retired, been disciplined for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025 per ORC 149.43.

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 8:51 AM
To: Koziura, Joseph
Cc: Robert J. Gargas; Kokoski, Lori; Carrion, Rey; Bradley, Jack; Riley, Patrick; Zaleski, Don; Arredondo, Joel; City Council Mail Group; Radeff, Rocky; Morris, Jacob; McCann, James - Chief; Harper, Anita; Andrew Geronimo JD; Tom Niewulis; Mike Mason; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Carissa Woytach; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriguez; Jackie Conrad; Kathryn Kennedy; Kirsten Hill; Monica D. Pluta; Craig Snodgrass; David J Moore; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach; Mike Doran; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores; Linda Rivera; Denise Wilms; Jim Renacci; jeanne Petty; sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG
Subject: Re: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

So Radeff has unlawful interest in the contract as it provides his work. See how that works.

To understand this area of the law, it's important to understand what a public contract is. Essentially, a public contract is any time a public agency or public entity spends public money, regardless of the amount. Public contracts include both goods and services, such as office supplies, equipment, vehicles, consulting services, or construction work.

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

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On Feb 6, 2025, at 08:34, Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Sheffield Lake is part of the Lorain Municipal Court System by the Ohio Revised Code.

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 1:05 PM
To: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel

<joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>; Monica D. Pluta <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>; David J Moore <dmoore@loraincounty.us>; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>; Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>; jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>; sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Re: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

What about contracts with the municipal court? In recent budget talk's Sheffield Lake received or made payments to the city of Lorain for something? What's that? Do you have an agreement for the municipal court and Sheffield lake, or do they have their own? How does that work?

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

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On Jan 31, 2025, at 10:14, Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

To all concerned,

The following items are the only contracts that this office is aware of, at this time, concerning the cities of Lorain and Sheffield Lake.

Mutual Aide for Safety Forces

Water Pollution Control (Sewage Services)

Regards,

Joe

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 4:25 PM

To: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Harper, Anita <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriguez <natalio@centurytel.net>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>; Monica D. Pluta <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>; David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>; Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>; Jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>; sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

ALL

Garon had requested city contracts Lorain has with Sheffield Lake, Ohio, service and monetary contracts lists.

Per 149.43 or any ORC that requires the public records to be made public when asked for.

As you are or may be a custodian of such records please provide them as requested by Mr. Petty.

The response provided by the Law Department is not adequate as it should have been referred to the appropriate custodian of the appropriate records.

The service director and auditor should each be a repository of such public records, correct?

Please respond to Mr. Petty.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Date: January 28, 2025 at 3:38:00 PM EST
To: Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@ohioago.gov>, lcp@lcprosecutor.org, NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov
Cc: "Harper, Anita" <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>, "Andrew Geronimo, JD" <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>, Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>, Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>, Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>, Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>, Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>, Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>, VEK6173@aol.com, Natalio Rodriguez <natalio@centurytel.net>, Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>, Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>, Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>, "Monica D. Pluta" <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>, Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>, David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>, jriddell@loraincounty.us, mgallagher@loraincounty.us, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>, Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank, Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>, Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>, Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>, Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>, jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>, sandemeilander@yahoo.com, David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Records Requests for contracts.

Hello Ms Carr, Lorain County Prosecutor and Northeast Region of Ohio Auditor,

I am now asking for an investigation why I cant get my records request fulfilled from the City of Lorain, Ohio?

Hello, please send me a list of all contracts the city of Lorain, Ohio has with the city of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, service

and monetary contracts lists.

Per 149.43 or any ORC that requires the public records to be made public when asked for.

Thank You

Garon Petty January 17, 2025

"Mr. Petty,

Please be informed that this office is not the keeper of any documents which constitute "a list of all contracts the City of Lorain has with the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio and monetary contracts lists." You may wish to contact the Utilities Dept.

Law Director Riley" January 27, 2025

Help us in Lorain, Ohio please,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Lori Kokoski; Joe K Auditor; Rey Carrion; Jack Bradley; Joel Arredondo; Patrick Riley; Jacob Morris; Don Zaleski; Rocky Radeff; Tony Cillo; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty
Cc: Jack Hall; Major Steven Scharschmidt; City Council Mail Group
Subject: Fwd: Rule 123:1-46-02 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws

Warning: Unusual link

This message contains an unusual link, which may lead to a malicious site. Confirm the message is safe before clicking any links.

The contracts being looked for are in relation to a violation of this rule. Sent herewith.

While the law you cite is accurate. A duty arises from this law and you are obligated to require lawful contracting and not just rubber stamp matters to process them.

You are required to exercise judgment and discretion involving the application of state laws to contracts and ethics. It appears you are attempting to side step your obligations in responding to those requests of a public citizen. Having been notified of the issue, your audit is now more than a mere records search. I have noticed the police captain and expect you to call him to discuss any illegal contracts you have participated in concerning these issues. Please note that covering up illegal behavior can be viewed as Obstruction of Justice. You are a steward of the taxpayers citizens treasury. Please take your obligation to follow the law seriously.

Your response to Mr. Petty and Mr. Knapp's records request should be reconsidered.

Gargasz, Robert J.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Robert J. Gargasz" <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Date: February 5, 2025 at 10:52:22 PM EST
To: Office Robert J Gargasz Co LPA <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Subject: **Rule 123:1-46-02 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws**

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-123:1-46-02>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Koziura, Joseph
Cc: Robert J. Gargas; Kokoski, Lori; Carrion, Rey; Bradley, Jack; Riley, Patrick; Zaleski, Don; Arredondo, Joel; City Council Mail Group; Radeff, Rocky; Morris, Jacob; McCann, James - Chief; Harper, Anita; Andrew Geronimo JD; Tom Niewulis; Mike Mason; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Carissa Woytach; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriquez; Jackie Conrad; Kathryn Kennedy; Kirsten Hill; Monica D. Pluta; Craig Snodgrass; David J Moore; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach; Mike Doran; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores; Linda Rivera; Denise Wilms; Jim Renacci; jeanne Petty; sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG
Subject: Re: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

So then the Mayor has an automatic contract as the APA and can't do both? I'll include that in my Ethics Violation report. Thanks! That's what I thought.

Another illegal hire.

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 Feb 6, 2025, at 08:34, Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Sheffield Lake is part of the Lorain Municipal Court System by the Ohio Revised Code.

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 1:05 PM
To: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita

<Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriguez <natalio@centurytel.net>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>; Monica D. Pluta <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>; David J Moore <dmoore@loraincounty.us>; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>; Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>; jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>; sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>

Subject: Re: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

What about contracts with the municipal court? In recent budget talk's Sheffield Lake received or made payments to the city of Lorain for something? What's that? Do you have an agreement for the municipal court and Sheffield lake, or do they have their own? How does that work?

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

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On Jan 31, 2025, at 10:14, Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

To all concerned,

The following items are the only contracts that this office is aware of, at this time, concerning the cities of Lorain and Sheffield Lake.

Mutual Aide for Safety Forces

Water Pollution Control (Sewage Services)

Regards,

Joe

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Harper, Anita <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>; Monica D. Pluta <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>; David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mcallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>; Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>; jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>; sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

ALL

Garon had requested city contracts Lorain has with Sheffield Lake, Ohio, service and monetary contracts lists.

Per 149.43 or any ORC that requires the public records to be made public when asked for.

As you are or may be a custodian of such records please provide them as requested by Mr. Petty.

The response provided by the Law Department is not adequate as it should have been referred to the appropriate custodian of the appropriate records.

The service director and auditor should each be a repository of such public records, correct?

Please respond to Mr. Petty.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Date: January 28, 2025 at 3:38:00 PM EST
To: Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@ohioago.gov>, lcp@lcprosecutor.org, NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov
Cc: "Harper, Anita" <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>, "Andrew Geronimo, JD" <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>, Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>, Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>, Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>, Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>, Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>, Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>, VEK6173@aol.com, Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>, Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>, Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>, Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>, "Monica D. Pluta" <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>, Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>, David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>, jriddell@loraincounty.us, mgallagher@loraincounty.us, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>, Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank, Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>, Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>, Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>, Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>, jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>, sandemeilander@yahoo.com, David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Records Requests for contracts.

Hello Ms Carr, Lorain County Prosecutor and Northeast Region of Ohio Auditor,

I am now asking for an investigation why I cant get my records request fulfilled from the City of Lorain, Ohio?

Hello, please send me a list of all contracts the city of Lorain, Ohio has with the city of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, service and monetary contracts lists.

Per 149.43 or any ORC that requires the public records to be made public when asked for.

Thank You
Garon Petty January 17, 2025

"Mr. Petty,

Please be informed that this office is not the keeper of any documents which constitute "a list of all contracts the City of Lorain has with the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio and monetary contracts lists." You may wish to contact the Utilities Dept.

Law Director Riley" January 27, 2025

Help us in Lorain, Ohio please,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 8:49 AM
To: Kokoski, Lori
Cc: Garon Petty; Robert J Gargas; Tony Cillo; Lindsay Carr; City Council Mail Group; LaVeck, Joseph; Riley, Patrick; Brad Dicken; Bradley, Jack; David Yost AG
Subject: Re: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

So installed of compiling I want each individual record.

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

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On Feb 6, 2025, at 08:30, Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Here is the legal authority:

“A public office has no duty under R.C. 149.43 to create new records by searching for and compiling information from existing records.”

Reinel v. Butler City. Auditor, 2018-Ohio-2914, 2018 Ohio Misc. LEXIS 63

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 5:55 PM
To: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Cc: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Lindsay Carr <lindsay.carr@ohioago.gov>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Re: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

So you are refusing to give us the names of these officers, correct?

I assume you have a "law" to reference?

Can't just say no. You guys like to play games. Let's just go back to the court of claims again. Stop stone walling.

Provide the law on which you are denying this request.

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

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On Feb 3, 2025, at 13:12, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

Thank you.

Garon Petty

On Feb 3, 2025, at 11:44 AM, Kokoski, Lori
<Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Petty,

Please see the response from the Law Department.

Thanks,

Lori

Lori,

Ohio law does not require you to produce a record in order to respond to a public records request.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052

-----Original Message-----

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2025 9:25 AM

To: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>

Subject: Names of all police Officers who have left Lorain PD

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello Lori, Please send me the names of all police officers who have resigned, retired, been disciplined for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025 per ORC 149.43.

Thank you,

Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Garon Petty; Joseph LaVeck; Patrick Riley; CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org; Robert J. Gargas; Brad Dicken; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; Garon Petty; Tony Cillo; Jack Bradley; Jackie Conrad; Ted Kalo; Rey Carrion; Breanna Dull
Subject: Re: Public Records Request to Law Director Riley

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

You stated on the record:

Please find this correspondence to serve as Law Director Riley's response to your public records request. As you know from prior responses Law Director Riley, you are entitled to text messages which involve City business. You can be assured that any texting made by Law Director Riley during a public meetings, as evidenced by apparently a smiling face, did not involve City business. As such, there are no records responsive to your request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor

This is untrue. Learn the law. Any texts sent during a public meeting automatically becomes a public record. That's why phones are to be shut off. If you text, type, or whisper anything to you change the "openness" of the meeting.

I found this online: (there is laws and case law to back this up but frankly I'm tired of doing free work)

So what this means is FORK OVER the TEXTS sent during public meetings as required by law and requested by a citizen. Period.

How do lawyers not understand the law? Unless you intended to decisively this citizen in his quest for public records?

Yes, even "private" text messages sent during open meetings by public officials can be considered public record, depending on the content and the state's public records laws; if the texts pertain to public business discussed during the meeting, they are likely subject to disclosure under a public records request, even if sent on a personal device.

Key points to remember:

- **Public business discussion:**

The key factor is whether the text messages relate to public business being discussed during the meeting, not necessarily if the texts are sent on a personal device.

- **State laws vary:**

Specific rules regarding public records and text messages can differ by state, so it's important to consult your local laws.

- **Potential for legal issues:**

Deleting texts that relate to public business can be considered a violation of public records laws and could lead to legal repercussion

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

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On Feb 5, 2025, at 10:51, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

LaVeck answered that email.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Subject: Fwd: Public Records Request to Law Director Riley
Date: February 1, 2023 at 2:50:43 PM EST
To: Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "LaVeck, Joseph"
<Joseph.LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Public Records Request to Law Director Riley
Date: February 1, 2023 at 2:48:13 PM EST
To: "<garonpetty@roadrunner.com>"
<garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Mr. Petty:

Please find this correspondence to serve as Law Director Riley's response to your public records request. As you know from prior responses Law Director Riley, you are entitled to text messages which involve City business. You can be assured that any texting made by Law Director Riley during a public meetings, as evidenced by apparently a smiling face, did not involve City business. As such, there are no records responsive to your request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44053
joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 9:51 AM
To: CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org; Patrick Riley; Jack Bradley; Robert J. Gargas; Carissa Woytach; Brad Dicken; David O'Brien; Garon Petty; Tony Cillo; Rey Carrion; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Ted Kalo; Sheriff Jack Hall; Jeff Graham; Rey Carrion
Cc: David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; JD Andrew Geronimo; BCICommunications@ohioago.gov; cgottschling@lorainschools.org
Subject: Update

Warning: Unusual link

This message contains an unusual link, which may lead to a malicious site. Confirm the message is safe before clicking any links.

Verified yesterday with Superintendent Graham this is FERPA protected. So LPD has been violating this students rights the entire time. This is criminal.

Yes, violating the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) can result in criminal charges. The severity of the penalty depends on the nature of the violation, the amount of harm caused, and whether it was intentional.

FERPA | Protecting Student Privacy



Riley told the schools cops are not covered by FERPA. This guy is always wrong. You are a "covered entity" and when you released it you broke the law.

Welcome to another lawsuit.

Pg 99-103

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

So you used this knowledge to fire me from the courts because I said it was protected. You attacked my license and employment over this. And here we are almost 3 years later and it's still up. You have released this students data illegally and I have informed the parents.

You should have listened. All the emails I have of each of claiming you were in compliance with the law.

Mayor Bradley, James McCann, and Patrick Riley all stated on the record they had a legal right to post this info on line.

So what now??? Jesus if you folks would just check your this and assume someone might now something you don't.

And I was right about Baez. Jesus. You people never cease to amaze me.

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 8:30 PM
To: CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org; Tony Cillo; Robert J. Gargas; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; Brad Dicken; Garon Petty; Jack Bradley; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Ted Kalo; Sheriff Jack Hall; akory@sheffieldlake.net; cityofsheffieldlake@gmail.com; rradeff@sheffieldlake.net; Lawdepartment@sheffieldlake.net; citycouncil@sheffieldlake.net; rosso@sheffieldlake.net; lstark@sheffieldlake.net; cpetrucci@sheffieldlake.net; wwtulich@sheffieldlake.net; rdebottis@sheffieldlake.net; cizl@sheffieldlake.net
Cc: BCICommunications@ohioago.gov; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Sarah.Ackman@governor.ohio.gov; Jennifer.Brown@governor.ohio.gov; LECorrectionsRequests@ohioago.gov; Electronic_Dispositions@ohioago.gov; CCH_Corrections@ohioago.gov; president@whitehouse.gov; watchdog@oig.ohio.gov; skovach@sheffieldlake.net; rgee@sheffieldlake.net
Subject: Re: Subject: Urgent: Ethical Concerns and Legal Compliance
Attachments: Video.mov; attachment.html

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:54 AM
To: CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org; Tony Cillo; Robert J. Gargas; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; Brad Dicken; Garon Petty; Jack Bradley; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Ted Kalo; Sheriff Jack Hall; akory@sheffieldlake.net; cityofsheffieldlake@gmail.com; rradef@sheffieldlake.net; Lawdepartment@sheffieldlake.net; citycouncil@sheffieldlake.net; rosso@sheffieldlake.net; lstark@sheffieldlake.net; cpetrucci@sheffieldlake.net; wwtulich@sheffieldlake.net; rdebottis@sheffieldlake.net; cizl@sheffieldlake.net
Cc: BCICommunications@OhioAGO.gov; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Sarah.Ackman@governor.ohio.gov; Jennifer.Brown@governor.ohio.gov; LECorrectionsRequests@OhioAGO.gov; Electronic_Dispositions@OhioAGO.gov; CCH_Corrections@OhioAGO.gov; president@whitehouse.gov; watchdog@oig.ohio.gov; skovach@sheffieldlake.net; rgee@sheffieldlake.net
Subject: Subject: Urgent: Ethical Concerns and Legal Compliance

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Government Officials and To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally address several ongoing concerns that I have raised previously, which, despite my efforts, have not been adequately resolved. The issues at hand include the following:

- Baez - Hatch Act Violations
- Dimacchai - Conflict of Interest/Dual Roles (Lorain city Council/Communications Director Lorain City Schools)
- Baez/Radef - Voting Integrity
- Lori K - Nepotism and Dereliction of Duty (McCanns SSI and Middlebrooks file)
- Police Chief James McCann - Retaliation and Abuse of Power
- Carrion - Conflict of Interest/Dual Roles (councilperson vs safety director/investigator)
- Petticord - Revolving Door/Dual Roles (APA/Whatever he is doing now with an agency he was the lawyer for)

These issues remain unaddressed, and the pattern of neglect is increasingly concerning.

In particular, I want to highlight a critical issue with Councilperson Baez. The Ohio Attorney General has issued compatibility reports stating that it is incompatible for a full-time police officer to serve as a partisan candidate. Despite this clear guidance, the City of Lorain, Lorain City Council, Lorain City Law, and Sheffield Lake's Mayor and Police Chief have continued to allow Baez to hold dual roles without any investigation. This is

troubling, particularly since he continues to vote on laws and policies while in violation of the Attorney General's report and the HATCH ACT. He has voted to give his Boss Radeff a Raise with Federal ARPPA funds even after being advised of the ethical position it would put him in.

If you are on the City Council of Lorain or Sheffield Lake, or work for either, you are now ethically mandated to report these allegations.

As I have not received a satisfactory response, I have escalated these matters to the Ethics Commission and will be meeting with an investigator today. After that, I will continue to escalate the issue to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), if necessary.

As mandated reporters, I expect that all of you will report the concerns outlined in my prior communications.

To Councilperson Baez: As my elected representative, you have an obligation to respond to me as a constituent. Regardless of personal feelings, I live in your ward, and you are required to address whether you are in compliance with the law. Please provide a clear response regarding your adherence to legal and ethical standards, particularly in relation to your position as a law enforcement officer.

I anticipate your prompt response and appropriate action.

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

Phone: 216-659-9899
4220 Talbot Ln
Lorain, Ohio 44055

I can provide all reports, emails and proof of myself addressing these issues through the appropriate channels with 0 response.

As a Disabled Veteran who is Service Connected I expected better from my Government Representatives. Some of you are newly added to this so if the shoes doubt fit, please don't wear them, I'd like it if someone could take this seriously for once.

Thank you for your time and make it a wonderful day!

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Baez, Antonio <Antonio_Baez@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 2:16 PM
To: Aaron Knapp
Cc: City Council Mail Group; Brad Dicken; Bradley, Jack; Robert J. Gargas; Riley, Patrick; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; Tony Cillo; Carrion, Rey; Sheriff Jack Hall; David Yost AG; Garon Petty; Jackie Conrad
Subject: Re: Antonio Baez

I was unaware that I was under any sort of investigation, and I'm confused by your assertion that I am, and that I'm not responding to one.

Are you aware of any ongoing investigation involving me that I have not been informed of? If so, I would appreciate it if you could clarify which entity or individual is conducting it so I can address it properly.

While I understand your concerns, I've learned that you are running for a position on this council, which leads me to question whether this could be politically motivated slander. You should understand that making a claim that I am under investigation, or that I am failing to respond in an official capacity, is bordering on defamation. I have responded to the emails I've received from you, and in cases where the information was unclear or needed to be directed elsewhere, I made sure to forward it to the appropriate parties.

Lastly, I don't always get your emails, but the ones I have received have been responded to and/or forwarded to the right person if they were clear and I might add not from your other social media personalities.

Antonio Baez
City of Lorain, 6th Ward Councilman
Please excuse any typos this message is being sent from a mobile device.

On Feb 3, 2025, at 11:35 AM, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I've asked multiple times and for over a month you have refused to answer me. You claimed you were doing an "investigation" but you have failed to provide information on said investigation and how Mr. Baezs votes may have been improper as he was unable to be an elected Official and a Classified Employee. I've attached an article below showing how this should have worked. You have failed to act, failed to report, and continued to allow a person to be in a position he is legally unable to hold based on the below opinion and every other opinion I have read. Since you have failed to respond I am asking the Sheriff to officially step in and investigate this failure and determine if criminal charges are appropriate. You've turned an administrative matter into a criminal one in my opinion. And again once you know all of you are obliged to report this to the Ethics commission and whomever else (AG) because you swore an oath.

Beko, Michele

From: Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 7:51 AM
To: Robert J. Gargas
Subject: RE: Records Requests for contracts.

This email is strictly to be used for my capacity for my employment with Lorain. If you have request for Sheffield Lake you need to contact the City of Sheffield Lake. I will not respond to emails dealing with Sheffield Lake at this email

From: Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2025 4:19 AM
To: Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Jon Morrow <jonpaulmorrow@gmail.com>; Jon Morrow <greaterlorainareacaucus@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <aaronknappfor6thwardloraincity@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; Partin, Maggie <Maggie_Partin@cityoflorain.org>; Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Fwd: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <rjgargas@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Can you respond to Mr. Knapp and Mr. Petty's request for contract information existing between Lorain, Ohio and Sheffield Lake?

This public records request is made to you as Mayor of Sheffield Lake.

Please forward the request on to All records custodians for this political subdivision.

Have all of Sheffield Lake's contracts with Lorain been approved by Ordinance by Sheffield Lake's City Council?

Have all of Lorain's contracts with Sheffield Lake been approved by Ordinance by Lorain's City Council?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Date: February 1, 2025 at 11:15:12 PM EST
To: "Koziura, Joseph" <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: "Robert J. Gargas" <rjgargas@gmail.com>, "Kokoski, Lori" <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>, "Carrion, Rey" <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>, "Bradley,

Jack" <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>, "Riley, Patrick" <patrick_riley@cityoflorain.org>, "Zaleski, Don" <don_zaleski@cityoflorain.org>, "Arredondo, Joel" <Joel_Arredondo@cityoflorain.org>, City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, "Radeff, Rocky" <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>, "Morris, Jacob" <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>, "McCann, James - Chief" <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org>, "Harper, Anita" <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>, Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>, Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>, Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>, Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>, Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>, Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>, VEK6173@aol.com, Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>, Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>, Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>, Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>, "Monica D. Pluta" <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>, Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>, David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>, jriddell@loraincounty.us, mgallagher@loraincounty.us, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>, Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank, Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>, Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>, Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>, Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>, jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>, sandemeilander@yahoo.com, David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>

Subject: Re: Records Requests for contracts.

To understand this area of the law, it's important to understand what a public contract is. Essentially, a public contract is any time a public agency or public entity spends public money, regardless of the amount. Public contracts include both goods and services, such as office supplies, equipment, vehicles, consulting services, or construction work.

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

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On Friday, January 31, 2025 at 01:05:00 PM EST, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

What about contracts with the municipal court? In recent budget talk's Sheffield Lake received or made payments to the city of Lorain for something? What's that? Do you have an agreement for the municipal court and Sheffield lake, or do they have their own? How does that work?

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

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On Jan 31, 2025, at 10 14, Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

To all concerned,

The following items are the only contracts that this office is aware of, at this time, concerning the cities of Lorain and Sheffield Lake.

Mutual Aide for Safety Forces

Water Pollution Control (Sewage Services)

Regards,

Joe

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Harper, Anita <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriguez <natalio@centurytel.net>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>; Monica D. Pluta <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>; David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>; jriddell@loraincounty.us; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Michael Scherach

<mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>;
Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera
<nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>; Jim Renacci
<jrenacci@gmail.com>; Jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>;
sandemeilander@yahoo.com; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Records Requests for contracts.

External sender <rjgargas@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

ALL

Garon had requested city contracts Lorain has with Sheffield Lake, Ohio, service and monetary contracts lists.

Per 149.43 or any ORC that requires the public records to be made public when asked for.

As you are or may be a custodian of such records please provide them as requested by Mr. Petty.

The response provided by the Law Department is not adequate as it should have been referred to the appropriate custodian of the appropriate records.

The service director and auditor should each be a repository of such public records, correct?

Please respond to Mr. Petty.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Date: January 28, 2025 at 3:38:00 PM EST
To: Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@ohioago.gov>, lcp@lcprosecutor.org,
NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov
Cc: "Harper, Anita" <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>, "Andrew Geronimo, JD"
<andrew.geronimo@case.edu>, Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>, Aaron
Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>, Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>, Mike
Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>, Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>, Brian Ames
<bmames00@gmail.com>, Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>.

VEK6173@aol.com, Natalio Rodriguez <natalio@centurytel.net>, Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>, Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>, Kirsten Hill <kirsten@kirstenhill.com>, "Monica D. Pluta" <Monica.Pluta@lcprosecutor.org>, Craig Snodgrass <auditor@loraincounty.com>, David J Moore <DMoore@loraincounty.us>, jriddell@loraincounty.us, mgallagher@loraincounty.us, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Mike Doran <mikedoran@mikedoran.com>, Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank, Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>, Linda Rivera <rrivera25594@gmail.com>, Denise Wilms <denisewilms@aol.com>, Jim Renacci <jrenacci@gmail.com>, jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>, sandemeilander@yahoo.com, David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>

Subject: Records Requests for contracts.

Hello Ms Carr, Lorain County Prosecutor and Northeast Region of Ohio Auditor,

I am now asking for an investigation why I cant get my records request fulfilled from the City of Lorain, Ohio?

Hello, please send me a list of all contracts the city of Lorain, Ohio has with the city of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, service and monetary contracts lists.

Per 149.43 or any ORC that requires the public records to be made public when asked for.

Thank You

Garon Petty January 17, 2025

"Mr. Petty,

Please be informed that this office is not the keeper of any documents which constitute "a list of all contracts the City of Lorain has with the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio and monetary contracts lists." You may wish to contact the Utilities Dept.

Law Director Riley" January 27, 2025

Help us in Lorain, Ohio please,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 6:48 AM
To: Arredondo, Joel; Mary_Spellacy@cityoflorain.org; Dull, Breanna; Patrick Riley; McCann, James - Chief; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Harper, Anita; Soto, Terri; Soto, Rick; Rey Carrion; Zaleski, Don; Partin, Maggie; Lori Kokoski
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Carissa Woytach; Brad Dicken; Michael Scherach; Lindsay Carr; jeanne Petty; Dennis Flores; Dan Gilles; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Jackie Conrad; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Kathryn Kennedy; Darryl Tucker; Clevescene; Fox 8; Mike Mason
Subject: Ask Mary Springowski to name the member of council who aided and abetted in the attack on council clerk July 1, 2024

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Good morning,

I am instructing my council representative, (by the Ohio Constitution Article 1 Section 3), Mary Spellacy, to have Mary Springowski through the chair, during miscellaneous concerns of council, tonight Feb. 3, 2025, to name which member of council aided and abetted in his (me) attack on Breanna Dull?

She has by electronic communication communicated that in a July 2, 2024 email sent to council, Mayor Bradley, Rey Carrion,

Chief McCann, Patrick Riley. Please have Mrs Springowski answer and give the name of the member of council.

I have previously provided Mrs Springowski's email dated July 2, 2024 at 9:57 AM.

Also have Mrs Springowski turn her phone video (page 80 lines 7,8,9 of her police interview transcript) over to my attorney Robert Gargas.

Thank you,
Garon Petty



Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2025 2:37 PM
To: Patrick Ward; Chief McCann; Jacob Morris; Scott Bowles; Rocky Radeff; Patrick Riley
Cc: Major Steven Scharschmidt; Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty
Subject: Re: Nutt said Tony called the Chief. The exit is there. So if I exit then I'm going to her office? It makes no sense. It is not true.
Attachments: 23e661a6-5c01-4128-9b80-7edb4a142c04.jpeg

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Have you the details on this call to Chief McCann? It has not been provided in discovery yet exists according to witness Nutt.

Note we challenge the ability of Chief McCain to receive a email from TD, read, comprehend, and type up the "Make it happen" investigation responding email as he accomplished so quickly only several minutes after receiving an email from TD. Please have chief McCann demonstrate this on a stop watch. Record it. It is not possible and evidences and demonstrates collusion with TD and the others conspirators. Nutt's statement makes no sense and is fraudulent. We demand you interview the chief and record it with law enforcement present to record his statements. We ask that Sheriff Hall's investigation staff be present at all times to help conduct the interview. We believe public corruption has occurred and are demanding an investigation as you have failed to begin the investigation anew choosing to advance upon a tainted and fraudulently orchestrated prosecution of Mr. Petty. Also for your information no record exists of the prosecutors meeting with Judge Elwell and the Court Clerk has no record of proceedings nor record of the same. This was accomplished as per your suggestion and request yet it yielded only more questions. The law department and prosecutors' office were Tainted then, & are Tainted now. The dismissal of all charges must be accomplished and then you can freely exercise independent discretion after a proper untainted investigation is accomplished anew. Jack Bradley gave a statement that exonerates Garon F. Petty of any criminal behavior. This exculpatory evidence was ignored and was failed to be properly developed. Also additional council members are available to provide counter testimony to your conspiring liars as I have called them.

So too have the exculpatory declarations of Arredondo been ignored. They were provided to Morris on tape yet intentionally left out of his "make it happen" biased report. We need a new comprehensive competent investigation.

Have you viewed the video of Mary Springowski? Has she destroyed it? Is it preserved by the police? If not, why not. It would show Nutt's statement false. You have yet to view the public record video even once. From your comments at the status conference it appears you are not unbiased; it appears that independent exercise of discretion is not within the purview of your contract. Why were two other representatives with you if you have taken over the case entirely with sole discretion?

Despite request, as of today, I still do not yet have your public record contract to serve as independent prosecutor. I again formally demand it. A demand has been made for an investigation of the criminal violation of my client's civil rights including the reason why investigation records (criminal investigatory records) in an ongoing criminal investigation were provided directly to Aaron Knapp an unrelated civilian by Detective Morris under Order of police Chief McCann.

Most troubling, inexplicable and against any criminal procedure known in my 40 years of practicing law. This in and of itself is violation of due process by the chief his investigator, and The State of Ohio/ City of Lorain. Why was this accomplished??

Bob Gargasz
Attorney for Garon F. Petty

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 2, 2025, at 12:01 PM, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

> > Can we get DiMacchia calling McCann?

> >

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Mary_springowski@cityoflorain.org
Cc: Garon Petty; Aaron Knapp; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Tony Cillo; City Council Mail Group; Maggie Partin; Patrick Riley; Patrick Ward; Rocky Radeff; Scott Bowles; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion
Subject: Fwd: Who is Springowski accusing in her email?

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Ms. Springowski

Please prepare yourself for questions from Council / you have a lot to explain.

A copy of this notice is being sent to the public corruption unit of the Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

It seems you have created fabrication of facts and enlisted other politicians in an attempt to chill the First Amendment Rights of Mr. Petty to redress his government.

Your attempt to frame Mr. Petty is being exposed as deceitful.

Your camera and phone video is being requested for trial evidence, please confirm you have the same and have provided it to the police and prosecutors.

I note that to date nothing of the such has been provided to Mr. Petty or my office by anyone, therefore, I suspect this evidence has been improperly withheld or destroyed by you (spoliation) or that you have secreted it.

Please provide the same if it still exists as it is expected to contain exculpatory evidence that will tend to vindicate and exculpate Mr. Petty from the story you have concocted in conspiracy with others.

Be advised that your conduct is being requested to be investigated and to be dealt with as appropriate.

You are not off the hook for your deception and false statements about Mr. Petty. Demand is made that your insurance carrier be contacted to handle the civil liability claims coming for your behaviors.

Robert J. Gargasz, Esq.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Date: January 31, 2025 at 3:24:47 PM EST

To: City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, "Bradley, Jack" <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>, Patrick Riley <patrick_riley@cityoflorain.org>, "Zaleski, Don" <don_zaleski@cityoflorain.org>, "Comer, David" <dcomer@cityoflorain.org>, Ted Kalo <Ted_Kalo@cityoflorain.org>, "Harper, Anita" <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>, "Dull, Breanna" <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>

Subject: Who is Springowski accusing in her email?

Members of Lorain City council and all elected.

Who is C@L Springowski accusing in her email to all of you dated July 1, 2024 provided below?

Are members of council being targeted by Springowski?

Under Your rules of decorum for Lorain City Council, will any of you demand Springowski name the alleged person she falsely claims aided and abetted me to attack City Council Clerk.

Who amongst you have any recordings of Breanna Dull on July 1, 2024?

Mary Springowski claims she was recording July 1, 2024, where is that recording she claims in her Police interview and why hasn't it been turned to the police and prosecutors?

Why was Aaron Knapp provided with a packet of information and recordings about my case by personnel delivery from LT Morris by order of Chief McCann?

Also what was provide to Judge Elwell, as no record exists in the Clerk of Courts office?

Thank you,
Garon Petty

<KALO.rtf.zip>

<474533125_8847690358662701_1508369052596682506_n (1).jpeg>

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2025 8:41 AM
To: Jack Bradley; CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; Brad Dicken; Garon Petty; Robert J. Gargas; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Jackie Conrad; Ted Kalo; Joseph LaVeck
Subject: Re: Brandon W

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I want Brandon appointed legally. Not like this.

08:38



board at the time of a meeting
official action is to be taken
quorum to conduct a meeting
of those members present
on a proposal shall constitute

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

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On Feb 2, 2025, at 08:19, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

So when you want it you find a supporting opinion and get an answer quickly. When I ask you say you have no authority? Got it.

Why can't you do this with citizens wants Mr mayor?

Lorain Mayor Jack Bradley obtained a legal opinion regarding an abstention vote which the law director considers a yes vote and one that held up the recent appointment of a citizen to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Bradley had asked City Council at a meeting Jan. 21 to approve the appointment of Brandon Wysocki to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

However, the matter was shot down after Councilwoman-at-large-Mary Springowski abstained from the vote, three others voting against it and five members in favor of it.

Two Council members were absent from the meeting.

Bradley didn't need Council's approval to appoint Wysocki to the city's Planning Commission, so the appointment took place at the meeting.

Springowski cited an allegation against Wysocki from 2023 where he was accused of bringing a firearm on a Lorain City Schools field trip and suggested to hold the appointment until any court proceedings were completely resolved.

Wysocki wasn't convicted of the crime, but the matter could be pursued in an appeals court, Bradley has said.

"I believe in a citizen's right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty," Bradley told Council with some members agreeing with him.

The court ruled during a suppression hearing that the police search of Wysocki was improper, said Bradley, who also is an attorney.

Therefore, technically there isn't a case against Wysocki at this time, but an appellate court could reverse the decision, Bradley has said.

Bradley wrote a letter to Council President Joel Arredondo that referred to a legal opinion drafted by the Law Department regarding "the effect of a member of Council not voting," according to the document.

A similar situation occurred at a Council meeting Jan. 16, 2024, where a motion was made to waive the three-reading rule and two members abstained and the abstentions were counted as "yes votes," Bradley wrote.

"At the time Law Director (Pat) Riley stated, '... one thing that we clearly are of the opinion of is that an abstention would be counted as a vote in the affirmative, a yes vote, a vote with the majority,'" the letter stated.

Bradley not only cited the January 2024 meeting as he laid out his case, but also case law from the Ninth District Court of Appeal's ruling where a similar situation was resolved resulting in an abstention vote also was considered an affirmative vote, according to the letter.

"I am requesting that the non-vote of Councilwoman Springowski be counted as an affirmative vote and that the President of Council declare that Brandon Wysocki's appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals by approved by a vote of six to three," Bradley wrote. "In the alternative, I would like to appoint Brandon Wysocki to the Zoning Board of Appeals and request that council vote to approve his appointment."

Council meets in regular session at 6 p.m. Feb. 3 where the matter may be discussed, according to its agenda.

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

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