

Beko, Michele

From: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 3:36 PM
To: Aaron Knapp
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.

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@lprosecutor.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 Gargasz <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 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 <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: Jeff Graham <jgraham@lorainschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:33 PM
To: Aaron Knapp
Cc: City Council Mail Group; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; Garon Petty; Jack Bradley; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Tony Cillo; Brad Dicken; Sheriff Jack Hall; Ted Kalo; Robert J Gargas
Subject: Re: Dimacchia video

I apologize, Aaron. I can't open the link.

Thanks,

Jeff

On Jan 29, 2025, at 12:52 PM, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Curious how do we explain this away? This is what our community and kids see. This is whatever are paying 113k a year for? This guy?

And a council person to boot. Let's see his treatment plan and his therapeutic schedule.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/12Gyakoacna/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 6:53 PM
To: CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org; Rey Carrion; Rocky Radeff; Patrick Riley; Carissa Woytach; Brad Dicken; David O'Brien; Garon Petty; Jack Bradley; Tony Cillo; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov
Subject: Baez

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I still have yet to hear back on what the ethics commission and AG stated in regards to a Full Time Police Officer, Classified Employee under Sheffield Lake Laws, which means (as you know) he cannot also be a Partisan Council Person, is doing still acting in that role?

Are you going to provide a legal opinion or ruling?

How will this affect anything he voted on that he made the quorum complete?

You have been ignoring my repeated requests for this information. Please respond.

If it's improper it needs to be addressed.

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Jeff Riddell
Cc: Robert J. Gargas; Joe K Auditor; Lori Kokoski; Rey Carrion; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Don Zaleski; Joel Arredondo; City Group; Rocky Radeff; Jacob Morris; Jim_McCann; Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org; 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; Marty Gallagher; 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>

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I meant you “recuse yourself” if Petticord donated 2k and sat around smoking cigars with you then you need recuse yourself when the vote happens. That’s how it works. Dave and Marty Voted, you were absent. So the vote was illegally done.

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

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On Jan 30, 2025, at 10:30, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Were you planning on sending me this statement drafted by Petticord? My name and email is missing.

I know he wrote because he says “I got the job...” in regards to Petticords job.

And you are full of crap. I have Petticords own emails saying he kept it. And why. And it was out of an abundance of causation. So please don’t lie to me. Liar.

You do work for me. Do your job.

If it’s not Mock indignation then you are intentionally speaking down to a tax payer, and confirming it, so fu*k you.

Supporting candidates is but then you revise yourself from the vote.

Please provide documentation of all training you have received on the matter. And if sure why you don't ask for the free opinion?

So you hired a person to do a non existent job to be determined, got it.

He "was your lawyer" and that's the problem.

The court did not disagree. Are you speaking for the courts. We just signed documents to say otherwise. Are you now saying differently? Because maybe we should go back to court?

We are not equals. You are my government and as such you don't have any personal stake. You cannot be indignant as that's personal and you must not allow your personal to interfere with your work.

So do me a favor and just say no we refuse to request an opinion by the Ethics Commission so I can I've already spoke with them, told them what your doing and why I'm waiting to file, if you refuse now everyone who had a hand in this and failed to report it is also in ethical violation.

You work for me. And you work for others. But when you speak to me you do so with respect as you work for each citizen. As such you will take my redress and stop treating me less than.

Next time include me in your bullshit response. Wow. What a buffoon.

So again you are refusing to email Brian Ring at the ethics commission because you were trained already, correct?

Just put that in writing and sign it please. Commissioner Letterhead.

<image0.png>

<image1.png>

<image2.png>

<image3.png>

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

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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 Jan 29, 2025, at 14:44, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

And again, I am merely asking you seek the appropriate opinions on the matter Not saying "I AM RIGHT" (although I have been correct a lot lately in my interpretations of the laws nobody else seems to read) I am merely saying there is a reason enough in all of the information I provided for you, the government, and Dan, the former Government to ask the appropriate advisory boards and agencies of the State of Ohio for the FREE LEGAL opinion you are allowed under State Law. And in fact I feel if you dont ask for the opinion you're not being ethical.

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

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On Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 02:40:13 PM EST, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Rule 1.12 - Former Judge, Arbitrator, Mediator, or Other Third-party Neutral
(a) Except as stated in division (d), a lawyer shall not represent anyone in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and *substantially* as a judge or other adjudicative officer or law clerk to such a person or as an arbitrator, mediator, or other third-party neutral, unless all parties to the proceeding give *informed consent, confirmed in writing*.
(b) A lawyer shall not negotiate for employment with any person who is involved as a party or as lawyer for a party in a matter in which the lawyer is participating personally and *substantially* as a judge or other adjudicative officer or as an arbitrator, mediator, or other third-party neutral. A lawyer serving as a law clerk to a judge or other adjudicative officer may negotiate for employment with a party or lawyer involved in a matter in which the clerk is participating personally and *substantially*, but only after the lawyer has notified the judge or other adjudicative officer.
(c) If a lawyer is disqualified by division (a), no lawyer in a *firm* with which that lawyer is associated may *knowingly* undertake or continue representation in the matter unless both of the following apply:
(1) the disqualified lawyer is timely *screened* from any participation in the matter and is

apportioned no part of the fee therefrom;(2)written notice is promptly given to the parties and any appropriate *tribunal* to enable them to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this rule.(d)An arbitrator selected as a partisan of a party in a multimember arbitration panel is not prohibited from subsequently representing that party.

Comment

[1] This rule generally parallels Rule 1.11. The term "personally and substantially" signifies that a judge who was a member of a multimember court, and thereafter left judicial office to practice law, is not prohibited from representing a client in a matter pending in the court, but in which the former judge did not participate. So also the fact that a former judge exercised administrative responsibility in a court does not prevent the former judge from acting as a lawyer in a matter where the judge had previously exercised remote or incidental administrative responsibility that did not affect the merits. Compare the Comment to Rule 1.11. The term "adjudicative officer" includes such officials as judges pro tempore, magistrates, special masters, hearing officers, and other parajudicial officers, and also lawyers who serve as parttime judges. Part III of the Application section of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a parttime judge shall not "act as a lawyer in any proceeding in which the judge served as a judge or in any other related proceeding." Although phrased differently from this rule, the provisions correspond in meaning.[2] Like former judges, lawyers who have served as arbitrators, mediators, or other third-party neutrals may be asked to represent a client in a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially. This rule forbids such representation unless all of the parties to the proceedings give their informed consent, confirmed in writing. See Rule 1.0(f) and (b). Other law or codes of ethics governing third-party neutrals may impose more stringent standards of personal or imputed disqualification. Lawyers who serve as mediators and other third-party neutrals also are governed by Rule 2.4.[3] Although lawyers who serve as third-party neutrals do not have information concerning the parties that is protected under Rule 1.6, they typically owe the parties an obligation of confidentiality under law or codes of ethics governing third-party neutrals. Thus, division (c) provides that conflicts of the personally disqualified lawyer will be imputed to other lawyers in a law firm unless the conditions of this division are met.[4] Requirements for screening procedures are stated in Rule 1.0(l). Division (c)(1) does not prohibit the screened lawyer from receiving a salary or partnership share established by prior independent agreement, but that lawyer may not receive compensation directly related to the matter in which the lawyer is disqualified.[5] Notice of the screened lawyer's prior representation and that screening procedures have been employed, generally should be given as soon as practicable after the need for screening becomes apparent. When disclosure is likely to significantly injure the current client, a reasonable delay may be justified.[6] By its terms, Rule 1.12(b) prohibits a lawyer from negotiating for employment with a party or lawyer involved in a matter in which the lawyer is presently acting as an adjudicative officer or neutral, during the time that the lawyer has such a role. The lawyer should not negotiate for such employment during the pendency of the matter, regardless of whether the lawyer is active in the matter at the time that the employment opportunity arises, except where the lawyer's role has completely ended. Thus, a lawyer who, while acting as an independent mediator, attempted to settle a matter that remains pending is not prohibited from

negotiating for employment with one of the parties or one of the lawyers in the matter after the mediation has concluded but while the case is still pending. If the lawyer were to be hired, however, Rule 1.12(a) would prohibit the lawyer from being involved in the matter on behalf of a party, and Rule 1.12(c) would effect the disqualification of the rest of the firm, absent effective screening and notice to the other parties and the tribunal.

Comparison to former Ohio Code of Professional Responsibility

Rule 1.12 addresses the duty of arbitrators, mediators, other third-party neutrals, and former judges to promote public confidence in our legal system and in the legal profession. DR 9-101(A) and (B) prohibit a lawyer from accepting private employment in a matter upon the merits of which the lawyer acted in a judicial capacity or the lawyer had substantial responsibility while the lawyer was a public employee. Because the same potential for misunderstanding exists with respect to lawyers acting as arbitrators or mediators, EC 5-21 recommends that lawyers be prohibited from thereafter representing in the dispute any of the parties involved in the mediation or arbitration. Rule 1.12 codifies the aspirational goal of EC 5-21, creates a standard for disqualification of a lawyer who "personally and substantially" participated in the same matter while serving as a judge, mediator, arbitrator, or third party neutral, establishes an informed consent standard by which the lawyer may avoid personal disqualification, and provides a process through which the personally disqualified lawyer's firm may avoid disqualification.

Comparison to ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct

Rule 1.12 is substantively identical to Model Rule 1.12. Comment [6] has been added to provide further clarification regarding application of the rule.

Ohio. R. Prof'l. Cond. 1.12

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

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On Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 02:39:19 PM EST, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Rule 1.11 - Special Conflicts of Interest for Former and Current Government Officers and Employees(a) A lawyer who has formerly served as a public officer or employee of the government shall comply with both of the following:**(1)** all applicable laws and Rule 1.9(c) regarding conflicts of interest;**(2)** not otherwise represent a client in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and *substantially* as a public officer or employee, unless the

appropriate government agency gives its *informed consent, confirmed in writing*, to the representation. **(b)** When a lawyer is disqualified from representation under division (a), no lawyer in a *firm* with which that lawyer is associated may *knowingly* undertake or continue representation in such a matter unless both of the following apply: **(1)** the disqualified lawyer is timely *screened* from any participation in the matter and is apportioned no part of the fee therefrom; **(2)** *written* notice is given as soon as practicable to the appropriate government agency to enable it to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this rule. **(c)** Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer having information that the lawyer *knows* is confidential government information about a person acquired when the lawyer was a public officer or employee, may not represent a private client whose interests are adverse to that person in a matter in which the information could be used to the material disadvantage of that person. As used in this rule, the term "confidential government information" means information that has been obtained under governmental authority and that, at the time this rule is applied, the government is prohibited by law from disclosing to the public or has a legal privilege not to disclose and that is not otherwise available to the public. A *firm* with which that lawyer is associated may undertake or continue representation in the matter only if the disqualified lawyer is timely *screened* from any participation in the matter and is apportioned no part of the fee therefrom. **(d)** Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer currently serving as a public officer or employee shall comply with both of the following: **(1)** Rules 1.7 and 1.9; **(2)** shall not do either of the following: **(i)** participate in a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and *substantially* while in private practice or nongovernmental employment, unless the appropriate government agency gives its *informed consent, confirmed in writing*; **(ii)** negotiate for private employment with any person who is involved as a party or as lawyer for a party in a matter in which the lawyer is participating personally and *substantially*, except that a lawyer serving as a law clerk to a judge, other adjudicative officer or arbitrator may negotiate for private employment as permitted by Rule 1.12(b) and subject to the conditions stated in Rule 1.12(b). **(e)** As used in this rule, the term "matter" includes both of the following: **(1)** any judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, investigation, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter involving a specific party or parties; **(2)** any other matter covered by the conflict of interest rules of the appropriate government agency.

Comment

[1] A lawyer who has served or is currently serving as a public officer or employee is personally subject to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, including the prohibition against concurrent conflicts of interest stated in Rule 1.7 and provisions regarding former client conflicts contained in Rule 1.9(c). For purposes of Rule 1.9(c), which applies to former government lawyers, the definition of "matter" in division (e) applies. In addition, such a lawyer may be subject to criminal statutes and other government regulations regarding conflict of interest. See R.C. Chapters 102. and 2921. Such statutes and regulations may circumscribe the extent to which and length of time before the government agency may give consent under this rule. See Rule 1.0(f) for the definition of informed consent. **[2]** Divisions (a)(1), (a)(2) and (d)(1) restate the obligations of an individual lawyer who has served or is currently serving as an officer or employee of the government toward a former government or private client. Rule

1.10 is not applicable to the conflicts of interest addressed by this rule. Rather, division (b) sets forth a special imputation rule for former government lawyers that provides for screening and notice. Because of the special problems raised by imputation within a government agency, division (d) does not impute the conflicts of a lawyer currently serving as an officer or employee of the government to other associated government officers or employees, although ordinarily it will be prudent to screen such lawyers.[3] Divisions (a)(2) and (d)(2) apply regardless of whether a lawyer is adverse to a former client and are thus designed not only to protect the former client, but also to prevent a lawyer from exploiting public office for the advantage of another client. For example, a lawyer who has pursued a claim on behalf of the government may not pursue the same claim on behalf of a later private client after the lawyer has left government service, except when authorized to do so by the government agency under division (a). Similarly, a lawyer who has pursued a claim on behalf of a private client may not pursue the claim on behalf of the government, except when authorized to do so by division (d). As with divisions (a)(1) and (d)(1), Rule 1.10 is not applicable to the conflicts of interest addressed by these paragraphs.[4] This rule represents a balancing of interests. On the one hand, where the successive clients are a government agency and another client, public or private, the risk exists that power or discretion vested in that agency might be used for the special benefit of the other client. A lawyer should not be in a position where benefit to the other client might affect performance of the lawyer's professional functions on behalf of the government. Also, unfair advantage could accrue to the other client by reason of access to confidential government information about the client's adversary obtainable only through the lawyer's government service. On the other hand, the rules governing lawyers presently or formerly employed by a government agency should not be so restrictive as to inhibit transfer of employment to and from the government. The government has a legitimate need to attract qualified lawyers as well as to maintain high ethical standards. Thus a former government lawyer is disqualified only from particular matters in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially. The provisions for screening and waiver in division (b) are necessary to prevent the disqualification rule from imposing too severe a deterrent against entering public service.[5] When a lawyer has been employed by one government agency and then moves to a second government agency, it may be appropriate to treat that second agency as another client for purposes of this rule, as when a lawyer is employed by a city and subsequently is employed by a federal agency. However, because the conflict of interest is governed by division (d), the latter agency is not required to screen the lawyer as division (b) requires a law firm to do. The question of whether two government agencies should be regarded as the same or different clients for conflict of interest purposes is beyond the scope of these rules. See Rule 1.13, Comment [9].[6] Divisions (b) and (c) contemplate a screening arrangement. See Rule 1.0(k) (requirements for screening procedures). These paragraphs do not prohibit a lawyer from receiving a salary or partnership share established by prior independent agreement, but that lawyer may not receive compensation directly relating the lawyer's compensation to the fee in the matter in which the lawyer is disqualified.[7] Notice of the screened lawyer's prior representation and that screening procedures have been employed, generally should be given as soon as practicable after the need for screening becomes apparent. When disclosure is likely to significantly injure the current client, a reasonable delay may be justified.[8] Division (c) operates only when the lawyer in question has

knowledge of the information, which means actual knowledge; it does not operate with respect to information that merely could be imputed to the lawyer. See R.C. 102.03(B).**[9]** Divisions (a) and (d) do not prohibit a lawyer from jointly representing a private party and a government agency when doing so is permitted by Rule 1.7 and is not otherwise prohibited by law.**[10]** For purposes of division (e) of this rule, a "matter" may continue in another form. In determining whether two particular matters are the same, the lawyer should consider the extent to which the matters involve the same basic facts, the same or related parties, and the time elapsed.

Comparison to former Ohio Code of Professional Responsibility

Rule 1.11 spells out special conflict of interest rules for lawyers who are current or former government employees. The movement of lawyers from public service and practice to private practice and involvement in the same or similar issues and controversies requires rules that expressly spell out when a conflict exists that prevents representation or permits such representation if certain conditions are met, including screening where appropriate. The rule likewise governs the conduct of lawyers moving from private practice into the public sector. DR 9-101(B) includes only a broad prohibition forbidding a lawyer from accepting private employment in a matter in which he or she had substantial responsibility while a public employee. This prohibition is based on avoiding the appearance of impropriety and gives no specific guidance to former government lawyers.

Comparison to ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct

Rule 1.11 reflects the Model Rule except for minor changes. The rule makes clear that a lawyer subject to these special rules on conflicts shall comply with all the conditions set forth in Rule 1.11(a), (b), and (d). Also division (a)(1) requires compliance with all applicable laws and Rule 1.9(c) regarding conflicts of interest. This includes provisions of the Ohio Ethics Law contained in R.C. Chapters 102. and 2921. as well as the regulations of the Ohio Ethics Commission. These statutes and regulations include specific definitions of a prohibited conflict of interest and language forbidding the same for present and former government employees.

Ohio. R. Prof'l. Cond. 1.11

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

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On Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 02:20:07 PM EST, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I'm asking you to get an opinion. I'm not "alleging" anything. When in doubt get an opinion from the ethics commission for his public records file. Why is that so hard?

I'm a citizen, asking you my government. to avail upon the ethics commission on this hire.

So are you refusing to do your due diligence on this matter?

It should be Dans responsibility to ask. And explain his new duties to the commission.

Please review professional conduct rule 1.11 and 1.12 as well.

Thank you ladies and gentleman.

Your disdain for me is clear in the tone of this email Mr. Riddell but all you or Dan have to do is get a legal opinion from the ethics board and if he comes back clear then you're good. This isn't personal it is the law. These are called checks and balances not Jeff Riddells Commissions Rules of Law.

Just ask for the opinion for the sake of clarity and then if you are correct great. But it covers the tax payers and costs nothing.

Unless you are worried they will say no?

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RevolvingDoorLaw

<image0.png>

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

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On Jan 29, 2025, at 14:05, Jeff Riddell <jriddell@loraincounty.us> wrote:

Aaron Knapp has alleged that the Commissioners are barred from hiring Dan Petticord for a period of twelve months after he left the prosecutor's office. This is based on his reading of ORC 102.03(A)(1). He is wrong.

ORC 102.03(A)(1) expressly prohibits a former public employee from representing a client in a matter in which the former employee participated while in public service. In other words, h could not represent CCI in the case brought by CCI against the Board. This is a well understood ethical rule in private and public practice.

Not only is the language of ORC 102.03(A)(1) clear on its face, the statute itself, in section (A)(9), directly addresses his situation: "Division (A) , , , does not prohibit a non-elected public official or employee of a political subdivision from becoming a public official or employee of a different department . . . of the same political subdivision." It goes on to state that such an employee is not prohibited from representing the "employee's new department . . . on any matter on any matter in which the public official or employee personally participated . . . [at] . . . the former department . . ."

A letter from the Ethics Commission to support a mundane administrative action is not necessary, despite those that may hold the PERSONAL OPINION that it is. We take the training necessary to understand these requirements and past experience is used. Couple that with an above average understanding of the English language allows us to take correct action as well as answer questions on the actions we take.

If someone has doubts they are free to avail themselves of Ethics Commission as well as any other agency with audit authority.

I hope this clarifies to all those copied what I tried to explain to Mr Knapp. This is my final response on this issue.

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:48 AM

To: Jeff Riddell <jriddell@loraincounty.us>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Cc: Joe K Auditor <joe_koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Lori Kokoski <lori_kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Rey Carrion <rey_carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <jack_bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Patrick Riley <patrick_riley@cityoflorain.org>; Don Zaleski <don_zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Joel Arredondo <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Group <citycouncilmailgroup@cityoflorain.org>; Rocky Radeff <rocky_radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Jacob Morris <jacob_morris@cityoflorain.org>; Jim McCann <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; 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>; Marty Gallagher <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.

And since it is required under the law that you facilitate the request making it to the right people...under the Sunshine Laws.

Just to point out the rules.

I can quote the exact rule if need be..but were supposedly all professionals here.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member ID: 886836612

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On Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 09:17:33 AM EST, Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com> wrote:

Jeff

You are correct for the most part. Theresa purpose in including you as a community leader and a Republican Party stalwart and leader, you need to be informed of the machinations of the local political dealings between the political subdivisions involved. Questions of integrity and accountability are important at every level of government in Lorain County and the State.

Again thank you for your interest and any encouragement you might provide to the responsible custodians of records is greatly appreciated.

Bob

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2025, at 9:07 AM, Jeff Riddell <jriddell@loraincounty.us> wrote:

The county Commissioners are not party to or custodian off any contracts between City of Lorain and any entities other than the few between the City of Lorain and the County of Lorain

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Joe K Auditor <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Lori Kokoski <lori_kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Rey Carrion <rey_carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <jack_bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Patrick Riley <patrick_riley@cityoflorain.org>; Don Zaleski <don_zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Joel Arredondo <joel_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Rocky Radeff <Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org>; Jacob Morris <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Jim McCann <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Anita Harper <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>; Jeff Riddell <jriddell@loraincounty.us>; Marty Gallagher <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.

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

<image9.png>

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<image2.png>

<image16.png>

<image12.png>

<image5.png>

<image13.png>

<image1.png>

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:38 PM
To: James Kimbler
Cc: Patrick Ward; Patrick Riley; Rocky Radeff; Scott Bowles; Aaron Knapp; Don Zaleski; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Carissa Woytach; Joel Arredondo; Breanna Dull; Joe K Auditor
Subject: Incident depicted on video as narrated by Citizen Defendant Garon F. Petty

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

The City's video will demonstrate these facts as described by the defendant in this video. Do you see a crime? I don't.

I see a citizen engaged in legal and protected civil rights activity. It is beyond doubt he is exercising his First Amendment Rights. Requesting clarification. Speaking to the Mayor.

There is no trespassing. There is no disorderly conduct.

What is the crime?

(Note: this investigation and prosecution has been tainted and poisoned from its inception.). No independent discretion has been exercised from the beginning. As the entire staff of the law Director was conflicted from the beginning, they are conflicted now. This case must be dismissed. Defendant's request to file the video with the Court's Clerk's Office has been ignored. Robert J. Gargasz, Esq.

Attorney for Garon F. Petty

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2054840838352776>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:01 PM
To: Robert J. Gargasz
Cc: City Council Mail Group; Ted Kalo; Jack Bradley; Patrick Riley; Joel Arredondo; Don Zaleski; Tony Cillo; Chief McCann; Jacob Morris; Rey Carrion; Garon Petty; Jack Hall; Joe K Auditor; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Scott Bowles; Rocky Radeff; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org; Carissa Woytach; Maggie Partin; Darryl Tucker; Julie Wallace; Brad Dicken; Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org; Patrick Ward; Lori Kokoski; Lorain Secretary; Jessie Tower
Subject: Re: Who is this person?
Attachments: Video.mov; attachment.html

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

This was before the most recent OVI. But this seems like more than Alcohol. This is not new it's old.

It was sent to me by a concerned citizen. I have no details of date and time.

But with ALL the other issues we face it's a bad look.

And I'm by no means perfect but I'm not holding two prominent positions in public trust with high paying salaries. I'm not refusing to nominate people based on prior indiscretions, and I'm not trying to prosecute a disabled citizen with one lung with lies either.

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; BCCommunications@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: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:31 AM
To: Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; Patrick Riley; City Council Mail Group
Cc: Brian Ames; Aaron Knapp; Robert J Gargasz
Subject: Fwd: Violations of Ohio Sunshine Law 121.22

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Subject: Re: Violations of Ohio Sunshine Law 121.22
Date: March 10, 2025 at 10:20:57 AM EDT
To: Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@OhioAGO.gov>, David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>, ethics@ethics.ohio.gov, Patrick Riley <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>, City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, "Dull, Breanna" <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>, lcp@lcpProsecutor.org, "Comer, David" <dcomer@cityoflorain.org>, "Beko, Michele" <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>, Lorain Police <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>, "Partin, Maggie" <Maggie_Partin@cityoflorain.org>, "Bradley, Jack" <Jack_Bradley@CityofLorain.org>, "Soto, Rick" <Rick_Soto@CityofLorain.org>, "Kokoski, Lori" <lori_kokoski@cityoflorain.org>, "Arredondo, Joel" <Joel_Arredondo@CityofLorain.org>
Cc: Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>, "Andrew Geronimo, JD" <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>, Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>, clandestinecanary <clandestinecanary@proton.me>, Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>, Carolyn White <cwhite@centurytel.net>, Stephanie Jablonsky <stephanie.jablonsky@thefire.org>, Institute for Justice <ifj@ij.org>, Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>, Jon Morrow <greaterlorainareacaucus@gmail.com>, Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com, sandemeilander@yahoo.com, Elsebeth Baumgartner <baumgartner.elsebeth@yahoo.com>, Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>

Good morning council clerk, Please send me the certificates for the Sunshine Law Training course and any other training courses completed of all council members per council rules 41 and 149.43 ORC for the last 10 years.

Beth Henley, JoAnne Moon, Angle Arroyo, Joshua Thornsberry and Mary Springowski.
Council Rules 41
is clear on the retention of records.

Please send my request ASAP.
Thank You,
Garon Petty

shall be identified in the notice and no other business shall be considered. Should the legislative authority adjourn into Executive Session during a special and/or emergency meeting, the topic shall be directly related to matters identified in the notice.

RULE 3 - Public Meetings

All regular, special, emergency, committee, work sessions and public hearings etc., of the legislative authority shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with O.R.C. 121.22. All minutes and records of the Council shall be available to the public to view and/or purchase in the Clerk of Council Office during business hours.

1 | Page

RULE 4 - Committee-of-the-Whole

may be called into a Committee-of-the-Whole by a majority

...or any member may call him to order. The question of order shall be decided immediately and without debate.

RULE 41- Other Rules/Council Chamber

Except as provided herein, the most current version of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of Council. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to comprehend and enforce such rules together with the rules herein set forth. No person, other than members of Lorain City Council, staff or other city official shall enter the designated area beyond the bar of the chamber assigned to the Elected Officials after commencement of the meeting. A space shall be designated in the Council Chamber as "Reserved for the Media" and shall be used only by the media in attendance for that purpose.² Members of Council shall attend the following training sessions prior to the end of their term and submit the certificate of completion to the Clerk for retention purposes. Ohio Attorney General Sunshine Law Training, BRIT/PERC training module(s) Sensitivity Basics -(two sessions) and Diversity -(one session.)



On Mar 4, 2025, at 1:30 PM, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

Hello,

The last twenty minutes of the March 3, 2025 Lorain City Council meeting and during the whole meeting has clear violations of Ohio's Sunshine Laws 121.22 ORC. Whispering, Texting, passing notes. The Council Clerk monitors the activities of members during the meetings on a computer. Yet violations of the Ohio Sunshines Laws are not reported many times in the Council approved meeting minutes.

Council rule 41 reads, Council members will attend and complete the Sunshine Law training provided by the Ohio Attorney General and provide a certificate of completion at the end of their term. I would like a copy of all council Sunshine Laws certificates for the year of 2022 of current and past members of council which certificates are on record sent to all I have included in this Public Records Request 149.43 by Friday March 7, 2025.

Also I have observed by the Council provided Meeting on Demand videos, that many members of council violate rules 45 and 46 of Lorain City Council. Use of Electronic Devices. What punishments are provided in Lorain city council rules and the Ohio Revised Code to STOP those Observed Violations of Law?

How will Lorain City Council protect the Ohio Sunshine Laws and your Oaths to uphold the Laws of Ohio in the future?

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Meeting: City Council Regular
Meeting
lorainoh.suiteonemedia.com

[<favicon.ico>](#)

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 11:54 AM
To: Robert J Gargas; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; City Council Mail Group; Michael Scherach; Patrick Riley; Bradley, Jack; Dull, Breanna; Aaron Knapp; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr
Subject: Why are meetings missing from the Lorain government page for October 2022 and other dates?
Attachments: e4ffe391-278d-4a1e-8598-c7c367077ad2.jpeg

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:05 AM
To: Ted Kalo
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Carrion, Rey; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Michael Scherach; Denise Wilms; Stephanie Jablonsky; Institute for Justice; Julie Wallace; Darryl Tucker; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr; jeanne Petty; Patrick Riley; Lorain Police; Anthony Nici; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Stewart, Scott; Comer,David; Zaleski, Don; Carissa Woytach
Subject: Court Transcripts.

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Per 149.43,

Please provide my attorney Robert Gargas and me with the written transcripts of Lt Morris audio testimony in front of Judge Elwell in case number 2024CRB02378.

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2025 8:33 AM
To: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; VEK6173@aol.com; Sylvia Duvail; Natalio Rodriguez; Tom Niewulis; Tony Cillo; Lindsay Carr; Jeanne Petty; Institute for Justice; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Sheriff Jack Hall; Jackie Conrad; rebecca kempton; Carissa Woytach; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Brian Ames; Dan Gilles; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Carolyn White; Bradley, Jack; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Patrick Riley; Carrion, Rey; Stephanie Jablonsky; David Yost AG; Andrew Geronimo, JD; clandestinecanary; Clevescene; Fox 8; Noelle Williams
Subject: Go get Nelson

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

My wife and I were told to leave a TownHall meeting at Morningside HOA because I didnt live there. But 5 elected officials and the Lorain Prosecutor who initially charged me with crimes Mallory-Holmes Santiago was allowed to stay even though they DONT live there.

None on the city/county officials spoke up for our Rights.

Please understand what happened to us.

"First day of class, the law teacher walked in." The first thing he did was ask for the name of a student sitting in the front row:

- What's your name?
- My name is Nelson.
- Get out of my class and never come back! he ordered him.

Nelson was confused. The teacher was heading towards him, he got up quickly, packed up his stuff and left the classroom.

Everyone was scared and outraged but no one was talking.

- Very Good! Let's get it started. What are laws for? asked the teacher.

The students were still scared, but slowly they started answering the question.

- To have order in our society.
- No!
- So that people pay for their actions.
- No! Does anyone know the answer to this question?
- For justice to be done, spoke shy a young girl.
- Finally! Justice! But what is justice?

Everyone was starting to get mad at the teachers attitude. However, they kept answering.

- To protect the rights of the people.
- Okay. But still?

- To differentiate good from bad, to reward those who do good.
- Okay, so answer this question: Did I act correctly when I kicked Nelson out of class?

Everyone was silent, no one responded.

- I want an unanimous answer!
- NO! They answered with one voice.
- Could we say I committed an injustice?
- Yes!

- And why has nobody done anything about it? Why do we want laws and rules if we don't have the will to practice them? Each of you is obliged to speak up when you witness an injustice. All of you. Don't ever stay quiet again!

Go and get Nelson. After all, he is the teacher, I'm from another period.

You know, when we don't stand up for our rights, dignity is lost, and dignity can't be negotiated. "

- Doris Carrier

Beko, Michele

From: Springowski, Mary <Mary_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 8:19 PM
To: Loraine Ritchey; Riley, Patrick; LaVeck, Joseph; Beko, Michele; Julie Wallace; Morris, Jacob; Tony Cillo; Soto, Rick
Subject: Re: More Harassment

I have been slandered and libeled. At no time did I publicly speak and certainly not to Mr. Petty. The comments he is falsely attributing to me were made by other people who ARE bona fide residents of Morningside. When someone referred to him as Aaron, I did quietly correct them in a private aside. I can feel reasonably certain it wasn't overheard. Of course, I have proof of all of this. Someone might want to inform Sheriff Hall and Mayor Bradley that the Open Meetings Act was NOT violated as none of the council members present represented a quorum of any committees and certainly didn't represent a majority of the members of Council. But those type of erroneous assumptions occur when people are allowed to go on unchecked and proffer opinions and their interpretations of law despite the fact they are not, with the exception of Mr. Gargas, attorneys. The misogyny I have experienced at the hands of these people is beyond comprehension. For a society that abhors domestic violence and other violence against women, we turn a blind eye to the abuse of women in the public eye. Is this like victim shaming? I do not hold any hope that anyone who could do something will actually do something because it doesn't affect them personally and we all know that is the only time anything is ever done. These people are getting bolder and it will more than likely take them committing a physical act of violence before anything is done. As a rule, I have not responded to any of their nonsense but now they're trying to co-opt private HOA meetings for their own purposes and it is my contention that this is all politically motivated. So, Loraine, I appreciate your efforts but given who this has been sent to they might as well publicize open season on Mary Springowski.

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From: Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 7:48:54 PM
To: Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; Springowski, Mary <Mary_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>; Julie Wallace <jwallace@chroniclet.com>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Tony Cillo <tony.cillo@lcprosecutor.org>; Soto, Rick <Rick_Soto@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: More Harassment

Warning: Unusual link

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For months, in fact years I have sent you issues of what I perceive to be targeting of Mrs. Springowski by Petty, Knapp and Bob Gargas. I guess they have been received and filed. However, now Gargas 9 who is the attorney for Petty and Knapp continues his verbal diarrhea at the expense of Mary Springowski who does not engage with them. This is blatant targeted verbiage to discredit her without foundation. She is entitled to go about representing the people of Lorain without fear from this trilogy of the "unplugged." I am filing a formal complaint to someone not sure who yet but I will

do the research. . We cannot allow this "trio of the vindictive" to keep damaging people their lives and profession . You have turned deaf ears for months as to my concerns and NOW you must realize the escalation and how dangerous this is becoming . Thank You Loraine Ritchey

Bob Gargasz writes..

[Robert J. Gargasz](<https://substack.com/profile/27590081-robert-j-gargasz...>)

[10h](<https://lorainpoliticsunplugged.substack.com/.../111920885>)

Mary Springowski (MS), knick -named (the red headed devil), demonstrates her malice and hatred towards Mr. Petty and contempt for the concepts of "honesty and transparency" in government.

MS demonstrates herself a tyrant who abuses her authority as a city council person. She must be defeated if honest government is to exist, blossom, and thrive in Lorain, Ohio.

MS has falsely described Mr. Petty in the past claiming fraudulently a fear of him. Being broadcast should be the least of her fears: MS has engaged in an orchestrated conspiracy against Mr. Petty's civil rights and has culpability for conspiring to bring false and malicious accusations, charges, and prosecutions against Mr. Petty.

MS is slated to be a star witness whom from the witness stand must explain her series of false statements make to an alleged investigator during an ordered "make it happen" investigation.

After the termination of a council meeting, it is not possible to trespass in city hall. Every citizen has the right to approach city administration or council representatives to seek redress of their grievances or just to say hi. MS believes otherwise and needs to be removed at the ballot box for her appalling actions expressed again seeking to conduct public business privately. Her willingness to violate the sunshine laws could not be demonstrated more clearly.

Just as illegal as trying to conduct a Town Hall meeting in private (secret in violation of OMA. Are her false statements and accusations to a police officer and her conspiring to conduct a malicious prosecution of Mr. Petty.

MS has not just shown her true colors, she has demonstrated herself as having a penchant for dishonesty and should never have been vested with power or authority by any legitimate political authority.

The demonstration of her character and ability to violate state law and orchestrate the removal of Mr. Petty and his wife from what was to be a public meeting, only serves to explain why she must be voted out of public office!

MS is a cancer to Lorain. MS must be excised for the good of Lorain, Ohio. A poisonous dishonest politician who breaches her oath of office, the Morning Side incident, is but the latest demonstration of her malice towards The Rule of LAW and proper government in Lorain, Ohio.

Robert J. Gargasz.

All reactions:

11

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 6:18 PM
To: City Group; Jack Bradley; Patrick Riley; Sheriff Jack Hall; erik@vermiliondaily.com; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Breanna Dull
Subject: Records request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Date: April 25, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Public Records Request

City of Lorain
Law Department / Public Records Officer
200 West Erie Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052

Dear Public Records Officer,

Pursuant to the **Ohio Public Records Act, R.C. 149.43**, I respectfully request copies of the following public records related to the event referred to as the "Morningside HOA Townhall" meeting, held in April 2025, which included the attendance of multiple City Council members, the Mayor, and the Sheriff

1. **All official city documentation** regarding the scheduling, planning, notice, or participation in the "Morningside HOA Townhall" meeting; including but not limited to calendars, announcements, notices, agendas, or meeting planning materials
2. **All communications (including emails, text messages, and internal messages)** between or among City Council members, the Mayor, city administrative staff, or other city officials **regarding:**
 - o The Morningside HOA Townhall event;
 - o Garon Petty;
 - o The decision or discussion surrounding the nature or status of the event (public vs. private);
 - o Any instructions or discussions about asking individuals to leave the event.
3. **Any records identifying who officially invited City officials** (Mayor, Council members, Sheriff) to attend the Morningside HOA Townhall meeting, including invitations, requests, or correspondences with HOA leadership or residents.
4. **Any records, documentation, or communications that discuss or establish the event as "private,"** including any emails, messages, directives, signage instructions, or verbal guidance provided before or during the event to that effect.

If any portion of this request is denied, please provide the legal authority for the denial as required by **R.C. 149.43(B)(3)** and release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

I am requesting these records in electronic format where possible. If there are any costs associated with the fulfillment of this request, please notify me in advance.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your response within a reasonable period as defined by Ohio law.

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

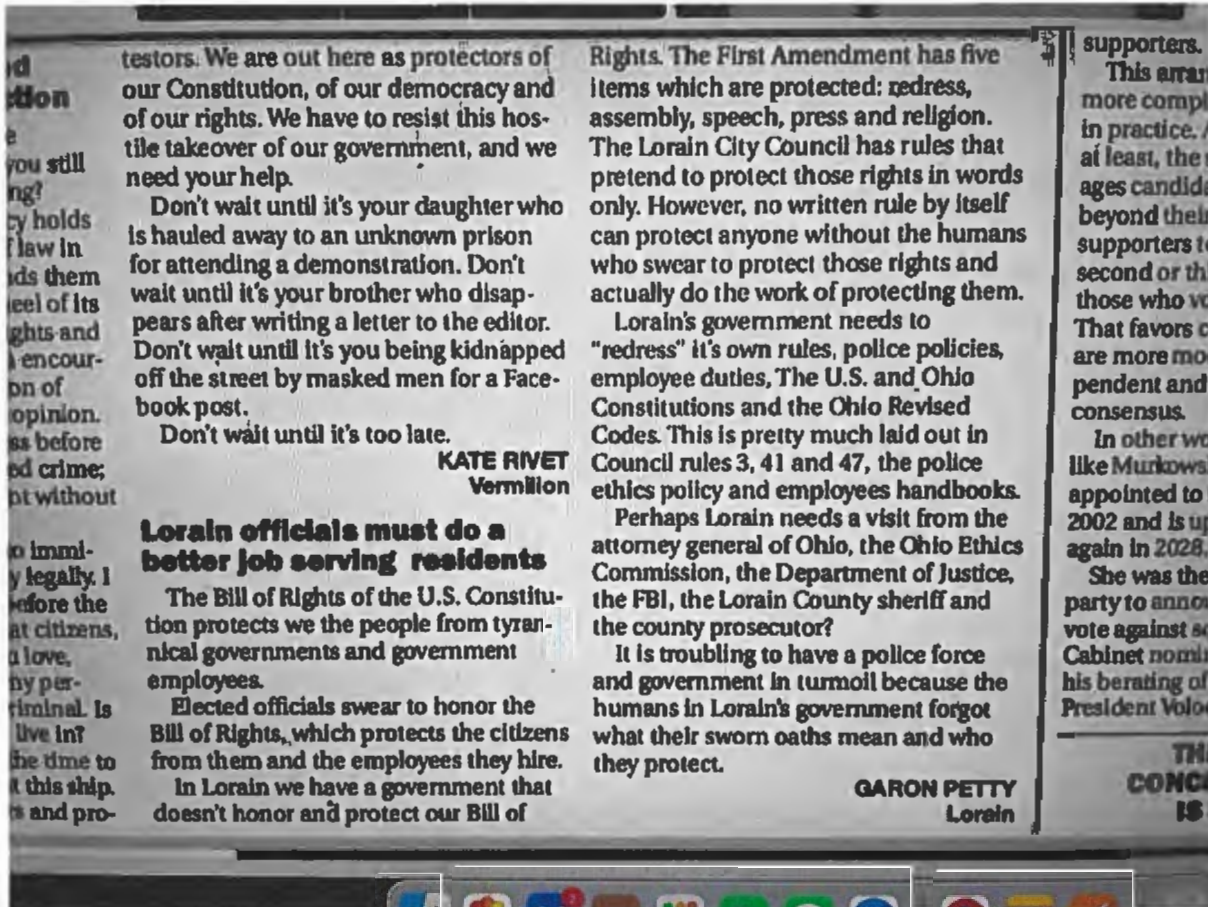
NOTICE: THIS ELECTRONIC MESSAGE TRANSMISSION CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED. THE INFORMATION IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) OR ENTITY(IES) NAMED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ANY DISCLOSURE, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION, OR 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.

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 7:42 AM
To: Robert J Gargas; Andrew Geronimo, JD; David Yost AG; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Patrick Riley; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; Darryl Tucker; Michael Scherach; Mike Mason; Kathryn Kennedy; Aaron Knapp; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Denise Wilms; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; William Bobel; Dennis Flores; Lisa Swenski; rebecca kempton; Natalio Rodriquez; VEK6173@aol.com; Sylvia Duvall; Carissa Woytach; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Linda Rivera; Jackie Conrad; clandestinecanary; Clevescene; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Stephanie Jablonsky; Institute for Justice; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Lindsay Carr; Tony Cillo; Tom Niewulis
Subject: Fwd: "A Town Hall for Some: The Night Lorain Officials Shut the Door on Transparency"

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>
Subject: "A Town Hall for Some: The Night Lorain Officials Shut the Door on Transparency"
Date: April 25, 2025 at 2:00:38 AM EDT
To: garonpetty@roadrunner.com
Reply-To: Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack
<reply+2oifij&5j0f6l&&dfbfe76e64b9f334e8a629d7fd288d9c8586971055eb5e212c7b6bfc372a87b6@mg1.substack.com>

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"A Town Hall for Some: The Night Lorain Officials Shut the Door on Transparency"

By Aaron C. Knapp | Lorain Politics Unplugged

AARON C KNAPP

APR 25



READ IN APP

I. A Gathering in the Shadows

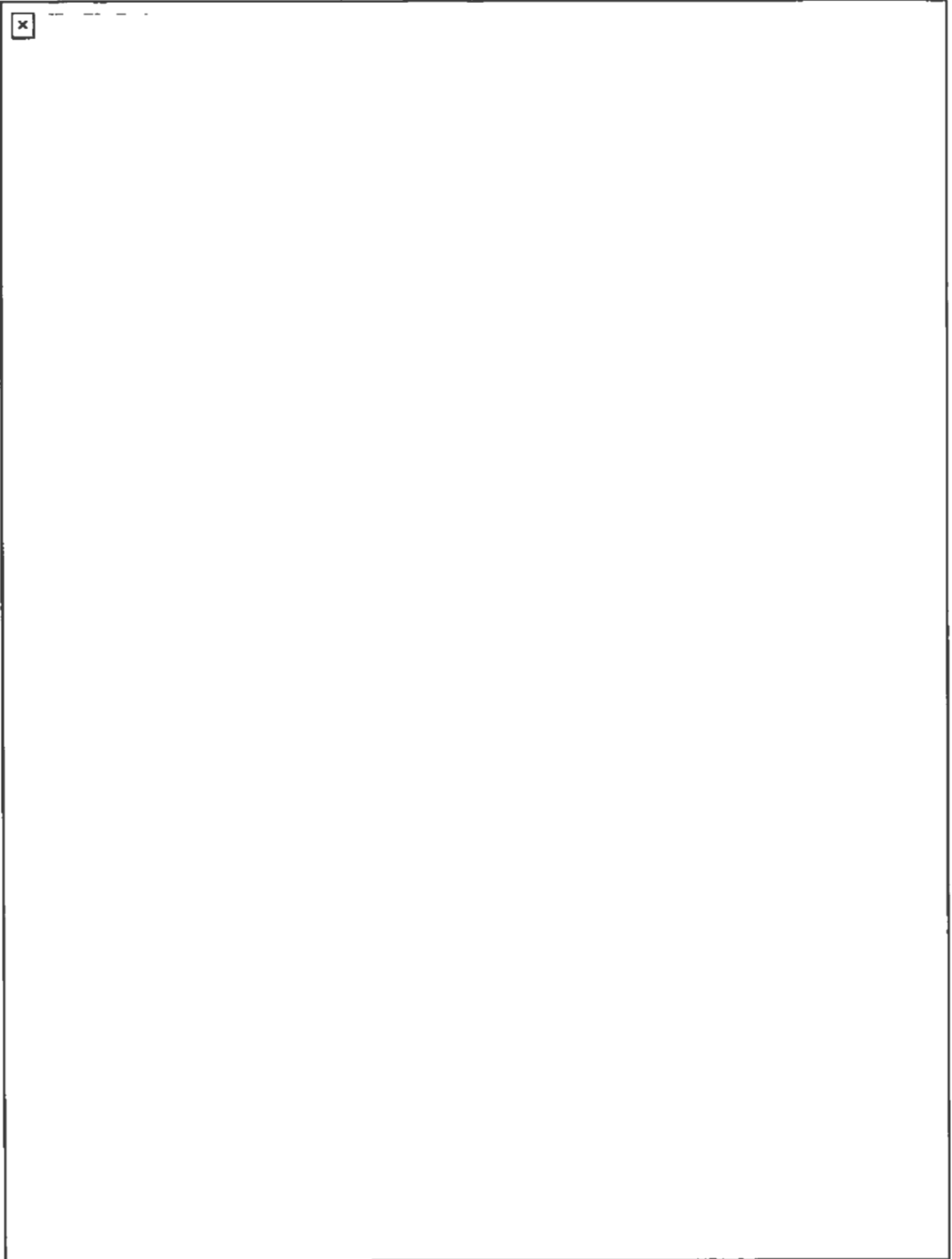
On a quiet evening in Lorain, an event billed as a "town hall" unfolded at the Morningside HOA clubhouse. At first glance, it seemed like a community dialogue: a place where concerned citizens and elected officials could engage in public discussion. Instead, it quickly became a moment of confrontation—a litmus test for the health of transparency in local government.

Garon Petty, a well-known local journalist and government watchdog, attended the event with his wife. They were personally invited by their city council representative. They arrived in good faith, expecting an open forum.

What happened next exposed deeper issues about the way public business is conducted in Lorain—and who gets to witness it.

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"I was invited by our councilperson," Petty later said. "Nobody told us it was only for Morningside residents. And when I looked around, there were people

there who definitely weren't Morningside residents. There was a judge candidate, a few council people, and others I didn't recognize."

Councilwoman Springowski and an unidentified individual began speaking loudly across the room toward Petty and his wife, singling them out without ever directly approaching. The comments escalated into what Petty later described as a "tongue-lashing"—a verbal reprimand that culminated in the assertion that the event was a "private meeting." Only after this verbal exchange were Petty and his wife explicitly told they needed to leave. The message was unmistakable: they were not welcome to stay and observe. The tone and volume of the remarks clearly signaled that he and his wife were expected to leave. This did not come from a uniformed officer or security detail, but rather from someone affiliated with the HOA, seemingly prompted by a whispered exchange with one of the council members present.

In a video recording of the incident, Councilwoman Mary Springowski sounded audibly agitated. She remarked, "I can tell that obviously you're recording me, and now I'm going to be broadcast." Her tone underscored a clear discomfort with being filmed, despite the public setting and her role as an elected official. "I can tell that obviously you're recording me," she said. "And now I'm going to be broadcast." Her tone made it clear she was uncomfortable with being captured on video, despite the public nature of the event and her status as an elected official.

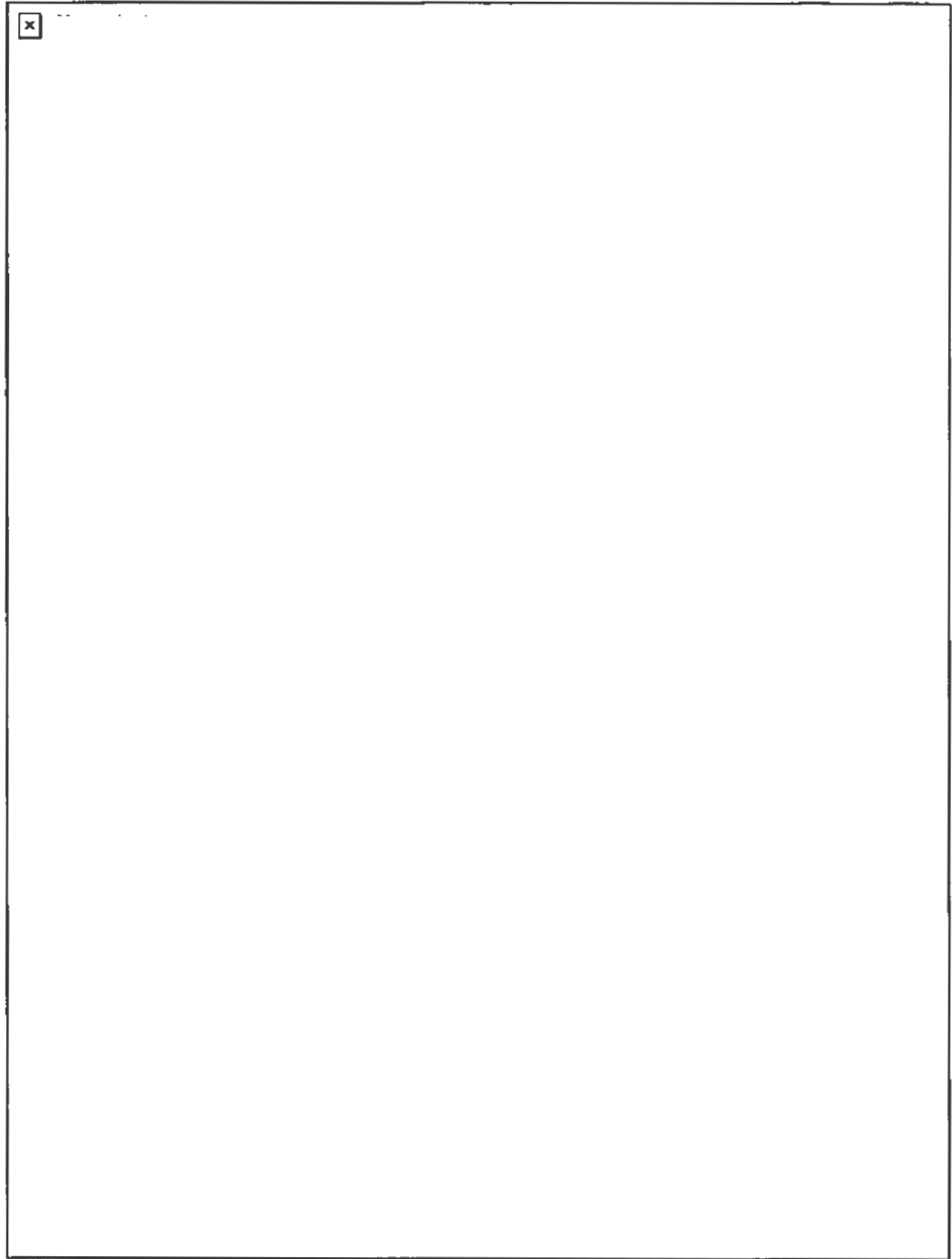
Petty calmly responded, "Are we in public?" The question hung in the air.

"I live in the 7th Ward," Petty clarified. An unidentified voice—possibly an HOA representative—interjected: "I hear you, sir, but this is private property."

Petty pushed back again: "Is this a private meeting?" The same voice replied, "It is a private meeting."

Looking around the room, Petty pointed out the hypocrisy: "The prosecutor, the mayor... and you're going to have a private

meeting without the rest of us?" When no answer came, he concluded, "Yeah, I'm leaving."



Mayor Bradley (left) SHeriff Hall (Right) Video still Credit Garon Petty

Later, Petty stated publicly that he followed up with the Lorain County Sheriff, who was present at the event in uniform. According to Petty, the sheriff consulted with the county prosecutor and confirmed that, based on the number of public officials present and the sheriff's own participation in an official capacity, the gathering indeed qualified as a "public meeting" under Ohio's Open Meetings Act.

The exchange, brief as it was, revealed the deeper question at play: can public officials hold public business meetings behind closed doors, on private property, and eject citizens who come to observe? According to Ohio law, the answer is no.

II. The Law: Ohio's Open Meetings Act

Ohio's Open Meetings Act, codified in **ORC 121.22**, is clear: any prearranged discussion of public business by a majority of a public body must be open to the public. This includes informal gatherings—especially when elected officials discuss city business. If a majority of council members are present, or if the mayor and sheriff are attending in their official capacities to address public concerns, the meeting cannot be hidden behind a veil of "private property."

Transparency is not optional. It's the law.

At this particular meeting, three city council members, the mayor, and the county sheriff were present. According to legal definitions, that constitutes a public meeting. Yet no public notice was issued. No minutes were taken. And when Garon Petty showed up with a camera, they asked him to leave.

Ohio courts have made it clear that the setting of a meeting—be it city hall or a private clubhouse—does not exempt a public body from the requirements of the OMA. If business is discussed and decisions are contemplated, the public has a right to be there.

Councilwoman Springowski’s own words on social media only reinforce this: she publicly posted “Morningside HOA townhall meeting...”—using the very terminology of public accessibility.



Facebook Post Mary Springowski FOr Lorain Page

Yet, when a citizen arrived to document it, he was turned away.

“There were no signs saying residents only,” Petty added. “We were invited. But once they saw who we were, suddenly it was ‘private.’”

That last-minute classification of the event as private, made after citizens showed up to observe, is highly suspect—and potentially unlawful.

And when only select individuals are removed—particularly those critical of or independent from city officials—it doesn’t just raise legal questions. It raises ethical ones.

III. The Moment of Exclusion: A Transcript of Power

The following interaction was captured on camera and serves as a pivotal moment in the debate over the meeting’s legality:

Mary Springowski (Councilwoman At-Large): "I can tell that obviously you're recording me, and now I'm going to be broadcast."

Garon Petty: "Are we in public?"

Springowski: *[No response]*

Petty: "I live in the 7th Ward."

Unknown Voice (Possibly HOA Representative): "I hear you, sir, but this is private property."

Petty: "Is this a private meeting?"

Unknown Voice: "It is a private meeting."

Petty: "The prosecutor, the mayor... and you're going to have a private meeting without the rest of us? ... Yeah, I'm leaving."

This exchange reveals a telling contradiction: public officials claim the authority to conduct business that affects an entire city, yet invoke privacy to control who gets to observe.

Springowski's comment—focused not on the content of Petty's questions but on the fact she was being recorded—speaks volumes. Transparency, it appears, was an inconvenience.

Petty, to his credit, did not escalate the situation. "I didn't want to cause a scene," he said afterward. "I wanted to document what was happening, but I wasn't going to fight to stay where I wasn't welcome—even if the law said I had every right to be there."

He left. But the damage to the public's trust had already been done.

IV. Penalties and Ramifications for Violating Ohio's Open Meetings Act

Violations of Ohio's Open Meetings Act (OMA) carry significant legal and political consequences. The law is not merely a guideline—it has teeth.

Under **ORC 121.22(I)**, any person may bring a lawsuit in the local Court of Common Pleas to enforce compliance. If a court finds that a public body violated the OMA, it can impose a **civil forfeiture of \$500 per violation**. Additionally, the court must award **reasonable attorney's fees and court costs** to the prevailing plaintiff. These provisions are designed not only to compensate citizens for being unlawfully excluded but also to deter public bodies from operating in secrecy.

More importantly, **any actions taken during an unlawful meeting can be invalidated**. That means if decisions or commitments were made during the “private” Morningside town hall, a court could rule them null and void.

Willful violations of an OMA injunction can even result in **removal from public office**. Though rare, this penalty exists for officials who repeatedly or knowingly violate court orders related to the Act.

Beyond legal ramifications, the political consequences can be just as damaging. Exposing a local official's disregard for transparency can erode public trust and raise serious questions about their fitness to serve. When officials show contempt for the very laws that keep government accountable, they forfeit the moral authority to govern.

Councilwoman Springowski and others in attendance may soon find themselves answering difficult questions—not just from constituents, but potentially from a judge.

The incident at Morningside was not just a misstep. It was a line crossed. And in a state that prizes open government, there are consequences for closing the door.

Aaron C. Knapp is a local journalist, disabled veteran, and government accountability advocate based in Lorain, Ohio. This piece is part of an ongoing series published through Lorain Politics Unplugged.

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Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 2:06 AM
To: Sheriff Jack Hall; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Jackie Conrad; Robert J Gargas; mike.brosky@fflorain.bank; Tom Niewulis; lorainnaacp@gmail.com; Tor: Middlebrooks; mark campolo; Natalio Rodriquez; vek6173@aol.com; Sylvia Duvall; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Bradley, Jack; Michael Scherach; Andy Young; Darryl Tucker; Fox 8; Mike Mason; clandestinecanary; Clevescene; jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com; Brian Ames; Garon Petty
Subject: Re: I was told to leave meeting while city officials were allowed to stay. Sunshine Laws violation?

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.

 **NEW REPORT:** A Lorain "town hall" turned into a private club the moment a watchdog journalist showed up with a camera.

Garon Petty was invited. He was calm. He asked, "Are we in public?" What followed was a loud exchange, a forced exit, and a public admission from the sheriff and prosecutor: **this was a public meeting** under Ohio law.

So why was he kicked out?

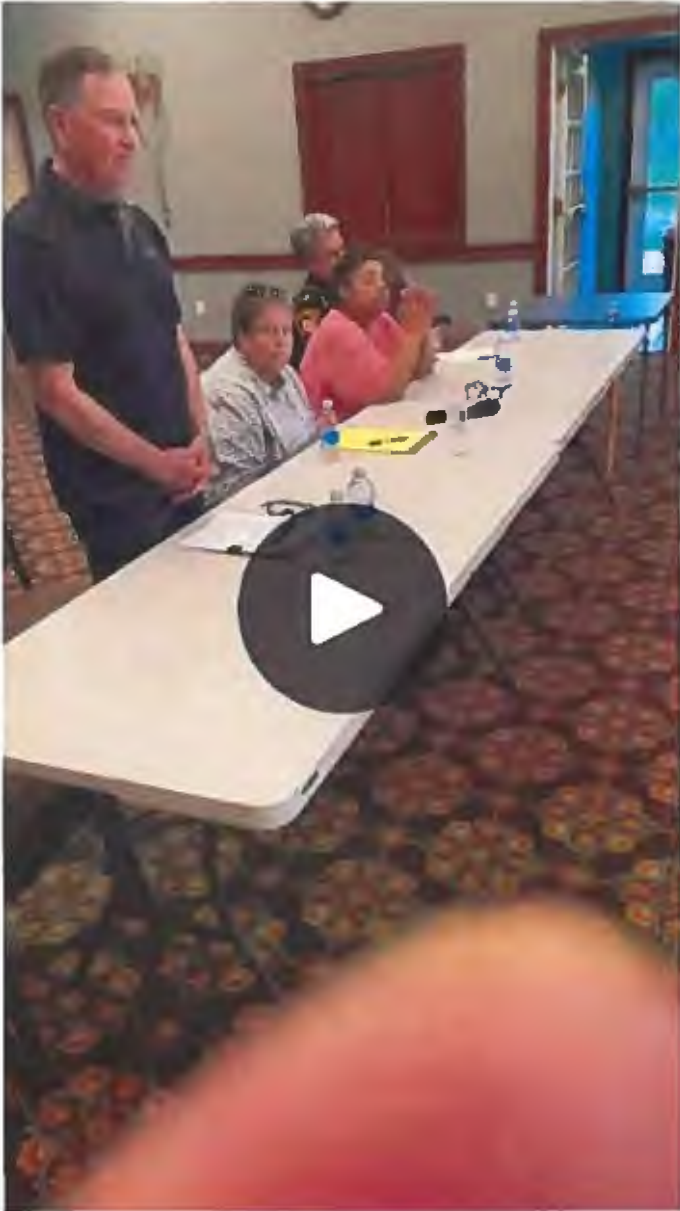
Read the full story here — including the transcript, the law, and the consequences city officials could face for shutting the door on transparency:

https://open.substack.com/pub/lorainpoliticsunplugged/p/a-town-hall-for-some-the-night-lorain?r=5i0eca&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&showWelcomeOnShare=true

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

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On Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 04:28:47 PM EDT, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:



Garon Petty was live. | By Garon |
Facebook
facebook.com

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Aaron Knapp; Brian Ames; Bradley, Jack; City Council Mail Group; Patrick Riley; Robert J Gargas; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Lindsay Carr; Jon Morrow; Brad Dicken; Darryl Tucker; Comer,David; Clevescene; clandestinecanary; Mike Mason
Subject: Re: Texting

Meeting: City Council Committee Meeting
lorainoh.suiteonemedia.com



On Apr 15, 2025, at 3:16 PM, Garon Petty <onelong2014@gmail.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Garon Petty** <onelong2014@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 15, 2025 at 3:15 PM
Subject: Re: Texting
To: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Cc: Breanna Dull <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>, Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>

Here is the meeting on demand from the April 14, 2025 Lorain Council Committee Meeting.

<https://lorainoh.suiteonemedia.com/event/?id=2832>

On Tue, Apr 15, 2025 at 4:56 AM Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:
I received the emails you sent in a different account. Thank you now i just need there's.
Apologies for any confusion.

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

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On Apr 14, 2025, at 18:36, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

So at 18:22 hrs angel Arroyo is seen texting or Facebook scrolling while in council meeting earlier I saw Mr. Thornsberry. I'm writing a story on the fact that council members won't stop texting during the Lorain City Council meeting. I'm watching as Arroyo is still on his phone at the 1825 mark.

I want copies of all messages sent or received during the meeting, per the open meetings act.

It's 18:26 and I'm watching Thornsberry and Arroyo texting right now.

Please turn over all messages and phone activity of all council phones during the time the meeting was in session on 4/14/2025.

I'm forwarding this Brian Ames so perhaps he can get you to comply.

Madam clerk I'm still waiting on the emails you sent and received in a previous request.

Also I'd like to request copies of ALL of city councils Sunshine Law Certificates as required by Council Rules.

Texting during open meetings can raise concerns under Ohio's Open Meetings Act, as it could be considered a form of communication that constitutes a "meeting" if it involves the discussion of public business between a majority of board members. While not explicitly prohibited, it's crucial to ensure that any electronic communication, including texting, does not circumvent the requirement for open and public deliberation of public business.

In Ohio, the Ohio Supreme Court has determined that texting, like other electronic communication, can violate the Open Meetings Act if it constitutes a prearranged, private discussion of public business by a majority of a public body. This means that even though texting may not be explicitly mentioned in the law, it can still be considered a form of "meeting" that needs to be conducted openly.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- **What the Open Meetings Act requires:**

The OMA generally requires that public bodies conduct all deliberations and official actions in open meetings that the public can attend and observe.

- **Electronic communication and the OMA:**

The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that any form of communication, including text messages, email, or even tweets, can be considered a "meeting" under the OMA if it involves a prearranged discussion of public business by a majority of the public body.

- **Violations:**

If a majority of a public body engages in private, prearranged discussions about public business through text messages, it could be seen as a violation of the OMA.

- **Consequences:**

Violations of the OMA can lead to penalties for the public body, as outlined in the law.

- **Key takeaways:**

Public bodies should be mindful that texting, like other electronic communication, can be considered a meeting under the OMA and should not be used for prearranged, private discussions about public business.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, Independent Reporter

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Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 8:47 AM
To: Robert J Gargas; Dennis Flores; Denise Wilms; Jon Morrow; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; City Council Mail Group; Lindsay Carr; Icp@Icprosecutor.org; Tony Cillo; Tom Niewulis; Sheriff Jack Hall; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; mark campolo; Natalio Rodriguez; rebecca kempton; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Carissa Woytach; Heather Chapin; Darryl Tucker; Lisa Swenski; Linda Rivera; Jackie Conrad; Jay Shore; Michael Scherach
Subject: Fwd: False Statements

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please read..

Begin forwarded message:

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Subject: Re: False Statements
Date: April 17, 2025 at 8:42:22 AM EDT
To: Garon Petty <onelong2014@gmail.com>

On Apr 17, 2025, at 8:40 AM, Garon Petty <onelong2014@gmail.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 8:33 AM
Subject: Re: False Statements
To: Jacob Morris <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>, Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>, Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>, Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>, City Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>, Ohio Auditor <press@ohioauditor.gov>, Garon Petty <onelong2014@gmail.com>
Cc: Lorain_Records <lorain_records@lorain.boe.ohio.gov>

Correction I "haven't" spoken to Morrow since March.

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

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On Apr 17, 2025, at 08:30, Aaron Knapp
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Chief James McCann is listed in a sheriff report as having regurgitated and repeated lies about heresy statements made by Jon Morrow to deputies about me. I want him charged.

Since the Oberlin prosecutors has refused charges on me and Hilton was the driving force, McCanns involved by admission, and Hilton has filed a PO.

I have all the proof this never happened, Morrow lied, and I hope he recorded the call, I record a lot of conversations.

So now your chief has participated again in ongoing harassment against me. I want a report against Morrow as well as McCann and copies of any communications McCann has had with Hilton in regards to Knapp on any phone, computer, or device.

You people are so screwed. This is the last straw. I have so much evidence on all of you.

I have spoken to Morrow since 3/27 so his statements are false and McCann is Bringing the 1.66 gpa big brain and believed then.

You guys are so screwed.

Give me my records or we go to court of claims.

I will be publishing the report showing how A Journal reporter gave up sources as well as shared lies to the police. Great job Heather! Great Job Jon! Great Job McCann! Great Job Lorain!

I want every message between Jane's McCan and Tia Hilton on any work device and any work related on personal devices.

You have 10 days.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, citizen

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Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 9:15 AM
To: Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; Patrick Riley; Comer, David; City Council Mail Group
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Lindsay Carr; David Yost AG; Darryl Tucker; clandestinecanary; Kathryn Kennedy; Brad Dicken; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Jackie Conrad; Bradley, Jack; Natalio Rodriquez; VEK6173@aol.com; rebecca kempton; Carrion, Rey; Carissa Woytach; Noelle Williams; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Lisa Swenski; Dennis Flores; Denise Wilms; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Michael Scherach; Fox 8; Institute for Justice; Stephanie Jablonsky; jeanne Petty; Tori Middlebrooks; Sheriff Jack Hall; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com
Subject: Re: Public records as required by Council rule 41.

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Please respond this is your duty.

On Apr 21, 2025, at 8:40 AM, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

Good morning,

When will I receive the certificates of completion (Sunshine Laws and other required courses) that is required by council rule 41?

I have asked per 149.43 public records. Please explain why I haven't received an explanation for my requests. I asked on March 21, 2025.

cityoflorain.org



Thank you for your Response ASAP.
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 2:14 AM
To: City Council Mail Group; Judge_Mihok@CityofLorain.org; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Patrick Riley; Joel Arredondo; Don Zaleski; Joe K Auditor; Jacob Morris; Rocky Radeff; Tony Cillo; Maggie Partin; Kenneth Resar; Joseph Pritchard; Chief McCann; Aaron Knapp; Teresa Upton; jfr_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; David david@yesce.com Moore
Cc: Marty Gallagher; MARTY GALLAGHER; renzlawllc@gmail.com; Renz LLC
Subject: Mind Blowing CV19 Bioweapon Vax Still on Market – Dr. Sherri Tenpenny | Greg Hunter's USAWatchdog

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. <https://usawatchdog.com/mind-blowing-cv19-bioweapon-vax-still-on-market-dr-sherri-tenpenny/>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 3:39 PM
To: Garon Petty; Riley, Patrick; Comer,David; City Council Mail Group; Bradley,Jack
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Jon Morrow; Aaron Knapp; Kathryn Kennedy; Jackie Conrad; Natalio Rodriquez; rebecca kempton; jeanne Petty; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Lindsay Carr; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov
Subject: RE: Blocked by city official.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Petty,

You're not. However, please refer to Mr. Comer's email sent to you on January 14th, which explains what was happening the last time you received this message from Google.

Regards,

Breanna Dull, CMC
Clerk of Lorain City Council
200 West Erie Avenue
Lorain, Ohio 44052

440.204.2050
440.204.2521 fax

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 3:23 PM
To: Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Comer,David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Jon Morrow <greaterlorainareacaucus@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>; rebecca kempton <REK5767@aol.com>; jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@yahoo.com>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@OhioAGO.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov
Subject: Blocked by city official.

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I'm blocked by the city council clerk? Someone please explain why.

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
to me ▾

3:16 PM (1 minute ago)



Message blocked

Your message to Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.

⌵



Beko, Michele

From: Partin, Maggie <Maggie_Partin@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Aaron Knapp; Koziura, Joseph; City Council Mail Group; Jackie Conrad; Bradley, Jack; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Zaleski, Don
Subject: RE: Request
Attachments: 048-24 (1).pdf; 035-25.pdf

Good morning,

Per your request, please see attached budgets for 2024/2025.

Thank you,

Maggie Partin

Deputy Clerk of Lorain City Council
200 West Erie Avenue
Lorain, Ohio 44052

440.204.2050
440.204.2521 fax

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 3:50 AM
To: Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Request

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I'm still waiting on this records request. AND as you passed the permanent budget I think it should be available?

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

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On Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 09:46:10 PM EST, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I'd like to request last years budget (2024) and the upcoming one (2025) the complete budget.
Thank you.

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

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