

Why is Lorain City Council President and members not obeying their OWN voted on rules?

Garon Petty
3728 Ivanhoe Dr.
Lorain, Ohio 44053
440-670-2274

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:46 AM
To: Jack Bradley
Cc: Robert J. Gargasz; Rey Carrion; Mike Failing; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobraKai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; Joseph LaVeck; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@pland.com
Subject: Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mayor Bradley,

In your June 25 response, you stated that this matter is now “being handled by our legal department” and that further correspondence should be directed to legal counsel.

Accordingly, pursuant to R.C. 149.43(B)(1) of the Ohio Public Records Act, I am issuing a formal and time-sensitive demand for the following information:

1. The name, title, and direct contact information for the attorney (or firm) currently representing the City of Lorain—and/or you in your official or individual capacity—with regard to my pending whistleblower, civil rights, and tortious interference claims.
2. The name and contact information of the City’s official records custodian responsible for complying with public records requests under Ohio law.

If the City is represented solely by its in-house counsel, please confirm that Law Director Riley is the appropriate point of contact and that Assistant Law Director Joseph LaVeck is acting under her supervision in this matter. If outside legal counsel has been retained, disclosure of their identity and contact details is required under Ohio law and cannot be withheld.

Please also be advised that obstructing access to public legal contact information—particularly after selectively disclosing information to media outlets—may constitute an unlawful denial of public records and trigger enforcement under R.C. 149.43(C), as well as judicial remedies and potential statutory damages.

This is a formal demand with a firm deadline. I expect a complete response no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, June 28, 2025.

If I do not receive a direct response from the appropriate legal counsel by that time, I will escalate this matter to the Ohio Attorney General's Public Records Division and, if necessary, seek enforcement through Lorain County Common Pleas Court.

Sincerely,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

4220 Talbot Lane

Lorain, OH 44055

a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

(216) 659-9899

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 11:34, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Bradley,

Thank you for your response.

While I acknowledge that the City has referred this matter to legal counsel, please be advised that I am fully within my constitutional rights to continue corresponding with elected and appointed public officials regarding matters of public concern—particularly those involving allegations of civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and misuse of public resources.

As a private citizen and whistleblower, my right to petition the government is explicitly protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. This includes the right to directly contact government officials in matters affecting public integrity, policy, and public safety.

- In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that citizens (and public employees) have the right to speak on matters of public concern without fear of retaliation or suppression.
- In *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64 (1964), the Court affirmed that public officials are subject to public scrutiny and criticism as a core component of democratic accountability.
- *California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508 (1972), further established the right to petition government bodies and officials as “among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.”

Furthermore, public officials may not shield themselves from direct accountability by unilaterally declaring that only legal counsel may be contacted, especially when the communication involves documented

allegations of abuse of power under color of law (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and violations of anti-retaliation provisions under both Ohio and federal whistleblower laws.

If the City chooses to coordinate its formal response through legal channels, that is its prerogative. However, it does not—and cannot—preclude me from communicating directly with those entrusted to serve the public.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:48, Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you. Jack

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM

To: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rigargas@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams

<noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>
Subject: Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Camion, Acting Chief Faling, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood HR:

As an 80% service-connected veteran with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social worker, and a former Crossroads clinician, I have endured a two-year campaign of retaliation, defamation, and unlawful interference at your hands. Now, newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most notably those exchanged with Bill Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—confirm beyond doubt how Chief McCann weaponized his office:

- 1. Board Communications (Bill Hegerty) – Irrefutable Proof of Retaliation**
In May 2023, Bill Hegerty (CSWMFT Board member) emailed Chief McCann expressing shock that my protected complaints were portrayed as “unethical conduct.” Those exchanges show McCann intentionally misrepresenting my advocacy to Hegerty, prompting a bad-faith licensing complaint that wasted thousands of city man-hours and resources.
- 2. Unlawful Disclosure & Defamation**
McCann sent Applewood/Crossroads and Administrator Weitzel unredacted copies of my private LPD complaints (screens marked “CLEIRS Administrative”), falsely branding me “unhinged” and “erratic.” That defamation destroyed my reputation and led directly to my termination—despite Hegerty warning McCann the allegations lacked any factual basis.
- 3. Tortious Interference**
By leveraging his office to poison both Applewood and the Court against me, Chief McCann—acting with Weitzel’s cooperation—intentionally induced breach of my employment agreements, costing me over \$49,000 in salary, benefits, sign-on bonuses, and five weeks’ vacation. Applewood only reinstated my GAL role after I sued; they never restored my Crossroads clinician position, compounding my economic and reputational harm.
- 4. Color-of-Law Abuse & Harassment**
Despite explicit requests to cease, Chief McCann continued emailing me from @cityoflorain.gov—violating Ohio’s Telecommunications Harassment statute (R.C. 2917.21). Your own policies promise discipline for such conduct—yet none was taken.
- 5. Disability-Based Targeting**
As a documented PTSD sufferer with a service dog, I was traumatized when McCann labeled my startle response “irrational” and exploited my disability to justify his misconduct.

One-Time Settlement Offer: \$450,000

In light of these indisputable facts and to avoid protracted litigation, I hereby extend a one-time offer to release all claims against the City of Lorain, Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Chief McCann, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood Centers—for a total settlement of \$450,000. This offer expires at 5 PM on Friday, July 12, 2025. Please refer this email to your insurers or delay; if I do not receive a binding acceptance by that deadline, I will initiate suit immediately.

Why \$450,000 Is Exceptionally Fair

- **Conservative Verdict Estimate:** A jury could easily award over \$1.2 million when accounting for lost wages, reputational harm, emotional distress, and punitive damages.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** Settling at \$450K conserves city and court resources—avoiding costly depositions, discovery, and trial logistics.
- **Proportionality:** My demand is just 37% of the projected high-end verdict, striking a reasonable balance between the harm suffered and the risks of continued litigation.

The enclosed LaVeck → Hegerty email chain leaves no room for doubt. I await your prompt acknowledgment.

Addendum:

I also strongly urge you to tender this settlement demand to your liability insurer—CORSA (or your designated provider)—immediately upon receipt, to ensure prompt coverage and avoid any unnecessary coverage disputes.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp
4220 Talbot Lane
Lorain, OH 44055
(216) 859-9899
a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

Enclosure: LaVeck → Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Riley, Patrick; LaVeck, Joseph
Subject: Re: assume you have seen this . I would request a copy of those emails under a public records request that were sent to Knapp for my own records thank you I can file a formal request if you so wish at were sent to Knapp a

External sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Yes sorry the yahoo decided to do its own thing , the same information you sent Knapp in the last few days. Thank yu

On Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 11:01:54 AM EDT, LaVeck, Joseph <joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mrs. Ritchey:

To be clear, are you requesting the two most recent tranches of records sent to Mr. Knapp due to his public records requests?

Thank you,

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:50 AM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: assume you have seen this . I would request a copy of those emails under a public records request