

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 1:06 PM
To: Joseph LaVeck; Mike Failing; Robert J. Gargas; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Robert Gargas; Garon Petty; City Group; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Jacob Morris; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Fox 8; Mike Massie; Clevescene; Andrew Geronimo JD; Brian Ames; Jonathan Schuppe
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your response. While I appreciate your referral to others on the email chain, the City—specifically your office—is still obligated to clarify the public record status of any referenced “investigation,” especially when prior correspondence from Chief McCann directly stated that such an investigation was “ongoing.”

To that end, I respectfully reiterate the following:

1. **Clarification Required:** What exactly was the nature and scope of the “investigation” referred to by Chief McCann? Was it internal, administrative, or external in nature? Who initiated it, and what agency or department led or documented it?
2. **Record Custodianship:** If you are not the custodian of those records, I ask that you identify the appropriate department or individual who is. Referring me to unnamed individuals “on the chain” is insufficient under R.C. 149.43, which requires a good faith effort to identify and produce public records.
3. **Email Record Obligation:** As stated previously, any record—including emails—created by public employees using public resources, which document official actions or communications (even informal investigations), are presumptively public unless a specific statute exempts them. No such exemption has been clearly cited regarding the supposed investigation.

If the City maintains no documentation whatsoever of this investigation, that in itself is concerning and raises further questions regarding procedure and accountability.

Absent a more complete response, I will move forward with a complaint to the Ohio Court of Claims pursuant to R.C. 2743.75, and preserve all rights under the Ohio Public Records Act.

Respectfully,

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA, BSSW

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

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

On Jun 23, 2025, at 12:51, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Perhaps those persons on the email chain are better suited to answer that question.

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: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 10:47 AM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

What was the “investigation” then? McCann stated it was still ongoing?

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

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

On Jun 23, 2025, at 10:20, LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please see the attached records responsive to your request. I will request a copy of the attachment. The City of Lorain does not have records responsive to your request with respect to the “investigation.”

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: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 8:08 PM

To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>

Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

And what was the “investigation” he was speaking of? That was “wrapped up soon”. Can you please provide this investigation?

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

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

On Jun 18, 2025, at 19:57, Aaron Knapp
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I appreciate the response. Can you provide the other end of that conversation as well?

It seems there are replies that then Chief McCann was asking for.

Any responses the chief received sent or received in regards to this.

And I can ask the Department but can you clarify who Lt. Tim Thompson is?

And can you provide the attachments that were sent with that email. It states he sent attachments.

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

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

On Jun 18, 2025, at 13:35, LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please find the attached records responsive to your
public records request.

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: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 10:02 AM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and
Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

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

You have 3 days I wish to inspect the records
now. After I will file a mandamus act. This is not
a reasonable time frame.

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

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

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

On Jun 18, 2025, at 09:27, LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. Your request is still being processed. Thank you for your continued patience.

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: Aaron Knapp
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:58 PM
To: LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Robert J. Gargasz
<rjgargasz@gmail.com>; David Yost AG
<AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Mike
Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records
Denial and Misapplication of R.C.
149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Two more weeks and still nothing.
Can you even do your job?
Please provide my records.

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

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

On Jun 3, 2025, at 15:58, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

It doesn't take this long. Stop and just do what is required and provide them in a timely manner.

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

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

On Jun
3,

2025,
at
11:36,
LaVec
k,
Josep
h
<[Joseph
h_LaV
eck@c
ityoflo
rain.or
g](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>
wrote:

Mr.
Knapp:

The
City is
still
working
on
process
ing
your
public
records
request
.

Thank
you.

Best
Regards
,

Joseph
T.
LaVeck
, Esq
Chief
Asst.
Law
Directo
r &
Police
Legal

Adviso
r
200 W.
Erie
Avenu
e, 3rd
Floor
Lorain,
Ohio
44052
[joseph
_lavec
k@city
oflorai
n.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

From:
LaVeck,
Joseph
Sent:
Wedne
sday,
May
28,
2025
1:22
PM
To:
'Aaron
Knapp'
<[a4xbe
averma
n@yah
oo.com](mailto:a4xberma@yahoocom)>

Subject
: RE:
Respon
se to
Public
Records
Denial
and
Misappl
ication
of R.C.
149.43(
A)(1)(v)

Mr.
Knapp:
10

As you know, the Law Department is not the repository of records that may be responsive to your request. Your request is being processed, and I will have a response to you as soon as possible. I appreciate your continued patience.

Thank you.

Best Regards
,

Joseph
T.
LaVeck
, Esq
Chief
Asst.
Law
Directo

r &
Police
Legal
Adviso
r
200 W.
Erie
Avenu
e, 3rd
Floor
Lorain,
Ohio
44052
[joseph
_lave
ck@city
oflorai
n.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

From:
Aaron
Knapp
<[a4xbe
averma
n@yah
oo.com](mailto:a4xberman@yahoo.com)
>

Sent:
Wedne
sday,
May
28,
2025
12:36
PM

To:
LaVeck,
Joseph
<[Josep
h LaVe
ck@city
oflorain
.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>

Subject
: Re:
Respon
se to
Public
Records
Denial

and
Misappl
ication
of R.C.
149.43(
A)(1)(v)

**Extern
al
sender
<[a4xber
man@yah
oo.com](mailto:a4xberman@yahoo.com)
>
Make
sure
you
trust
this
sender
before
taking
any
actions**

Its been
15 days
on this
matter
(and
longer
due to
previou
s
denials)
please
accept
this as
3 days
notice
of intent
to file
with
court of
claims.

**Aaron
Christo
pher
Knapp,
BSSW,**

**LSW,
CDCA
NASW
Member
r
ID: 886
836612**

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

E BE
AWAR
E THAT
ANY
DISCL
OSURE

,
COPYI
NG,
DISTR
BUTIO
N, OR
USE
OF
THE
CONTE
NTS
OF
THIS
INFOR
MATIO
N IS
PROHI
BITED.

IF
YOU
HAVE
RECEI
VED
THIS
ELECT
RONIC
TRANS
MISSIO
N IN
ERRO
R,
PLEAS
E
IMMED
IATELY
NOTIF
Y THE
SENDE
R AND
DELET
E THE
COPY
YOU
RECEI
VED.

On
Tuesda
y, May
13,
2025 at
02:28:5
3 PM

EDT,
Aaron
Knapp
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
> wrote:

1. On July 24, 2023, at 16:05, Laveck Joseph <josephlaveck@kcc.edu>

M r . K n a p p . . . l a s s i m p l y i n f o r m i n g y o u t h a t

... e e t o r w v p r l o . p i i e n i o i n f i o v k t i i

I am unaware of any complaint being made against you, but even if there was

a c c o p l a i n t m a d e o r i n f o r m a t i o n p r o v i d e d b y C i t y o f L o r a i n e e m p l o y e e s

t h e B o a r d ; a n y c o m p l a i n t o r i n f o r m a t i o n p r o v i d e d w o u l d b e c o n f i d e n t i a l

I
a
n
d
t
h
e
r
e
f
o
r
e
n
o
t
a
p
u
b
l
i
c
r
e
c
o
r
d
.
S
e
e
R
.
C
.
1
4
9
.
4
3
(
A
)
(
1
)
(
v
)
S
e
e
a
l
s
o
R

C
4
7
5
7
3
8
(
B
)
(
1
)

T
H
A
N
K
Y
O
U

B
E
S
T
R
E
G
A
R
D
S

J
O
S
E
P
H
T

L
A
V
E
C
K

E
S
Q

A s s i s t a n t L a w D i r e c t o r & P o l i c e L e g a l A d v i s o r 2 0 0 W E r i e A v e n u e , 3 r d F l o

233 : 46 PM TO : L a V e c k , J o s e p h S u b j e c t : R e : P u b l i c R e c o r d s R e q u e s t

T o b e c l e a r i t w a s s p e c i f i c a l l y s t a t e d t o t h e B o a r d t h a t i t w a s t h e " L o r a i n

P
o
l
i
c
e
D
e
p
a
r
t
m
e
n
t
n
o
t
o
n
e
p
a
r

S
o
a
s
t
h
e
l
e
g
a
l
a
d
v
i
s
o

r
a
n
d
l
a
w
d
i
r
e
c
t
o
r
a
r
e
y
o
u
s
a
y
i
n
g
t
h
a
t
s
o
m
e
o
n
e
w
i
t
h
i
n
t
h
e
d
e
p
a
r
t
m
e
n
t
f
i
l
e

d
t
h
i
s
c
o
m
p
l
a
i
n
t
a
n
d
c
l
a
i
m
e
d
t
o
r
e
p
r
e
s
e
n
t
t
h
e
P
o
l
i
c
e
D
e
p
a
r
t
m
e
n
t
a
s
a
n
a
g
e

n
c
y
?

W
e
b
o
t
h
k
n
o
w
i
t
w
a
s
t
h
e
c
h
i
e
f
w
h
o
h
a
s
h
a
r
a
s
s
e
d
m
e
s
i
n
c
e
t
h
e
d
e
p
a
r
t

m
e
n
t
d
e
c
i
d
e
d
t
o
b
r
e
a
k
t
h
e
l
a
w
.
A
l
s
o
n
o
w
m
y
e
m
p
l
o
y
m
e
n
t
h
a
s
b
e
e

d

S
o
y
o
u
'
r
e
s
t
a
t
i
n
g
t
h
a
t
f
i
l
i
n
g
a
f
a
l
s
e
c
o
m
p
l
a
i
n
t
s
a
y
i
n
g
t
h
a
t
y
o
u
r
e

r e s e n t t h e L o r a i n P o l i c e i s n ' t a m a t t e r o f p u b l i c r e c o r d ?

! . M g o i n n g t

o
t
h
e
c
o
u
r
t
o
f
c
l
a
i
m
s
n
e
x
t
b
u
t
I
n
e
e
d
e
d
t
o
g
i
v
e
y
o
u
a
n
o
p
p
o
r
t
u
n
i
t
y
t
o
r
e
s
p
o
n

d
l
v
e
t
r
i
e
d
m
y
b
e
s
t
t
o
h
a
n
d
l
e
t
h
i
s
o
u
t
o
f
c
o
u
r
t
A
s
i
m
p
l
e
a
p
o
l
o
g
y
a
n
d
a
f
i
x

o
f
t
h
e
p
r
o
b
l
e
m
.

T
o
b
e
c
l
e
a
r
l
y
w
i
t
n
e
s
s
e
d
t
h
e
L
o
r
a
i
n
P
o
l
i
c
e
p
o
s
t
i
l
l
e
g
a
l

d
o
c
u
m
e
n
t
s
o
n
l
i
n
e
a
n
d
t
r
i
e
d
i
t
o
r
e
p
o
r
t
i
t
a
s
a
w
h
i
s
t
l
e
b
l
o
w
e
r
.
A
s
s
u
c
h
l
c
o
n
s

i d e r m y s e l f p r o t e c t e d u n d e r s t a t e a n d f e d e r a l l a w .

A n d i . v e g i v e n t h e

c
i
t
y
m
u
l
t
i
p
l
e
o
p
p
o
r
t
u
n
i
t
i
e
s
t
o
d
e
a
l
w
i
t
h
t
h
i
s
t
h
e
r
i
g
h
t
w
a
y
.
I
n
s
t
e
a
d
m
y
e

m
p
l
o
y
m
e
n
t
h
a
s
b
e
e
n
a
t
t
a
c
k
e
d
a
n
d
m
y
l
i
c
e
n
s
e
t
h
r
e
a
t
e
n
e
d
w
h
e
n
t
h
e
p
o
l
i
c
e
r

o k e t h e l a w .

I , m n o t t h e o n e w h o p o s t e d j u v e n i l e c o u r t r e c o r d s o n l i n e i

n
v
i
o
l
a
t
i
o
n
o
f
O
h
i
o
R
e
v
i
s
e
d
C
o
d
e

I
n
t
h
e
e
n

d
I
t
h
i
n
k
i
t
,
s
a
t
m
i
n
i
m
u
m
a
m
a
t
t
e
r
o
f
p
u
b
l
i
c
r
e
c
o
r
d
t
o
i
n
q
u
i
r
e
w
h
o
f
i
l
e
d
t
h
e

c
o
m
p
l
a
i
n
t
r
e
p
r
e
s
e
n
t
i
n
g
a
p
u
b
l
i
c
a
g
e
n
c
y
?

A
a
r
o
n
C
h
r
i
s
t
o
p
h
e
r
K
n
a
p
p
L

S
W
'
C
D
C
A
(
P
)
'
B
S
S
W

N
O
T
I
C
E

T
H
I
S
E
L
E
C
T
R
O
N
I
C
M
E
S
S
A
G
E
T
R
A
N
S
M
I
S
S
I
O
N
C
O

N
T
A
I
N
S
I
N
F
O
R
M
A
T
I
O
N
W
H
I
C
H
M
A
Y
B
E
C
O
N
F
I
D
E
N
T
I
A
L
O
R
P
R
I
V
I
L
E
G
E
D
.
T
H
E
I
N
F
O

R M A T I O N I S I N T E N D E D O N L Y F O R T H E U S E O F T H E I N D I V I D U A L (S) O R E N T I T Y (I E S)

NAMED ABOVE

IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT

T A N Y D I S C L O S U R E ' C O P Y I N G ' D I S T R I B U T I O N ' O R U S E O F T H E C O N T E N T S O F T H I S

N
F
O
R
M
A
T
I
O
N
I
S
P
R
O
H
I
B
I
T
E
D

I
F
Y
O
U
H
A
V
E
R
E
C
E
I
V
E
D
T
H
I
S
E
L
E
C
T
R
O
N
I
C
T
R
A
N
S

M I S S I O N I N E R R O R . P L E A S E I M M E D I A T E L Y N O T I F Y T H E S E N D E R A N D D E L E T E T H E C O

P Y Y O U R R E C E I V E D

O N J U L Y

2 4 , 2 0 2 3

at 1 3 : 1 8

La V e c k

J o s e p h

L a V e c k

.. e r o r z v p r l o r i p i r l o r i r t l o r k r i r i o p k i o i e k

M
r
. K
n
a
p
p
:
P
l
e
a
s
e
f
i
n
d
t
h
i
s
c
o
r
r
e

s p o n d e n c e t o s e r v e a s t h e r e s p o n s e t o y o u r p u b l i c r e c o r d s r e q u e s t d a t e d J

u
l
y
2
3
. 2
0
2
3
. A
t
t
h
i
s
t
i
m
e
. t
h
e
C
i
t
y
o
f
L
o
r
a
i
n
d
o
e
s
n
o
t
p
o
s
s
e
s
s
n
o
r
i
s
a
w
a
r
e

o f a n y c o m p l a i n t a l l e g e d l y m a d e a g a i n s t y o u , a n d e v e n i f a C i t y e m p l o y e e

i d m a k e s u c h a c o m p l a i n t , s u c h c o m p l a i n t w o u l d n o t b e s u b j e c t t o d i s c l o s u

r
e
p
u
r
s
u
a
n
t
o
R
.
C
1
4
9
.
4
3
(
A
)
(
1
)
(
v
)
.

T
h
a
n
k
y
o
u
.

B
e
s
t
R
e
g
a
r
d
s
.

J
o
s
e
p
h
T
.
L
a
V
e
c
k
.
E
s
q
A
s
s
i
s
t
a
n
t
L
a
w
D
i
r
e
c
t
o
r
&
P
o
l
i
c
e
L
e
g
a
l
A
d
v
i
s
o
r
2

00W
Erie Avenue
3rd Floor
Lorain
Ohio 44052

Joseph Lavack
© City of

**Aaron
Christopher
Knapp,
BSSW,
LSW,
CDCA
NASW
Member
r
ID: 886
836612**

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)
NAME
D
ABOVE
. IF
YOU
ARE
NOT
THE
INTEN
DED
RECIPI
ENT,
PLEAS
E BE
AWAR
E THAT
ANY
DISCL
OSURE

,
COPYI
NG,
DISTR
IBUTIO
N, OR
USE
OF
THE
CONTE
NTS
OF
THIS
INFOR
MATIO
N IS
PROHI
BITED.
IF
YOU
HAVE
RECEI
VED
THIS
ELECT
RONIC
TRANS
MISSIO
N IN
ERRO
R,
PLEAS
E
IMMED
IATELY
NOTIF
Y THE
SENDE
R AND

DELET
E THE
COPY
YOU
RECEI
VED.

On
Tuesda
y, May
13,
2025 at
02:25:2
7 PM
EDT,
Aaron
Knapp
<[a4xbe
averma
n@yah
oo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)
> wrote:

Underst
ood. I
know
this
was
almost
a year
ago.
Recent
discussi
on and
discove
ry have
lead me
to
underst
and the
law
differen
tly in
how it
applies
to the
deferen
t
branch
es of
the
govern
ment.
In this
case if
he did
use a
city

server
to send
it then
it's my
contenti
on I
would
be
afforde
d the
docume
nt
based
on this
interpre
tation of
the the
ORC.

Thank
you. I'll
forward
the
original.

**Aaron
Christo
pher
Knapp,
LSW,
CDCA(
p),BSS
W**

NOTIC
E: THI
S
ELECT
RONIC
MESSA
GE
TRANS
MISSIO
N
CONTA
INS
INFOR
MATIO
N
WHICH
MAY
BE
CONFI
DENTI
AL OR
PRIVIL
EGED.
THE
INFOR
MATIO
N IS

INTEN
DED
ONLY
FOR
THE
USE
OF
THE
INDIVI
DUAL(
S) OR
ENTITY
(IES)
NAME
D
ABOVE
. IF
YOU
ARE
NOT
THE
INTEN
DED
RECIPI
ENT,
PLEAS
E BE
AWAR
E THAT
ANY
DISCL
OSURE

,
COPYI
NG,
DISTR
IBUTIO
N, OR
USE
OF
THE
CONTE
NTS
OF
THIS
INFOR
MATIO
N IS
PROHI
BITED.
IF
YOU
HAVE
RECEI
VED
THIS
ELECT
RONIC
TRANS
MISSIO
N IN

ERRO
R,
PLEAS
E
IMMED
IATELY
NOTIF
Y THE
SENDE
R AND
DELET
E THE
COPY
YOU
RECEI
VED.

O
n
M
a
y
1
3
.
2
0
2
5
.
a
t
1
3
:
4
5
.
L
a
V
e
c
k
.
J
o
s
e
p
h
<
J
o
s
e
p
h
-
L

workin
g to
provid
e a
timely
respon
se to
your
reques
t.

Thank
you.

Best
Regar
ds,

Joseph
T.
LaVeck
, Esq

Chief
Asst.
Law
Director
&
Police
Legal
Advisor

200 W.
Erie
Avenue
, 3rd
Floor

Lorain,
Ohio
44052

[joseph
laveck
@cityofl
orain.or
g](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

From:
Aaron
Knapp
<a4xeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent:
Tuesd
ay,
May
13,
2025
1:36
PM
To:
LaVec
k,
Joseph
<[Joseph
h_LaV
eck@c
ityoflor
ain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaV_eck@cityoflorain.org)
>; City
Counci
l Mail
Group
<[CityC
ouncil
MailGr
oup@c
ityoflor
ain.org](mailto:CityC_ouncil_MailGr_oup@cityoflorain.org)
>;
Robert
J.
Garga
sz
<[rjgarg
asz@g
mail.co
m](mailto:rjgargas@gmail.com)>;
Bradle
y, Jack
<[Jack
Bradle
y@city
oflorai
n.org](mailto:Jack_Bradle_y@cityoflorain.org)>;
Garon
Petty
<[onelu
ng201](mailto:onelung201)

4@gmail.com
>
Lorain
PD
Records
Request
<LPDRRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org>
Subject:
Response to
Public
Records
Denial
and
Misapp
lication
of R.C.
149.43
(A)(1)(
v)

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

actions

**Aaron
Christopher
Knapp,
LSW,
CDCA,
BSSW**
4220
Talbot
Lane
Lorain,
OH
44055
Email:
a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

**July
13,
2025**

**Joseph
T.
LaVeck
, Esq.**
Assista
nt Law
Director
&
Police
Legal
Advisor
City of
Lorain
200 W.
Erie
Avenue
, 3rd
Floor
Lorain,
Ohio
44052
Email:
josephlaveck@cityoflorain.org

**RE:
Respo
nse to
Public
Record
s**

**Denial
and
Misapp
lication
of R.C.
149.43(
A)(1)(v)**

Dear
Attorne
y
LaVeck
:

Thank
you for
your
July 24,
2023
respons
e to my
public
records
request
regardi
ng a
complai
nt
reporte
dly
submitt
ed to
the
Ohio
Counse
lor,
Social
Worker,
and
Marriag
e &
Family
Therapi
st
Board
by a
membe
r of the
Lorain
Police
Depart
ment. I
respectf
ully
submit
this
written
reply to
clarify
the
applica

ble
legal
standards and
to
dispute
your
cited
basis
for
denial.

You
state
that
*"even if
there
was a
complaint
made
or
information
provided by a
City of
Lorain
employee to
'the
Board,'
any
complaint or
information
provided would
be
confidential
and
therefore
not a
public
record,"*
citing
**R.C.
149.43(
A)(1)(v)
and
R.C.
4757.3
8(B)(1).**
**Howev
er,
your
interpr
etation
misapp**

lies these statute s by conflati ng the confide ntiality obligati ons of the *receivi ng agency* (i.e., the Social Work Board) with those of the *origina ting public office* (i.e., the City of Lorain)

1. The Email Complaint, If Sent from a City-Issue d Account, Is a Public Record Unde

r Ohio Law

Under Ohio's Public Records Act, a "public record" includes any document, regardless of format, ***"that is created or received by or coming under the jurisdiction of any public office of the state or its political subdivisions, which serves to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the office."***

**R.C.
149.01
1(G);
see
also
R.C.
149.43(
A)(1).**

**It is
well-
settled
that
emails
sent
from
city-
owned
compu
ters or
email
accoun
ts,
relatin
g to
public
busine
ss, are
public
record
s. See
State
ex rel.
Wilson-
Simmo
ns v.
Lake
Cty.
Sheriff
s Dep't,
82 Ohio
St.3d
37
(1998);
see
also
State
ex rel.
Toledo
Blade
Co. v.
Seneca
Cty. Bd.
of
Comm'r
s, 120
Ohio
St.3d
372,
2008-**

Ohio-
6253.

A
complain
t
submitt
ed by a
police
officer
or any
city
employ
ee
using
city
email or
during
the
course
of
official
duties
**docum
ents
the
activiti
es of
the city
office.**

The
city's
copy—
whether
in a
sent
folder,
server
archive,
or data
backup
—is
subject
to R.C.
149.43,
regardl
ess of
where
else it
may
have
been
sent.

As
confirm
ed in
*State
ex rel.
Cincinn
ati
Enquire*

r v.
Krings,
2000
Ohio
App.
LEXIS
5854,
the
public's
right of
access
does
not
depend
on
where a
record
ends
up, but
where it
originat
ed and
whether
it
docume
nts
public
busines
s.

**2.
The
Confidentiality
of
the
Board's
Investigative
Records
Does
Not
Extend to
the
City's
Copy**

You cite R.C. 4757.38(B)(1), which indeed prohibits the Social Work Board from disclosing complaints or investigative records. However, this statute applies only to the Board. It does not prohibit the originating agency from disclosing the same document. There is no language in R.C. 4757.38 that extends this confidentiality mandate to third-party public offices like the City of Lorain.

As the Ohio Attorney General's *Sunshine Laws Manual* explains, an exception to the Public Records Act must be "explicit," and cannot be implied or inferred from another agency's rules or duties.

Moreover, the Supreme Court of Ohio has been clear that a public record does not become confidential simply because it was later transferred to another agency with stricter

disclosure laws.
See State ex rel. Findlay Publishing Co. v. Hancock Cty. Bd. of Comm'rs, 80 Ohio St.3d 134 (1997).

**3.
R.C.
149.4
3(A)(1)(v)
Does Not Apply Absent a Specific Prohibition on Release by Law**

**R.C.
149.43(A)(1)(v)
excludes from disclosure only records "the release of**

which is prohibited by state or federal law.” To invoke this exemption, a public office must show that a specific statute *prohibits the public office in question*—in this case, the City of Lorain—from releasing the record. There is no such statute here. Again, R.C. 4757.38(B)(1) governs the Board—not your office, not the police department.

Unless you can cite an actual

statute that forbids the City of Lorain from releasing an email authored and sent by one of its employees from city servers, the record remains a public record and must be disclosed.

4. Public Accountability Demands Disclosure When a Complaint Is Filed in the Name of a Public

Agency

Finally, I reiterate that the complaint in question was allegedly submitted not merely by a private citizen, but by an individual claiming to act on behalf of "the Lorain Police Department." If a complaint was filed purporting to represent a public agency, it absolutely qualifies as a matter of public interest, accountability, and transparency. It raises significant

ethical and administrative questions if a city employee falsely represented the agency to an outside licensing body, and the public has a right to inspect such correspondence.

5. Next Steps

I remain committed to resolving this matter cooperatively. However, if your office continues to deny this request without proper statutory justification, I will proceed

d with a formal complaint to the Ohio Court of Claims under R.C. 2743.75.

Additionally, I will consider filing a whistleblower retaliation claim based on the retaliatory nature of the original complaint and the City's subsequent actions affecting my employment and licensure.

Please respond within a reasonable timeframe and reconsider the City's position in light of the above analysis. I

request that the City of Lorain conduct a search of all city email servers, including Chief McCann's, for any communications sent to the Social Work Board between June 2023 and July 2023 referencing me or purporting to represent the Lorain Police Department.

Respectfully,

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

Aaron Christopher

**Knapp,
BSSW,
LSW,
CDCA**

**NASW
Membe
r
ID: 886
836612**

NOTIC
E: THI
S
ELECT
RONIC
MESSA
GE
TRANS
MISSIO
N
CONTA
INS
INFOR
MATIO
N
WHICH
MAY
BE
CONFI
DENTI
AL OR
PRIVIL
EGED.
THE
INFOR
MATIO
N IS
INTEN
DED
ONLY
FOR
THE
USE
OF
THE
INDIVI
DUAL(
S) OR
ENTITY
(IES)
NAME
D
ABOVE
. IF
YOU
ARE
NOT
THE
INTEN

DED
RECIPI
ENT,
PLEAS
E BE
AWAR
E THAT
ANY
DISCL
OSURE

,
COPYI
NG,
DISTR
IBUTIO
N, OR
USE
OF
THE
CONTE
NTS
OF
THIS
INFOR
MATIO
N IS
PROHI
BITED.

IF
YOU
HAVE
RECEI
VED
THIS
ELECT
RONIC
TRANS
MISSIO
N IN
ERRO
R,
PLEAS
E
IMMED
IATELY
NOTIF
Y THE
SENDE
R AND
DELET
E THE
COPY
YOU
RECEI
VED.

<Aaron Knapp Public Records Request - Social
Workers Board Emails.pdf>

<Aaron Knapp Public Records Request - Social Workers Board Emails -
2.pdf>