

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:23 PM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck; David Yost AG; Robert J. Gargas; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Garon Petty; Robert J. Gargas; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Rey Carrion; Mike Mason; Jacob Morris; Noelle Williams; Mike Failing; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Fox 8; Clevescene; Brian Ames; Lorain daily; 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.

Dear Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your reply.

To clarify: I am requesting records related to the investigation referenced by former Chief McCann in his official correspondence, where he stated that “our investigation” was “nearing completion” and that related records would “eventually become public.” This request is distinct from any inquiry by the Ohio CSWMFT Board and instead pertains specifically to the City-led investigation referenced by Chief McCann.

If the investigation into Officer Swanger is the one McCann was referencing, please confirm that explicitly. If it is not, then I ask you to identify what investigation McCann was referring to and which office or department initiated and documented it. As you are aware, vague deflections do not satisfy the duty to respond under the Ohio Public Records Act.

Additionally, I again request confirmation of the following:

1. Whether any records—emails, memos, attachments, reports, or correspondence—related to McCann’s investigation were ever received, reviewed, or maintained by your office;
2. Whether your office has determined that no responsive records exist (and if so, on what basis);

3. Whether you will forward this request to the appropriate department, such as the Lorain Police Department, in accordance with R.C. 149.43(B)(2).

As a reminder, under Ohio Revised Code 149.43, the term “public record” includes any document, regardless of format, that is created or received by a public office and documents the office’s activities. This includes internal investigations, email correspondence, attachments, and even informal notes—unless a valid statutory exemption applies. Public offices must organize and maintain records in a manner that allows for timely access, and cannot rely on generalized denials or unexplained disavowals of knowledge.

If no responsive records or clarification are provided, I will proceed with a formal complaint under R.C. 2743.75 in the Ohio Court of Claims, and will preserve all related rights under the Ohio Public Records Act.

Respectfully,

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

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

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On Jun 24, 2025, at 11:14, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. For clarification, are you seeking the internal investigation related to your City Hall entry incident? If so, please direct your inquiry to the Lorain Police Department. Further, as you know, the Law Department is not the repository of all City records. The Law Department reviews records provided by other City departments prior to issuing to them requester to comply with state and federal law.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 2:08 PM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck  
**Cc:** Mike Failing; David Yost AG; Lorain daily; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Brian Ames; Andrew Geronimo JD; BCICommunications@ohioago.gov; Jack Bradley; City Council Mail Group; Clevescene; Mike Massie; Mike Mason; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Jonathan Schuppe; Robert J. Gargas; Rey Carrion; Robert J. Gargas  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your recent responses. However, your reply falls short of your legal obligations under the Ohio Public Records Act (R.C. 149.43). I am compelled to reiterate and clarify my requests, as follows:

## **1. Failure to Provide All Responsive Records and Statements**

You have not provided the full set of records responsive to my May 11, 2025 request, including but not limited to:

- The investigative statement(s) referenced in internal emails;
- Any written reports, summaries, or findings related to the investigation referenced by Chief McCann;
- Other responsive communications where my name appears that were withheld without sufficient explanation.

As required by R.C. 149.43(B)(3), if any portion of my request is denied or records are withheld, you must:

- Identify each record withheld;
- Cite the specific exemption(s) under R.C. 149.43(A)(1);
- Explain how the exemption applies.

General references to R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) or (v) are insufficient without tying them to specific records.

## **2. Investigation Clarification**

You stated you were “unsure which investigation” Chief McCann referred to and directed me to Chief McCann or Deputy Chief Failing. However, you are aware that Chief McCann is currently suspended, making your referral an unworkable and evasive response.

Please confirm:

- Whether the investigation referenced was the Swanger matter, for which I already possess the Garrity statement;
- Or whether it was a separate investigation, and if so, clarify the subject, date, and scope.

## **3. Legal Compliance**

Directing me in circles between departments or referring me to unavailable personnel does not satisfy the City's obligation under the law. As legal counsel reviewing these records prior to release, you are in a position to provide the necessary clarification.

Should this matter remain unresolved, I am prepared to escalate it through the Ohio Court of Claims Public Records Dispute process and file complaints with the appropriate oversight bodies, including the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and relevant law enforcement agencies.

I respectfully request a compliant response no later than 3 business days from now.

#### **4. Prior False Denial of Email Records**

I would also like you to confirm the following on the record:

**You previously denied the existence of emails that have now been produced. This contradiction raises serious legal and ethical concerns. Under R.C. 149.43, a public office must make public records promptly available, and any failure to disclose existing responsive records — particularly when their existence was explicitly denied — suggests a potential violation of law and good-faith duties.**

Please explain:

- **Why these emails were initially withheld or denied;**
- **Who conducted the search during earlier requests, and whether legal counsel approved a response asserting they did not exist;**
- **Whether any disciplinary or administrative review has been conducted internally based on this discrepancy.**

Failure to provide a full and accurate account will compel me to pursue remedies available under Ohio law, including referral to state authorities.

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

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On Jun 24, 2025, at 13:34, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please contact Chief McCann or Deputy Chief Michael Failing for clarification. I am unsure which investigation is referenced. I've included Deputy Chief Failing on this email.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org

**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Mike Mason; Lori Kokoski; City Council Mail Group; Clevescene News; Mike Failing; Noelle Williams; Sheriff Jack Hall; Fox 8; Lorain Daily; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; Brian Ames; David O'Brien  
**Subject:** Public Records Request – Chief McCann Retirement Agreement

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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

Dear Records Custodian / City of Lorain Legal Department,

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act (R.C. 149.43), I am formally requesting a complete and unredacted copy of the retirement or separation agreement executed between the City of Lorain and former Police Chief James McCann.

It has come to my attention that this document was previously disclosed to the Chronicle-Telegram, which constitutes a public release. As such, any confidentiality or personnel-related exemption no longer applies. Please include any attachments, addenda, or related communications that clarify the terms of the agreement (including but not limited to any waivers, indemnity clauses, or post-employment restrictions).

I am requesting this record in electronic format. You may email it to me at [your email address] or confirm a time for in-person inspection if necessary.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this lawful public records request. I look forward to your response within a reasonable time frame, as required by law.

Sincerely,

Aaron C. Knapp

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

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**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
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Correction Friday June 27 2025.

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

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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

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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 <rjgargas@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@lcft.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 Carrion, Acting Chief Failing, 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) 659-9899  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)

**Enclosure:** LaVeck ↔ Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

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

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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) 659-9899  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto: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:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Mike Mason; Lori Kokoski; City Council Mail Group; Clevescene News; Mike Failing; Noelle Williams; Sheriff Jack Hall; Fox 8; Lorain Daily; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; Brian Ames; David O'Brien  
**Subject:** Public Records Request – Chief McCann Retirement Agreement

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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

Dear Records Custodian / City of Lorain Legal Department,

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It has come to my attention that this document was previously disclosed to the Chronicle-Telegram, which constitutes a public release. As such, any confidentiality or personnel-related exemption no longer applies. Please include any attachments, addenda, or related communications that clarify the terms of the agreement (including but not limited to any waivers, indemnity clauses, or post-employment restrictions).

I am requesting this record in electronic format. You may email it to me at [your email address] or confirm a time for in-person inspection if necessary.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this lawful public records request. I look forward to your response within a reasonable time frame, as required by law.

Sincerely,

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**To:** Joseph LaVeck  
**Cc:** Mike Failing; David Yost AG; Lorain daily; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Brian Ames; Andrew Geronimo JD; BCICommunications@ohioago.gov; Jack Bradley; City Council Mail Group; Clevescene; Mike Massie; Mike Mason; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Jonathan Schuppe; Robert J. Gargas; Rey Carrion; Robert J. Gargas  
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Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your recent responses. However, your reply falls short of your legal obligations under the Ohio Public Records Act (R.C. 149.43). I am compelled to reiterate and clarify my requests, as follows:

### 1. Failure to Provide All Responsive Records and Statements

You have not provided the full set of records responsive to my May 11, 2025 request, including but not limited to:

- The investigative statement(s) referenced in internal emails;
- Any written reports, summaries, or findings related to the investigation referenced by Chief McCann;
- Other responsive communications where my name appears that were withheld without sufficient explanation.

As required by R.C. 149.43(B)(3), if any portion of my request is denied or records are withheld, you must:

- Identify each record withheld;
- Cite the specific exemption(s) under R.C. 149.43(A)(1);
- Explain how the exemption applies.

General references to R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) or (v) are insufficient without tying them to specific records.

## **2. Investigation Clarification**

You stated you were “unsure which investigation” Chief McCann referred to and directed me to Chief McCann or Deputy Chief Failing. However, you are aware that Chief McCann is currently suspended, making your referral an unworkable and evasive response.

Please confirm:

- Whether the investigation referenced was the Swanger matter, for which I already possess the Garrity statement;
- Or whether it was a separate investigation, and if so, clarify the subject, date, and scope.

## **3. Legal Compliance**

Directing me in circles between departments or referring me to unavailable personnel does not satisfy the City's obligation under the law. As legal counsel reviewing these records prior to release, you are in a position to provide the necessary clarification.

Should this matter remain unresolved, I am prepared to escalate it through the Ohio Court of Claims Public Records Dispute process and file complaints with the appropriate oversight bodies, including the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and relevant law enforcement agencies.

I respectfully request a compliant response no later than 3 business days from now.

#### **4. Prior False Denial of Email Records**

I would also like you to confirm the following on the record:

**You previously denied the existence of emails that have now been produced. This contradiction raises serious legal and ethical concerns. Under R.C. 149.43, a public office must make public records promptly available, and any failure to disclose existing responsive records — particularly when their existence was explicitly denied — suggests a potential violation of law and good-faith duties.**

Please explain:

- **Why these emails were initially withheld or denied;**
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Failure to provide a full and accurate account will compel me to pursue remedies available under Ohio law, including referral to state authorities.

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Mr. Knapp:

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Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

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200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 1:44 PM  
**To:** Tony Cillo; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; James - Chief McCann  
**Cc:** Julie Wallace; Lor Ritch  
**Subject:** Fw: Lorain Police Department and worrying rhetoric  
**Attachments:** Patton.png; lpd fake files.jpg; lpd fake.jpg; Members of Fake LPD FB Page August25th2023.docx; Patton three.jpg

### 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.

As you can see this email chain was when Knapp started harassing (in my opinion) Police Chief James McCann and I sent this as you will see to everyone that may have been able to stop the rot ... nothing happened ... as I was concerned. Nothing was done then and I also sent a longer email asking for something to be done with certain individuals targeting others in December of that year NO RESPONSE . And now we have people being cyber stalked under false names Richard Marven aka Knapp , his fake names from dead heroes continues. This is getting way out of hand as I said two years ago . scroll down to the 1st email

## Richard Marven

[ ]Add languages

- **Article** Richard Marven was a [Revolutionary War](#) naval officer who, along with [Samuel Shaw](#), were instrumental figures in the passage of the first [whistleblower](#) protection law in the United States.<sup>[1]</sup> The Continental Congress was moved to act after an incident in 1777, when Marven, a third lieutenant in the Continental Navy, and Shaw, a midshipman, were part of a group of sailors and marines who blew the whistle on Commodore [Esek Hopkins](#), the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.<sup>[2]</sup> The group accused Hopkins of torturing British [prisoners of war](#). Marven and Shaw were from [Rhode Island](#), as was Hopkins, whose brother was governor of the new state and had been a signatory to the [Declaration of Independence](#). After being dismissed from the Continental Navy, Commodore Hopkins filed a criminal libel suit against Marven and Shaw in the Rhode Island courts.<sup>[3]</sup>

Spurred on by the case, the Continental Congress enacted a whistleblower protection law on July 30, 1778 by a unanimous vote.<sup>[4]</sup> The law declared it the duty of "all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof" to inform the Continental Congress or proper authorities of "misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge."<sup>[4][5]</sup> Congress declared that the United States would defend the two whistleblowers against a libel suit filed against them by Hopkins, resolving that "the reasonable expenses of defending the said suit be defrayed by the United States" and terminated the employment of Hopkins, who had misconducted himself.<sup>[4]</sup>

and doing this nationally again. His disgraceful behaviour on what was Lorain, Ohio. with a period NOW Lorain Daily .com cause a back lash against Officer Palmer that was very dangerous, people believe what they see and Palmer's life was impacted both on and off the internet pages. It was inexcusable at that time and to me is inexcusable now. For your information and I will be sending other documented emails with my concerns that are now coming to pass. If you don't believe this man isn't a threat all you have to do is go and check recent history of interactions in bars etc. His youtube videos with him and his "fan" of Sheriff Jack Hall sends a clear message to a view that he has a friend . The man is not unintelligent and very manipulative. Please be aware that in my opinion his anger at Chief McCann is escalating .... I for one am worried and I don't take these things as lightly as some. It is like watching a train wreck in slow motion. I want to go on the record once more that I believe this is escalating to a point where it has and is becoming dangerous. Thank You Loraine Ritchey

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>

**To:** James - Chief McCann <jim\_mccann@cityoflorain.org>

**Cc:** Sanford Washington <sanford\_washington@cityoflorain.org>; Patrick Riley <patrick\_riley@cityoflorain.org>; Joseph LaVeck <joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org>; Jack Bradley <jack\_bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Mary Springowski <mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 at 02:42:38 PM EDT

**Subject:** Lorain Police Department and worrying rhetoric

I have attached names and media files from a newish Face Book page going under the name **Lorain Police Department** ( which of course is misleading in and of itself).

Most worrying is the rhetoric the media files and threatening comments being made against our department. I have attached the membership of today , a couple are fake names however George Patton I tracked him of old and he is Aaron Knapp . I have complained to Facebook as to community standards , we will see if anything comes of that.

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I would hope the City of Lorain might have more pull than I in getting these sort of sites shut down. Let us be proactive for once instead of reactive., there has to be accountability ..... Thank you Loraine Ritchey

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** Tony Cillo; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; James - Chief McCann  
**Cc:** Julie Wallace; Lor Ritch  
**Subject:** 2nd Email of Concern re Knapp December 2023

**Warning: Unusual sender** <lritch7@yahoo.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Most of you are aware of this email, I just wanted to jog your memory, Nothing was done and look where we are now. I dislike seeing a top official in the City of Lorain being harassed ( in my opinion) on open pages and nationally. What is this going to take . It seems that Mrs Springowski , Chief McCann have had to deal with a cyber stalker and Petty and Gargas and nothing is done by anyone. Ok so does this mean that City of Lorain officials are fair game.....

--- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**To:** bill.hegarty@cswb.ohio.gov <bill.hegarty@cswb.ohio.gov>  
**Cc:** James - Chief McCann <jim\_mccann@cityoflorain.org>; Patrick Riley <law\_director@cityoflorain.org>; Joseph LaVeck <joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 at 09:11:42 AM EST  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding Face Book Posts , erroneous information Aaron Knapp

**Mr. Willian Hegarty**  
**cc to Chief McCann, Pat Riley and Joe Laveck for their information**

I would first of all like to apologize for the length of this email. My name is Loraine Ritchey, 1127 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain Ohio 44052. My email [lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com) , cell phone 440-396-1047.

I am contacting you, as I am led to believe you are aware of the situation with regard to a Mr. Aaron Knapp, also posting as George Patton on various Facebook pages. (I have that confirmation in a discussion I had with him on a Lorain Crime Watch page).

I am the founding member of the 501C3 Charleston Village Society (1993) a community group for the preservation of the oldest neighborhood in Lorain – 1807- 1834. In that regard we (CVSI) have been working in partnership for the past 30 years with various segments of Lorain City government and primarily with the Lorain Police Department and various police chiefs and the officers through those decades.

I am also a community advocate ( unpaid) and a blogger with many blogs , starting in 2005 with the Word of Mouth Blog, Thatwoman Blog, and more recently OH HER AGAIN. These blogs focused primarily on issues in Lorain through the years. I am also the administrator of three different Facebook pages. Lorain Politics ( which I have paused due

to a plethora of people using the site to berate and insult) Lorain, Oh ( without a period at the end ) general news and happenings in the community and City of Lorain Politics. I would link to you those blogs and Facebook pages but after many years of reaching out to government offices I would presume your software/spyware will not allow links.

**The point of my email is Mr. Aaron Knapp whom I have been following for the past months since he started ranting and raving against the Lorain Police Department on various Facebook pages and social media.** Aaron Knapp, aka George Patton has focused primarily on Chief Jim McCann and the Lorain Police Department. I have seen and copied a lot of the posts with regard to his issues with the Lorain Police Department officers and also specifically in the past few months Chief McCann. I have made my concerns known to the Law Department ( City of Lorain) as I have followed the conversations on Facebook with regard to very disturbing posts by Knapp/Patton I have been “personally” involved with trying to put to rights the damage Mr. Knapp / Patton has caused.

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**Due to the number of terrible and threatening comments regarding actions and officers the Lorain Police Department had to administer and remove the most disgraceful and threatening of the comments coming through to their page.** Aaron Knapp took issue with this (although he was the one that was also spreading the erroneous information with regard to the shooting of the animal in the first place)

Since, apparently a government page cannot monitor the comments under “free speech” Aaron Knapp then complained mightily threatening law suits etc. The Lorain Police Department and the City of Lorain were literally caught between government and Facebook standards. Those standards forbid a page allowing

### **Facebook Standards**

**We want to make sure the content people see on Facebook is authentic. We believe that authenticity creates a better environment for sharing, and that’s why we don’t want people using Facebook to misrepresent who they are or what they’re doing.**

**We’re committed to making Facebook a safe place. We remove content that could contribute to a risk of harm to the physical security of persons. Content that threatens people has the potential to intimidate, exclude or silence others and isn’t allowed on Facebook**

**As you can see by allowing comments on their page that were in blatant violation the Lorain Police Department was not following the doctrines of Meta ( who own Facebook)** Therefore it was decided to shut down the page. This caused Mr. Knapp especially under the guise of George Patton to rant and rave about freedom of speech on whatever social media page he could.

**He then set up a parody page of the Lorain Police Department and stated in the page title Lorain Police Department ( Parody) For some reason that page was removed . There then appeared another Facebook page under the name "Lorain Police Department"** (originally George Patton) but then the administrator now is TJ Knitter and "NOW" Patton denies he was part of the set up for this page.

**Lorain Police Department FAKE page** leads Facebook readers and followers to believe this is an actual Lorain Police Department page and is misleading and targeting the police, causing harm, in my opinion, to the Lorain Police Department. George Patton continues to harass and malign the officers, as recently as this weekend, and Chief McCann and uses this page to spread his very biased opinions misleading those who read.

George Patton has been removed from membership from a number of Facebook groups and the Lorain, Oh. (With a period) page has now been put under Facebook's post approval.

Since the fake Lorain Police Department page continued to spew the untruths about the Dixie Dog shooting and threats continued on that page in my role as a blogger I did a three part series on the OH HER AGAIN Blog taking the information as given in the official investigative report fully exploring the concerns and erroneous information being bandied about on the Lorain, Oh.( with a period) **and Lorain Police Department (fake) page.** I shared with my own Facebook pages and through my blogs. Still Knapp/Patton continued his tirade using the situation and previously erroneous information even after admitting he read the whole investigative report.

This is most worrying because not only is he now targeting Chief McCann personally and professionally but my concern is after following Knapp / Patton there is a sense of him not being realistic when receiving explanations and dogmatic in trying to prove his point regardless of the truths presented.( he has posted the emails from the LPD etc. on the fake Lorain Police Department pages)

I understand from his posts he is a social worker/counselor. That alone concerns me as I believe he has mental health is lacking and he shouldn't be, in my considered opinion, counselling others as his personal dogma and belligerence in targeting people, even under an assumed name is surely an issue and indicative of manipulative behavior I can send you links should you be able to access them through email or as a word document and further information should you need as to documentation to back up my thought and conclusions with regard to Aaron Knapp. Any questions or concerns please contact me directly. Loraine Ritchey

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 1:55 PM  
**To:** Zaleski, Don  
**Subject:** FW: Lorain Police Department and worrying rhetoric  
**Attachments:** Patton.png; lpd fake files.jpg; lpd fake.jpg; Members of Fake LPD FB Page August 25th2023.docx; Patton three.jpg

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 1:44 PM  
**To:** Tony Cillo <tony.cillo@lprosecutor.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Julie Wallace <jwallace@chroniclet.com>; Lor Ritch <lorryitch7@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: Lorain Police Department and worrying rhetoric

### 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.

As you can see this email chain was was when Knapp started harassing (in my opinion) Police Chief James McCann and I sent this as you will see to everyone that may have been able to stop the rot ... nothing happened ... as I was concerned. Nothing was done then and I also sent a longer email asking for something to be done with certain individuals targeting others in December of that year NO RESPONSE . And now we have people being cyber stalked under false names Richard Marven aka Knapp , his fake names from dead heroes continues. This is getting way out of hand as I said two years ago . scroll down to the 1st email

## Richard Marven

[ ]Add languages

- [Article](#)Richard Marven was a [Revolutionary War](#) naval officer who, along with [Samuel Shaw](#), were instrumental figures in the passage of the first [whistleblower](#) protection law in the United States.<sup>[1]</sup> The Continental Congress was moved to act after an incident in 1777, when Marven, a third lieutenant in the Continental Navy, and Shaw, a midshipman, were part of a group of sailors and marines who blew the whistle on Commodore [Esek Hopkins](#), the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.<sup>[2]</sup> The group accused Hopkins of torturing British [prisoners of war](#). Marven and Shaw were from [Rhode Island](#), as was Hopkins, whose brother was governor of the new state and had been a signatory to the [Declaration of Independence](#). After being dismissed from the Continental Navy, Commodore Hopkins filed a criminal libel suit against Marven and Shaw in the Rhode Island courts.<sup>[3]</sup>

Spurred on by the case, the Continental Congress enacted a whistleblower protection law on July 30, 1778 by a unanimous vote.<sup>[4]</sup> The law declared it the duty of "all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof" to inform the Continental Congress or proper

authorities of "misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge." Congress declared that the United States would defend the two whistleblowers against a libel suit filed against them by Hopkins, resolving that "the reasonable expenses of defending the said suit be defrayed by the United States" and terminated the employment of Hopkins, who had miscondacted himself."

and doing this nationally again. His disgraceful behaviour on what was Lorain, Ohio. with a period NOW Lorain Daily .com cause a back lash against Officer Palmer that was very dangerous, people believe what they see and Palmer's life was impacted both on and off the internet pages. It was inexcusable at that time and to me is inexcusable now. For your information and I will be sending other documented emails with my concerns that are now coming to pass. If you don't believe this man isn't a threat all you have to do is go and check recent history of interactions in bars etc. His youtube videos with him and his "fan" of Sheriff Jack Hall sends a clear message to a view that he has a friend . The man is not unintelligent and very manipulative. Please be aware that in my opinion his anger at Chief McCann is escalating .... I for one am worried and I don't take these things as lightly as some. It is like watching a train wreck in slow motion. I want to go on the record once more that I believe this is escalating to a point where it has and is becoming dangerous. Thank You Loraine Ritchey

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <[lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com)>

**To:** James - Chief McCann <[jim\\_mccann@cityoflorain.org](mailto:jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org)>

**Cc:** Sanford Washington <[sanford\\_washington@cityoflorain.org](mailto:sanford_washington@cityoflorain.org)>; Patrick Riley <[patrick\\_riley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:patrick_riley@cityoflorain.org)>; Joseph LaVeck <[joseph\\_laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)>; Jack Bradley <[jack\\_bradley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:jack_bradley@cityoflorain.org)>; Mary Springowski <[mary\\_springowski@cityoflorain.org](mailto:mary_springowski@cityoflorain.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 at 02:42:38 PM EDT

**Subject:** Lorain Police Department and worrying rhetoric

I have attached names and media files from a newish Face Book page going under the name **Lorain Police Department** ( which of course is misleading in and of itself).

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I would hope the City of Lorain might have more pull than I in getting these sort of sites shut down. Let us be proactive for once instead of reactive., there has to be accountability ..... Thank you Loraine Ritchey

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 1:55 PM  
**To:** Zaleski, Don  
**Subject:** FW: 2nd Email of Concern re Knapp December 2023

---

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** Tony Cillo <tony.cillo@lcprosecutor.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Julie Wallace <jwallace@chroniclet.com>; Lor Ritch <lorryitch7@gmail.com>  
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**External sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>**

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**To:** bill.hegarty@cswb.ohio.gov <bill.hegarty@cswb.ohio.gov>  
**Cc:** James - Chief McCann <jim\_mccann@cityoflorain.org>; Patrick Riley <law\_director@cityoflorain.org>; Joseph LaVeck <joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 at 09:11:42 AM EST  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding Face Book Posts , erroneous information Aaron Knapp

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**cc to Chief McCann, Pat Riley and Joe Laveck for their information**

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 2:38 PM  
**To:** Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; James - Chief McCann; Tony Cillo  
**Cc:** Julie Wallace; Lor Ritch  
**Subject:** Pat Riley looks like you are National news too... from the Independent reporter Knapp

**Warning: Unusual sender** <lritch7@yahoo.com>

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<https://www.newsbreak.com/share/3957855730566-shadows-of-influence-the-ongoing-ethical-crisis-in-lorain-county-law-departments?> lovely picture :) Loraine ..the man is out of reality

## 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.

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 <greaterlorainareacaus@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>

3:16 PM (1 minute ago)

to me ▾



## Message blocked

Your message to **Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org** has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.



## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2025 9:28 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Alonna  
**Cc:** Bradley, Jack; Aaron Knapp; Robert J Gargas; City Council Mail Group; Patrick Riley; Harper, Anita; Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; Craig Snodgrass; Mike Massie; Major Scharschmidt; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; David Yost AG; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Sheriff Jack Hall; Lindsay Carr; Kathryn Kennedy; Jackie Conrad; Sensai Cobra; Jeanne Petty; Elsebeth Baumgartner  
**Subject:** Re: Records Commission Meeting July 2025

**External sender** <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Thank you. Why aren't the meetings posted on the public access page of Lorain's government page. Why have meeting minutes and video been removed from the Lorain agendas and minutes pages? Have records been removed without the Records Commission agreeing to remove them? Please provide the names of the past secretaries/records keepers for the records commission from the year 2000 until the present.

RIP Officer Wagner.

Garon Petty

On Jul 28, 2025, at 9:16 AM, Lopez, Alonna <Alonna\_Lopez@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Petty,

The records commission meeting scheduled for today (7/28) will be rescheduled. I will let you know when that meeting will take place as soon as we have a date that works for the commission.

The January 30, 2025, meeting minutes will appear on the next records commission meeting agenda for approval. Upon approval by the commission those minutes will be available.

Thank you,

***Alonna Lopez***

Executive Assistant

Office of the Mayor

200 West Erie Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Lorain, OH 44052

Phone: (440) 204-2002

Email: [Alonna.Lopez@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Alonna.Lopez@cityoflorain.org)

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Lorain, OH 44052

Phone: (440) 204-2002

Email: [Alonna\\_Lopez@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Alonna_Lopez@cityoflorain.org)

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**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2025 8:53 AM  
**To:** Zaleski, Don  
**Cc:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** Fw: Angel Artoyo

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 27, 2025 9:32:11 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelong2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; newstips@kmtv.com <newstips@kmtv.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Angel Artoyo

I apologize for the mis-type I meant read NOT ready. But have a great morning.

Thank you  
Angel Arroyo

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**From:** Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 27, 2025 9:05:51 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelong2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; newstips@kmtv.com <newstips@kmtv.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Angel Artoyo

As always it's great to read your emails Mr. Knapp but as I emailed you the last time you made this request. I use the city phone for the purpose to ready the council agenda during council meetings.

Thank you  
Angel Arroyo

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---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, July 26, 2025 12:33:37 PM

**To:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bames00@gmail.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; newstips@kmvt.com <newstips@kmvt.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>

**Subject:** Angel Artoyo

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

To Mr. Arroyo and the duly elected members of Lorain City Council,

I have several outstanding public records requests that remain unanswered. Is it really too much to ask that you fulfill your responsibilities—starting with completing public records and open meetings training, and refraining from using electronic devices during public meetings?

I'm still waiting on those texts. Please comply with Ohio's Sunshine Laws and start engaging with your constituents in a serious and responsive manner. We're asking for transparency and accountability—not theatrics. (It hasn't gone unnoticed that you're out there dabbing for cameras while legitimate records requests go ignored.)

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2025 9:28 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Alonna  
**Cc:** Bradley, Jack; Aaron Knapp; Robert J Gargas; City Council Mail Group; Patrick Riley; Harper, Anita; Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; Craig Snodgrass; Mike Massie; Major Scharschmidt; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; David Yost AG; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Sheriff Jack Hall; Lindsay Carr; Kathryn Kennedy; Jackie Conrad; Sensai Cobra; Jeanne Petty; Elsebeth Baumgartner  
**Subject:** Re: Records Commission Meeting July 2025

**External sender** <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Thank you. Why aren't the meetings posted on the public access page of Lorain's government page. Why have meeting minutes and video been removed from the Lorain agendas and minutes pages? Have records been removed without the Records Commission agreeing to remove them? Please provide the names of the past secretaries/records keepers for the records commission from the year 2000 until the present.

RIP Officer Wagner.

Garon Petty

On Jul 28, 2025, at 9:16 AM, Lopez, Alonna <Alonna\_Lopez@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Petty,

The records commission meeting scheduled for today (7/28) will be rescheduled. I will let you know when that meeting will take place as soon as we have a date that works for the commission.

The January 30, 2025, meeting minutes will appear on the next records commission meeting agenda for approval. Upon approval by the commission those minutes will be available.

Thank you,

***Alonna Lopez***

Executive Assistant

Office of the Mayor

200 West Erie Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Lorain, OH 44052

Phone: (440) 204-2002

Email: [Alonna\\_Lopez@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Alonna_Lopez@cityoflorain.org)

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** FW: Just sharing because I find this offensive and unbelievable in the current situation Knapp  
**Attachments:** knp.jpg; knapp polic.jpg

---

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 27, 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** Lor Ritch <lorryitch7@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** arrcyo.angel5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Just sharing because I find this offensive and unbelievable in the current situation Knapp

**External sender** <[lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com)>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

My pages along with so many others have been trying to make sense of a something that makes no sense. Our hearts are with our officers and people in government who are trying to deal with something that this city has not had to deal with in 100 years. People are trying to hard to make a difference in the lives of those that work, love and come to our aid every day.

I know I keep banging on about this bloke..... but I firmly believe his mindset ( along with a couple of others ) is a danger. Instead of reaching out to help or at the least giving this city a break from his diatribe..... he is again targeting a rival for 6th ward .. I won't share the whole posts... but he continues to insult Chief James McCann (with broad strokes) Chief McCann ( semi retired? ) is personally having to deal with the worst scenario an officer has had to deal with. being apart for his men and colleagues of 34 years. I cannot imagine what he is having to deal with personally and professionally..... Knapp the ( wonderful knowledgeable counsellor( sarcasm) should and does know how this is effecting everyone in the LPD. Yet he still targets.. McCann .. and especially 6th Ward Arroyo . He is piling on more and more requests when the rest of the city and council members are trying to help with a way forward. I am going on the record again because as ALL of you know the thinking of some people is worrying..... I don't know what you can do but I am once again reaching out..... Loraine

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 6:57 AM  
**To:** Zaleski, Don  
**Cc:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** Fw: Outstanding Public Records Requests

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---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 6:54:48 AM  
**To:** Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; newstips@kmvt.com <newstips@kmvt.com>; Dull, Breanna <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Outstanding Public Records Requests

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

Guess I'll file a second one.

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

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On Jul 27, 2025, at 11:46, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Councilman Arroyo,

Let me be absolutely clear: your continued evasive and condescending responses—this latest one included—are noted, and they reflect poorly on you as an elected official. If you think you can blow off lawful records

requests with smug one-liners and passive-aggressive emails, you're mistaken.

This is no longer about you "reading the agenda." This is about your legal obligation to comply with Ohio's Sunshine Laws and fulfill outstanding public records requests—including the text messages I've asked for multiple times. If you're only using your city-issued phone for agendas, as you keep claiming, then turning over the device's logs and data should be easy—unless there's something you're hiding.

I'm now including the Clerk of Council and the City's IT Department in this request. I want the following:

- A complete record of all searches, calls, and text messages from your city-issued phone.
- A log of all searches and files accessed on your city-issued laptop.
- Copies of all emails sent to or from you since your appointment.
- Call logs from your city-issued phone.
- And I am formally requesting that your personal phone be submitted to IT for inspection to verify that you are not using it for city business or during council meetings to avoid public disclosure.

Let's take a look at those "agendas" you keep saying you can't print out. Just because you didn't take the required Sunshine Law training doesn't mean you get to ignore the law—or act stupid about what it requires.

If I don't receive a substantive response and action by the end of the weekend, we will be filing another case with the Ohio Court of Claims on Monday. If you insist on being a douche about this, we'll meet you in court—again.

Your conduct is being documented. You're not above the law. And if you had taken the sunshine law classes you would know that you have to provide ORC, are you seriously this ignorant of laws you have to follow?

Wow you're really that ignorant? This is going to be fun in court on August 1st when I win the first suit you owe records and texts and explain how you just don't know the law and cost the city money because you are responding to emails to constituents like a douche bag. Just like James McCann, you truly a moron, at least the other council are smart enough to ignore till I take them to

court. You charge right in and respond without a thought in that head of yours, don't you?

Make it a wonderful day go dab up some people and continue to fail your constituents,

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

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On Jul 27, 2025, at 09:06, Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

As always it's great to read your emails Mr. Knapp but as I emailed you the last time you made this request. I use the city phone for the purpose to ready the council agenda during council meetings.

Thank you  
Angel Arroyo

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---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 26, 2025 12:33:37 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; newstips@kmvt.com <newstips@kmvt.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>  
**Subject:** Angel Arroyo

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

To Mr. Arroyo and the duly elected members of Lorain City Council,

I have several outstanding public records requests that remain unanswered. Is it really too much to ask that you fulfill your responsibilities—starting with completing public records and open meetings training, and refraining from using electronic devices during public meetings?

I'm still waiting on those texts. Please comply with Ohio's Sunshine Laws and start engaging with your constituents in a serious and responsive manner. We're asking for transparency and accountability—not theatrics. (It hasn't gone unnoticed that you're out there dabbing for cameras while legitimate records requests go ignored.)

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 10:18 AM  
**To:** Garon Petty; Patrick Riley; Mike Mason  
**Cc:** Angel Arroyo; City Council Mail Group; Fox; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Lorain daily; Clevescene; Robert J. Gargas; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; David Comer  
**Subject:** Re: Outstanding Public Records Requests

**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.

I've spoken with legal and hopefully will be gaining access to this information soon. Thank you for your help Angel! Not.

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

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On Jul 29, 2025, at 10:03, Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com> wrote:

Learn the Sunshine Laws of Ohio.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jma\\_FdEvTZo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jma_FdEvTZo)

On Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 6:55 AM Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:  
Guess I'll file a second one.

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

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Make it a wonderful day go dab up some people and continue to fail your constituents,

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<[Angel\\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Angel_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

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Thank you  
Angel Arroyo

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---

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**Sent:** Saturday, July 26, 2025 12:33:37 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group <[CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org](mailto:CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org)>; Arroyo, Angel <[Angel\\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Angel_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org)>; Fox <[tips@fox8.com](mailto:tips@fox8.com)>; Mike Mason <[Mike.Mason@woio.com](mailto:Mike.Mason@woio.com)>; Noelle Williams <[Noelle.Williams@woio.com](mailto:Noelle.Williams@woio.com)>; Lorain daily <[erik@loraindaily.com](mailto:erik@loraindaily.com)>; Clevescene <[news@clevescene.com](mailto:news@clevescene.com)>; Robert J. Gargasz <[rjgargasz@gmail.com](mailto:rjgargasz@gmail.com)>; Garon Petty <[onelung2014@gmail.com](mailto:onelung2014@gmail.com)>; Bradley, Jack <[Jack\\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org)>; Carrion, Rey <[Rey\\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org)>; Brian Ames <[bmames00@gmail.com](mailto:bmames00@gmail.com)>; David Yost AG <[AGOCARES@ohioago.gov](mailto:AGOCARES@ohioago.gov)>; [newstips@kmtv.com](mailto:newstips@kmtv.com) <[newstips@kmtv.com](mailto:newstips@kmtv.com)>; Clevescene <[news@clevescene.com](mailto:news@clevescene.com)>  
**Subject:** Angel Arroyo

**External sender** <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

To Mr. Arroyo and the duly elected members of Lorain City Council,

I have several outstanding public records requests that remain unanswered. Is it really too much to ask that you fulfill your responsibilities—starting with completing public records and open meetings training, and refraining from using electronic devices during public meetings?

I'm still waiting on those texts. Please comply with Ohio's Sunshine Laws and start engaging with your constituents in a serious and responsive manner. We're asking for transparency and accountability—not theatrics. (It hasn't gone unnoticed that you're out there dabbing for cameras while legitimate records requests go ignored.)

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 10:59 AM  
**To:** Mike Mason; Mike Massie; Mike Failing; Lorain daily; City Group; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Clevescene; Garon Petty; Noelle Williams; Robert J. Gargas; Fox; David Yost AG; Brian Ames; Joseph LaVeck; Sheriff Jack Hall; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Jacob Morris; Breanna Dull; Angel Arroyo; Patrick Riley; Sherry Glass; Robert J. Gargas; BlumhagenJ@wingspancg.org  
**Subject:** Fwd: 2nd Batch  
**Attachments:** Letter to Board.pdf; attachment.html; Carrion Investigation.pdf; attachment.html; Knapp email and Chief McCann response.pdf; attachment.html; Knapp email forward to Lt Morris.pdf; attachment.html; Knapp email with attachment.pdf; attachment.html; Aaron Knapp Public Records Request - Social Workers Board Emails.pdf; attachment.html; To Chief Jim McCann.pdf; attachment.html; Complete Report with Exhibits\_1.pdf; attachment.html

### 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.

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to formally share a significant body of information and correspondence that I believe constitutes key evidence of serious misconduct—potentially criminal—involving James McCann. The attached communications and records relate to actions that, in my view, demonstrate abuse of authority, retaliation, and potential violations of Ohio’s Sunshine Laws and other statutes.

This includes:

- Evidence of public records violations and refusal to comply with lawful requests
- Retaliatory behavior tied to my professional employment
- Allegations involving improper influence on a nonprofit agency funded by state and federal resources
- A documented pattern of obstruction and cover-up efforts by the City of Lorain

These documents and communications form part of a larger whistleblower narrative that I believe deserves formal review and public transparency. I am currently working with

legal counsel and a journalist who has agreed to take the story once their current queue is cleared.

I am prepared to provide additional context and supporting documentation upon request, and I am hopeful that this information will be taken seriously and reviewed through the appropriate channels.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** July 14, 2025 at 18:24:34 EDT  
**To:** Jennifer Woods <Jennifer\_Woods@gbtpa.com>  
**Subject:** 2nd Batch

**Statement: Why a Fair Settlement at \$450,000 Serves Everyone's Best Interests**

At this stage, the emails and public records reveal **significant gaps, inconsistencies, and withheld communications** concerning the decision to file charges—causing real reputational, emotional, and financial harm.

It's also worth noting that **Chief James McCann of Lorain was placed on paid administrative leave on April 25, 2025**, amid a formal **misconduct investigation** by the Lorain County Sheriff's Office that uncovered unprofessional behavior, including making veiled threats, comments about wishing for a "dirty cop," and other retaliatory actions [Lorain Police Department+12WKYC+12Newsradio WTAM 1100+12](#). Then, **on June 23, 2025**, McCann abruptly announced his **irrevocable retirement effective September 15, 2025**, following confirmation of those inappropriate statements [huroninsider.com](#). This strongly suggests the City is acutely aware of leadership misconduct and its growing liability.

Moreover, the City—and its insurer—have a **well-documented history of early settlements** in similar high-risk cases. That strategy has avoided prolonged legal battles, saved taxpayer money on attorney fees and discovery costs, and prevented extended negative media coverage. Deviating from this prudent policy now, especially after damaging revelations, would be shortsighted.

A drawn-out trial would:

- Drain taxpayer funds,
- Draw more negative public attention as deeper evidence comes to light,
- Extend the emotional burden for all involved,

- Risk further legal exposure through expanded discovery.

A \$450,000 settlement:

1. **Shields taxpayers** from far greater costs—including potential punitive damages and appeals.
2. **Compensates me fairly** and redirects resources that might otherwise be spent litigating.
3. **Affords the City closure**, allowing leadership to turn the page visibly and responsibly, rather than fighting in public with continued leadership scandal in the headlines.

This is not about punishment—it's about reaching a **practical, fiscally responsible resolution** that acknowledges mistakes and restores public trust. I remain open to finalizing this settlement with confidentiality and mutual non-disparagement, provided the City and its insurer act swiftly and in good faith.

**In summary:** A fair settlement at \$450,000 is the optimal approach—for the City, its employees, its insurance carrier, and the community—to draw a respectful line under this chapter, prevent further fallout, and uphold accountability without needless expense.

Sincerely,  
**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**

NASW Member ID: 886836612

## **Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Subject:** response to email of 8/1/2025 @ 7:03 AM from Atty. Don Zaleski Re: LaVeck PPP

Mr. Knapp,

You state in your request that you are seeking all records from 2020-2024 involving any disbursement of public funds to any business or LLC affiliated with Mr. LaVeck, particularly PPP, ARPA, or any Other Covid Relief vehicle. As you are aware from our prior response, the Law Director's Office is not in possession of any such records. No department within the City of Lorain is in possession of any such records.

The Payroll Protection Program is a U.S. Federal Government Program. No City department has any such "PPP" records. ARPA Funds are administered by the City, but neither Mr. LaVeck nor any business affiliated with Mr. LaVeck received ARPA, PPP, or any other monies from similar state or federal programs administered by the City of Lorain.

Regards,

Donald M. Zaleski  
Asst. Law Director

*Michele T. Beko*  
*Administrative Asst/Office Manager*  
*Lorain Law Director's Office*  
*200 West Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*  
*Lorain, OH 44052*  
*440.204.2250*  
[Michele\\_beko@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Michele_beko@cityoflorain.org)

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 11:15 AM  
**To:** Michele Beko; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Fox; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; City Group; Joseph LaVeck  
**Subject:** Re: response to email of 8/1/2025 @ 7:03 AM from Atty. Don Zaleski Re: LaVeck PPP

**External sender** <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. Zaleski,

Thank you for your prior response regarding the absence of City of Lorain records reflecting disbursement of public funds to Mr. Joseph LaVeck or any affiliated business entity.

However, I have identified two federally administered Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans made to Joseph T. LaVeck, LLC, both approved and later forgiven:

- May 1, 2020 – \$6,770 (forgiven March 25, 2021)
- February 12, 2021 – \$6,770 (forgiven October 26, 2021)

Given that Mr. LaVeck is a City employee, I respectfully request clarification on the following:

1. From which lender or agency did Mr. LaVeck or his LLC receive these federal funds?
2. Did the City have any role in facilitating, endorsing, or supporting the application or certification process for these PPP loans?
3. Does the City maintain any internal policies or oversight related to employees receiving federal business relief funds while employed in public service?

Understanding that PPP loans were federally administered, I am simply seeking transparency regarding the relationship—if any—between the City and these disbursements, especially where a City employee is involved.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

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On Aug 4, 2025, at 10:04, Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

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Regards,

Donald M. Zaleski  
Asst. Law Director

*Michele T. Beko  
Administrative Asst/Office Manager  
Lorain Law Director's Office  
200 West Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*

Lorain, OH 44052

440.204.2250

[Michele\\_beko@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Michele_beko@cityoflorain.org)

**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 1:33 PM  
**To:** Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Patrick Riley; Arredondo, Joel; City Council Mail Group; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Maggie Partin; Michael Scherach; Jeanne Petty; Garon Petty; Aaron Knapp; Teresa Upton  
**Cc:** jon morrow; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill; david@yesce.com Moore, David; jfr\_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; Marty Gallagher; Ohio Up!; Teresa Upton; Tony Cillo; Leigh Prugh; Christine Mendoza; Billie Jo Belcher  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nuclear power in a free enterprise environment is the pathway to abundant low-cost electricity.

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ronald Stein <ronald.stein@energyliteracy.net>  
**Date:** August 4, 2025 at 1:28:00 PM EDT  
**To:** rjgargasz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Nuclear power in a free enterprise environment is the pathway to abundant low-cost electricity.  
**Reply-To:** ronald.stein@energyliteracy.net

Energy Literacy Newsletter - Let's Face The Elephant in the



**Published August 4, 2025, in [America Out Loud NEWS](https://www.americaoutloud.news/nuclear-power-in-a-free-enterprise-environment-is-the-pathway-to-abundant-low-cost-electricity/)**  
**<https://www.americaoutloud.news/nuclear-power-in-a-free-enterprise-environment-is-the-pathway-to-abundant-low-cost-electricity/>**

**Nuclear power in a free enterprise environment  
pathway to abundant low-cost electricity**

*Getting Government, mandates, and subsidies out-of-the-way will benefit humanity and allow creative free enterprise to succeed in delivering electricity to the world.*

Hello Robert,

*Co-authored by [Ronald Stein](#), [Oliver Hemmers](#), and [Steve Curtis](#)*

The rising cost of electricity is primarily due to the entrenched nature of utility monopolies that restrict consumer choice and inhibit market competition. As the electricity demand steadily increases, driven by factors such as the proliferation of electric vehicles, population growth, and expansion of energy-intensive data and AI centers—electricity supply remains limited by regulatory frameworks and market models.

Protected from competition, utilities have a minimal incentive to innovate or control prices. Expenditures associated with integrating unreliable, intermittent, and low-energy-density energy sources, volatility in fossil fuel markets, and heightened regulatory requirements are passed on to consumers. Without the discipline imposed by competition, there is little to prevent cost increases; thus, as demand surpasses supply, the fundamental principles of economics mean that costs will continue to escalate for all who rely on the electrical grid, which is everyone.

Historically, nuclear power systems have been approximately 97% identical to coal power plants, the primary difference being the heat source, which is the energy required to convert water to power the turbines. Coal mining operations faced threats to their monopolies when the small percentage of naturally occurring radioactive decay of uranium (U-235) proved to be many times more potent than the heat generated by burning coal. The uranium (U-235) that occurs as a trace material in the coal contains more energy than the coal itself. The coal industry, viewing nuclear power as a rival, should have continued its early practice of promoting nuclear as its "next generation" power. We are trying to give the fossil fuel industry a good reason to abandon its previous policy of embracing nuclear power.

The recent craze for clean energy did not revisit the powerful clean energy solution of nuclear but came up with the absolute worst solutions possible – wind and solar power. These are expensive, least reliable, and environmentally disastrous "solutions" to electricity production that anybody could have cooked up. Trying to integrate these boondoggles into the various national grids is very expensive and causes blackouts in other countries.

The strange world of nuclear power centers on the realization that nature has provided us with a solution to improve our quality of life, yet our society is amassing as many obstacles as possible to its fruition. Commercial nuclear power has a 70-year track record of enormous success to be proud of.

The benefits of nuclear energy have been obscured by the massive amount of money spent to create a fog of doubt in the public's perception of these benefits. Techniques such as this used to be called "antitrust" or "unfair competition", but these days they seem to be "business as usual".

This “business as usual” is especially troubling because the very Government we trust to look best interests is complicit in creating the fog that is clouding its progress. We can ponder why case all we want, but we need to focus on how to reverse the damage caused over the last 4 the marketing of electricity to the public.

The marketing of electricity is now conducted through business entities called “utilities,” a government thinking has led us to believe that electricity can only be marketed as a monopoc

Therefore, we are limited to purchasing our electricity from only one company. This complicated by the fact that there is no other commodity that directly affects our quality ( electric energy. If you possess this commodity, you are part of the top tier of wealthy societie; not, you are relegated to third-world status with a very meager quality of life. The very thing t has given us to lift our lives out of poverty is subjected to government-supported obstacles c deny us the maximum benefit of this bounty purposely.

Even proponents of nuclear power seem focused on relegating this industry to failure. No marketed by describing dangers that could happen, even if those dangers have a proven histo safety. No person has ever been hurt from the normal operations of nuclear power productio 70 years of actual history. The Chernobyl incident did not happen under “normal operation: was hurt because of the failures of either Three Mile Island or Fukushima. No other industr come close to this safety record. We accept the risk of driving cars when more than 40,000 p year die from such behavior. We accept the risk of flying commercial airlines that kill an more than 500 people per year. The safety burden on these industries is almost non-existent to the massive burden imposed on the nuclear power industry by government involvem business.

It is difficult to justify the stringent restrictions and prohibitive progress imposed by tl Regulatory Commission, especially when their claim of preventing safety failures contradi that the nuclear industry has been the safest on the planet over the last 70 years.

However, the most significant burden on the nuclear power industry is the massive weigh monopolies. Customers must purchase power from a single source, regardless of the enormous costs imposed by “renewables” crop up on your bill, the price will rise. If the cost natural gas increases, you have no alternative but to pay the price.

While the demand for additional electricity over the past 20 years has been in the range of a f per year, AI and data centers will need 10% or more per year alone for their pov infrastructure. You will pay the price for this mistake as demand for electric power inc immutable rule for increasing demand while supply remains constant is that costs ris alternative supply, they will continue to rise. Why would a monopoly want this to char guaranteed profit, all on the backs of hapless ratepayers.

Yes, you are not “customers”. You are “ratepayers”. The companies building data centers l that they will bid costs as high as necessary to get their power. Exceeding a dollar per kWh s massive profits for these centers, and some have stated they will be profitable at three dolla (\$3 per kWh, or at least 15 times the current price). So, who will get electricity? Consumers electricity is expensive at \$0.20 per kWh, or those willing to pay \$3.00 per kWh.

No electric power system, except for nuclear, is scalable enough to meet this growin Furthermore, the new types of nuclear power plants can recycle the slightly used nuclear fu

existing fleet of nuclear power plants that has accumulated over the past five decades, offer unlimited electricity at pennies per kWh.

The roadblocks ahead are the monopolies of utilities, which have a high resistance to change, always have.

Yet, both AT&T and Standard Oil were “de-monopolized” by Federal mandate. Yet, arguably essential commodity to citizens seems to be mandated to remain a monopoly by the same government (or, maybe not the same?). Electricity can be easily transmitted directly to customers through the electric grid, just like phone service is transmitted over radio networks. In fact, with the modern Generation IV reactors, they can supply direct power without a grid. All we need to do is get the Government monkey off our back and relegate them to their original purpose of looking out for all through creating and enforcing laws that mandate fair play in a free enterprise world.

Free enterprise in the electric power sector will unleash innovation and competition, resulting in the lowest electricity rates. All citizens will benefit from that, but, as always, you must demand it.

*Please share this information with teachers, students, and friends to encourage Energy Literacy conversations at the family dinner table.*

In the event you are not yet on distribution, click this [Link to Sign up for Energy Literacy](#)  
**Ronald Stein**

## Publications

*My books have a common theme as they address the elephant in the room that the ruling class and the media refuse to talk about, i.e., the lack of products in the future, and the lack of fuels for planes, ships, militaries, and space programs, manufactured from fuels that built the world from 1 to 8 billion people in less than 200 years. Without a planned replacement for crude oil to make those same products, limiting the supply of products and fuels manufactured from crude oil will inflict shortages and inflation in perpetuity lifestyles.*

[More Information](#)

**Hello Robert,**  
Energy literacy starts with the knowledge that **Crude oil is the basis of our materialistic society.** All the components and equipment for the generation of electricity by wind, solar, coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydro are all made from the oil derivatives manufactured from crude oil. For the 8 billion on this planet that are quite dependent on food and medications, wind turbines and solar panels cannot manufacture any of the fuels for 50,000 ships, 50,000 planes, militaries, and space programs, nor can they make the 6,000 products

our daily lives. Enhancing ones energy literacy will empower individuals to have conversations on energy at the dinner table with friends and co-workers .

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### A few takeaways on energy literacy, i.e., the elephant in the room that no one wants about

1. The potential for nuclear fusion for unlimited zero-emission electricity is exciting, potential, in the decades ahead, to wean the world from coal and natural gas for generation.
2. Facing reality, fusion, like wind, solar, nuclear, and hydro, ONLY generate electricity. manufacture any products, or fuels for transportation infrastructures needed by the t this planet.
3. On the other hand, we have crude oil that is never used for generating electricity, AND useless until its manufactured into usable products via the 700 refineries around the
4. Today, the world's 8 billion are dependent on food and medicine moving around the 50,000-merchant ships and 50,000 jets, and more than 6,000 products made fr derivatives manufactured from crude oil.
5. The militaries and space programs are all based on the fuels manufactured from cru
6. We may have long-range plans to generate electricity from wind, solar, and nuclear no plans to replace crude oil that is manufactured into everything in our daily lives.

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**CLEAN ENERGY EXPLOITATIONS**  
**A Pulitzer Prize nominated**  
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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 16, 2025 10:57 PM  
**To:** Robert J Gargasz; Carrion, Rey; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Dave Kovach; David Yost AG; Joseph LaVeck; Arredondo, Joel; Zaleski, Don; Don Killinger; Darryl Tucker; Carissa Woytach; Linda Rivera; Lindsay Carr; Brian Ames; Dull, Breanna; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Amber Hernandez; rebecca kempton; Brad Dicken; Mike Witte; Mike Massie; Major Scharschmidt; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; leigh.prugh@lcprosecutor.org; LC Bar Association; Denise Wilms; Lisa Swenski; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Sheriff Jack Hall; Joshua Garcia; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Harper, Anita; Andy Young; Julie Wallace; Michael Scherach; Beko, Michele; Soto, Rick; Jacob Morris; Lorain Police; Jackie Conrad; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Craig Snodgrass; Institute for Justice; Greg Lukianoff; Kathryn Kennedy; Ted Kalo; Teresa Upton; Stephanie Jablonsky; Fox 8; Walsh, Jonathan; Harry Boomer; Zachary Simonoff; Natalio Rodriguez; Sylvia Duvall; Sensai Cobra; contact@acluohio.org; Tori Middlebrooks; ajt1049@gmail.com; mark campolo; Jeff Graham; Dennis Flores; Comer,David  
**Subject:** Fwd: The City of Lorain vs. Garon Petty: Inside the Motion to Dismiss That Could Collapse the Case

### 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.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>  
**Subject:** **The City of Lorain vs. Garon Petty: Inside the Motion to Dismiss That Could Collapse the Case**  
**Date:** August 16, 2025 at 9:49:46 PM EDT  
**To:** garonpetty@roadrunner.com  
**Reply-To:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<reply+2twpid&5j0f6l&&b7b705c33d693f5f3ee0f8570397ebce77a5d6994de6a43a938a bfe552126f51@mg1.substack.com>

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# The City of Lorain vs. Garon Petty: Inside the Motion to Dismiss That Could Collapse the Case

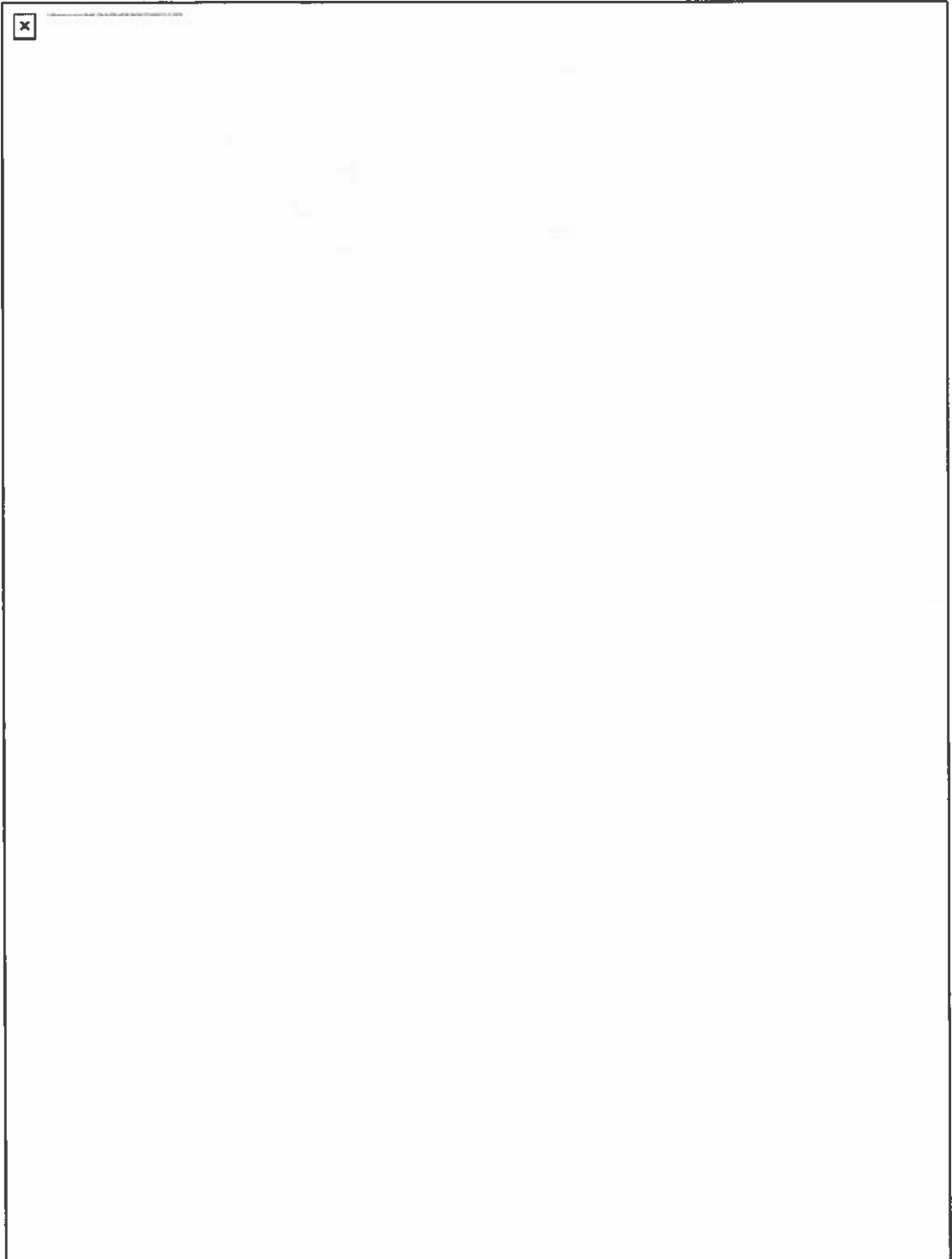
By Aaron Knapp | August 2025 | Lorain Politics Unplugged

AARON C KNAPP

AUG 17



READ IN APP 



## **When Prosecution Becomes Politics—And Discovery Becomes Leverage**

It's been over a year since Garon Petty was charged with a list of offenses for what witnesses—and now court filings—suggest was nothing more than

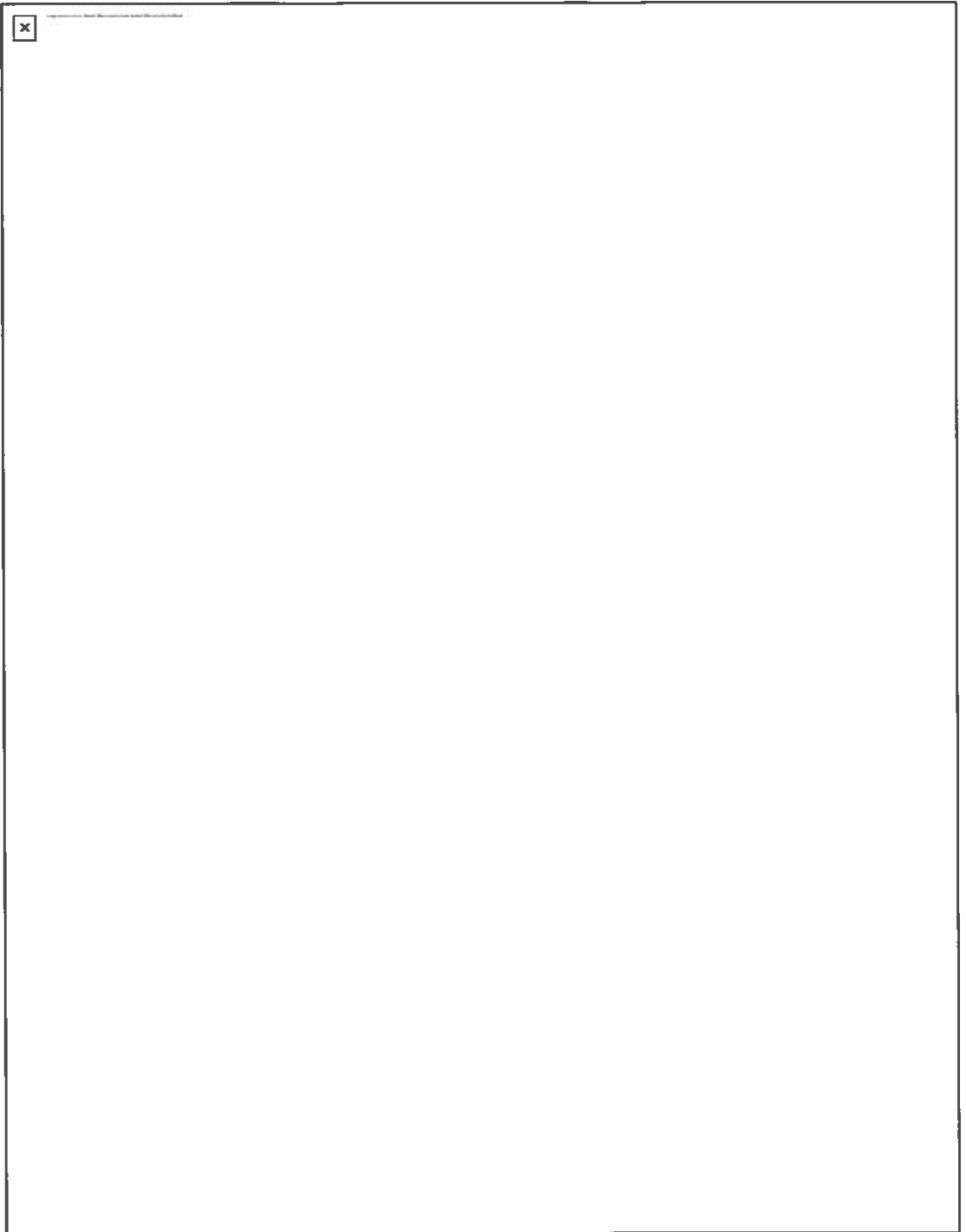
**a nonviolent walk to the Council floor after a meeting.** But the newly filed **Motion to Dismiss** turns that entire narrative inside out.

Thanks for reading Aaron's Substack! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

**Pledge your support**

Filed August 15, 2025, the motion doesn't simply poke holes in the facts. It lays out a **constitutional indictment** of the city's handling of the case—from the moment charges were pushed by council insiders, to the selective release of evidence, to the use of intimidation laws as a political weapon.

But even more disturbing: **some of the most critical records in this case were handed to me—a journalist—before they were provided to Petty's legal team.** That detail isn't hearsay. It's documented. And the reason why is more politically revealing than anyone at City Hall wants to admit.



## **The Leak That Wasn't: Why I Got the Case File Before the Defense Did**

Let's get one thing straight: **the city didn't give me the Garon Petty file to harm Petty**. They gave it to me because **Council made the Chief look bad**—and the Chief retaliated.

Back in July 2024, just after the charges were filed, **City Council released a now-notorious internal email from Chief James McCann**. In that message, McCann resisted pressure to immediately criminalize dissent at Council meetings:

*"The police don't enforce Council rules... they are most likely getting arrested or getting a summons."*

Translation? **You can't arrest someone in City Hall just for challenging elected officials.**

That email made its way to Garon Petty and others. And from all indications, **the Chief was furious**. Because shortly after that, **he reversed course**—allegedly at Council's request—and ordered a full-blown investigation into Petty anyway.

Days later, I received a full, unredacted packet of police reports, body cam logs, and internal statements—all compiled before even preliminary hearings had occurred. **Lt. Jacob Morris told me directly:**

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*"Chief told me to give it to you. We know you'll put it online."*

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**Let that sink in: I wasn't the defendant. I wasn't the attorney. But I had the full file.**

This wasn't justice. It was punishment. **Not aimed at Petty—but at Council**. The message was clear: **you embarrassed me, so here's your problem dumped into the public eye.**

Chief McCann likely thought the file would implode the case. It should have. The conflicting narratives, the lack of clear threats, the sheer vagueness of the claims—it all pointed to selective enforcement. But instead of backing off, **the Law Department doubled down**, pushing

forward with prosecution even as key officials—including **Morris himself—recused themselves.**

And today, more than a year later, **Petty’s legal team still hasn’t received all of what I was given in one envelope.**

That’s not a process error. **That’s due process abuse.**

## **Six Legal Strikes: What the Motion to Dismiss Says**

Petty’s defense attorneys are now challenging the entire prosecution on six major grounds. The motion argues that the charges—aggravated trespass, intimidation, and menacing—fail to meet statutory elements. The facts simply do not support the notion that Petty crossed into a restricted workspace or issued a specific, credible threat to any public official. The area where he walked had no barriers, was accessible to the public both before and after prior meetings, and Petty was between fifteen and twenty feet from the Clerk when he made his statement.

The filing points to **selective prosecution** by highlighting the city’s refusal to charge others for far more egregious council disruptions. It also raises **vagueness and overbreadth** concerns about how disorderly conduct and intimidation statutes are being applied to constitutionally protected speech. Most importantly, it outlines how the City of Lorain has used **criminal process as a substitute for political accountability**—launching the case at the insistence of councilmembers who later recused themselves.

The motion states plainly that the prosecution lacks a lawful basis, violates Petty’s First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, and constitutes a retaliatory abuse of governmental authority.

## **This Isn’t About Petty. It’s About Power.**

What’s happening to Garon Petty could happen to anyone. And what happened to me already did. The parallels are no longer theoretical—they’re factual. They trace the contours of a system that has been quietly

reengineered not to uphold justice, but to preserve political control and punish dissent.

In my case, back in 2023, Chief James McCann deliberately circulated defamatory and false statements about me—sending emails to court administrators, professional licensing boards, and even third parties unrelated to any official investigation. These weren't procedural updates. They were calculated acts of reputational sabotage, dressed up as public safety concerns. McCann described me as "unhinged," hinted at mental instability, and implied that I was a professional threat—all without any substantiated evidence or proper review. He took what should have been internal deliberations and laundered them through unofficial channels to discredit me not just publicly, but professionally. These messages were sent during an active campaign of retaliation—and they had consequences. I lost work, I lost credibility in some circles, and I had to fight for months to expose the truth.

Now I watch as the same tactics are deployed against Garon Petty.

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*The method is eerily familiar: internal emails circulated to shape a narrative before a single court filing occurs, evidence withheld from defense counsel while being funneled to outside observers, and vague, contradictory police statements later used to support overblown criminal charges. In both cases, the city didn't just violate norms...it rewrote them.*

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The public still hasn't seen the full scope of how city officials initiated Petty's prosecution. But what we do know is damning. Witnesses with direct involvement later recused themselves. Police officers involved in the investigation shifted their narrative under pressure. Discovery materials were shared with me—an outside party not connected to the case—while Petty's legal team remained in the dark.

This isn't about decorum at council meetings. It isn't about rules of order or preserving peace in public spaces. This is about a city government that treats the justice system like a hammer—and uses it to silence or punish those who embarrass them, expose their contradictions, or fail to fall in line. When a

private citizen becomes a political inconvenience, prosecution becomes the punishment. When Council members make the Chief look weak, he responds by flipping the table.

Garon Petty isn't the exception. He's the template. The question now isn't whether the charges will be dismissed. The question is how many more people need to be targeted, discredited, or investigated before we call this what it is: **a coordinated misuse of power to criminalize dissent.**

## **Final Thought: If This Is Justice, Then Who's Watching the Watchmen?**

This case was never just about Garon Petty—and it was never just about one outburst at a Council meeting. It's about what happens when power gets so comfortable in its own echo chamber that it no longer fears scrutiny, no longer tolerates dissent, and no longer bothers hiding the strings it pulls behind the curtain.

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*The Chief didn't give me the file because I'm special. He gave it to me because I'm inconvenient. Because I publish what others suppress. Because Council embarrassed him with the truth, and retaliation was the only language he had left.*

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And that's the part the public can't afford to miss.

When evidence flows faster to reporters than it does to defense attorneys—when investigations begin at the request of politicians, then handed off to police officers who later recuse themselves—**we aren't watching a justice system at work. We're watching power protecting itself.**

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*Even now, Councilmember Mary Springowski—one of the original voices demanding accountability—**still hasn't turned over the video evidence she publicly claimed to have.** A video she said captured the incident. A video*

*that could confirm or destroy the city's case. She said she had it. She still hasn't produced it. And no one in power seems interested in forcing the issue.*

Instead, when the city believed I had that video, prosecutors went after me. First it was Assistant Prosecutor **Rocky Radeff**, who issued a **subpoena duces tecum** trying to force me to turn over materials I never had. Then **Patrick Ward**, the newly appointed outside prosecutor, subpoenaed me **twice**—desperately searching for evidence that didn't exist.

They had no idea I fabricated the story on Facebook as bait—to see who was watching me.

And just like that, the mask slipped. I wasn't a journalist in their eyes. I was a threat. A witness to their hypocrisy. An obstacle to their narrative.

So while a sitting councilmember withholds possible exculpatory evidence, the full force of the city's legal machine was aimed at silencing **me**—not to protect the public, but to protect themselves.

I've covered every inch of this case. I've printed the emails. I've tracked the reversals. I've confronted the double standards. And I've seen—firsthand—how officials weaponize confusion, delay, and selective enforcement to punish not just their critics, but anyone who reminds them they answer to the public.

This is a government that fears embarrassment more than it fears being wrong.

And if that doesn't terrify you, it should.

Because today it's Petty. Last year it was me. And next time—it could be you.

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