

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 7:13 PM  
**To:** Michele Beko; Don Zaleski; Jack Bradley; City Group; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Fox; David Yost AG; Brian Ames; Breanna Dull  
**Subject:** Confirming

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I believe you were going to provide an email confirming the non-completion of all the Council members' Brit/Per Certs, as well as Arroyo's outstanding Sunshine Law requirement. I'm not 100% certain, but I thought the intent was to have this settled by tomorrow?

Can you please confirm?

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

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**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** City Group; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Clevescene; Fox; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; Breanna Dull; Mike Mason; Joseph LaVeck; Don Zaleski; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov  
**Subject:** Response to Allegation Regarding Mediation Disclosures

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Attorney Zaleski,

I understand that the City is alleging I publicly disclosed confidential information from our mediation, possibly through my social media or recent Substack publication.

To be clear, I categorically reject any claim that I violated mediation confidentiality. Under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2710, particularly § 2710.03 and § 2710.05, confidentiality applies only to mediation communications as narrowly defined — not to surrounding facts, government conduct, or broader public matters.

At no point have I disclosed the substance of any negotiations or any specific settlement discussions protected under ORC 2710. Moreover, I made it explicitly clear during mediation that I intended to publish reporting and commentary on the events and conduct underlying the dispute. There was no objection raised at that time to that intent.

As you know, nothing in ORC 2710 overrides the First Amendment protections afforded to individuals reporting on government actions. Public officials are not entitled to privacy with respect to their official conduct, nor can mediation be used to shield allegations of misconduct or suppress speech on matters of public concern.

If the City believes a specific statement or publication constitutes a breach of mediation confidentiality, I respectfully request that you cite the exact language and corresponding legal basis under the Ohio Uniform Mediation Act.

Should this allegation be used to delay or interfere with lawful public records requests, or to retaliate against protected speech, it would raise significant legal and constitutional issues.

I remain open to professional communication and welcome any clarification the City is willing to provide.

Sincerely,

Aaron Knapp

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

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# Beko, Michele

**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Jeff Graham; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Carrion, Rey; Brad Dicken; Carissa Woytach; David Yost AG; Robert J Gargasz; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Aaron Knapp; Jackie Conrad; rebecca kempton; Institute for Justice; Stephanie Jablonsky; Kathryn Kennedy; Darryl Tucker; LorainDaily; Lorain Police; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Rewakcp@rewaklaw.com; Michael Scherach; Michelle Nicks; Mike Mason; Mike Massie; Clevescene; Sensai Cobra; Denise Wilms; Dennis Flores; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank  
**Subject:** Will Lorain city council, Administration and Lorain Schools apologize?

## 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.

[Redacted email content]

STATE OF OHIO )  
COUNTY OF LORAIN )  
STATE OF OHIO ) C.A. No. 2025-0915  
Appellant )  
v )  
BRANDON WYSOCKI )  
Appellee )

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS  
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
APPEAL FROM JUDGMENT  
ENTERED IN THE  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
COUNTY OF LORAIN, OHIO  
CASE No. 2025-0915

### DECISION AND JOURNAL ENTRY

Dated August 18, 2025

CARR, Judge

(¶1) Plaintiff-Appellant the State of Ohio appeals the decision of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas granting Defendant-Appellee Brandon Wysocki's motion to suppress. The Court affirms.

(¶2) In February 2024, an indictment was filed charging Wysocki with one count of illegal conveyance or possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance in a school safety zone in violation of R.C. 2921.12(B), (E)(1). The count included a forfeiture specification.

(¶3) In April 2024, Wysocki filed a motion to suppress. Wysocki argued, *inter alia*, that there was no lawful reason he was detained nor was there a lawful reason he was searched.

(¶4) A hearing was held on the motion. After which, the trial court issued an entry granting the motion to suppress. The trial court concluded that the State failed to demonstrate that Wysocki voluntarily consented to the search of his person prior to getting into the police car.

2025-Ohio-2915  
PDF Document · 200 KB

Lorain appointment fight was  
mishandled  
chroniclet.com

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:08 PM  
**To:** Patrick Riley; Bradley, Jack; City Council Mail Group; Harper, Anita; Zaleski, Don; Joseph LaVeck; Arredondo, Joel  
**Cc:** Robert J Gargasz; Carissa Woytach; Aaron Knapp; LorainDaily; Michael Scherach; Darryl Tucker; David Yost AG; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Mike Mason; Michelle Nicks; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Sensai Cobra; Jackie Conrad  
**Subject:** Has Councilwoman Springowski received an answer to her vowed challenge of Law Director Riley's ruling? Please publish it.

### Warning: Unusual link

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

**THE**  
**CHRONICLE**  
TELEGRAM

Lorain appointment fight was  
mishandled  
chroniclet.com

After the items were split, Council voted on Wysocki's appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals, but he failed to garner enough support because Springowski refused to vote on what she called an illegal motion. Arredondo said he would count her refusal as an abstention.

That should have been the end of it, but sometime after the meeting, Bradley asked Riley for a legal opinion on how to handle Springowski's abstention.

Riley concluded that since she had abstained without stating a conflict of interest, her vote should be counted with the majority. With Springowski's vote added to the total, it was enough to appoint Wysocki to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Even if Riley was right about how to handle an abstention, it was clearly not what Springowski, who has vowed to challenge his ruling, wanted. Nor did it strike us as a particularly good way to handle the situation.

## **Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 5:46 AM  
**To:** Patrick Riley; Michele Beko; City Group; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Fox; Jack Bradley; Don Zaleski; City Group; Brian Ames  
**Subject:** Public Records Request – Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act, I respectfully request the following records:

### **1. Date Range:**

- From January 1, 2025 to the present (August 2025)

### **2. Records Requested:**

- All emails, internal communications, attachments, and documents that:
  - Mention “Aaron Christopher Knapp”, or
  - Relate to or discuss any charges, investigations, or legal proceedings involving me in Lorain Municipal Court

### **3. Custodians of Records (Staff Involved):**

#### **Law Director’s Office**

- Patrick Riley (Law Director)

- Joseph LaVeck
- James McCann
- Kenneth Resar
- Donald Zaleski
- Joseph Pritchard
- Michele Beko
- Carlie Irvin

#### **Prosecutor's Office**

- Mallory Santiago
- Rocky Radeff
- Denise Rakich
- Margarita Rivera
- Alexia Diaz

#### **4. Format:**

Please provide records in electronic format (PDF, or original .eml format if possible).

#### **5. Regarding Redactions and Privilege:**

I request the records unredacted, to the fullest extent permitted by law. I understand that not all communications involving attorneys are protected under attorney-client privilege or exempt from disclosure. In particular:

- Emails between public officials are not automatically exempt, and
- The burden of proving any exemption lies with the agency.

If you believe certain portions must be redacted, please cite the specific legal exemption used for each redaction or withheld record.

## **7. Additional Statement:**

If the City of Lorain is willing to spend public money to take Facebook post disputes to the Special Master, it should not hesitate to comply with a legitimate public records request concerning official communications and charging decisions.

This effort to withhold or delay records is not only unproductive — it's wasteful. You've already stated that Council has not acted, and yet resources are still being spent to fight over it. Stop wasting taxpayer dollars and release the records.

I find it especially troubling, Donald, that you're so flippant with my tax dollars — and yet seem unwilling to produce routine emails. If you continue to obstruct, this will cost the City far more than it would to comply.

## **8. Legal Notice:**

This is my official demand letter under the Ohio Public Records Act, and it will be submitted to the court as part of the record if compliance is not met in a lawful and timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

## **6. Contact:**

Please inform me in advance of any potential costs.

Thank you for your compliance with the Ohio Public Records Act and your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Aaron Christopher Knapp

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 6:31 PM  
**To:** Mike Failing  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Records – Communication

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

That will work. Mainly in his interview with Morris, Arredondo, stated he had emailed the chief about this situation or the chief him...

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

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On Aug 21, 2025, at 11:27, Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp,

This is the only email that was located. Arredondo is listed as "Cc" on the email.

Respectfully,

A/Chief Michael Failing

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 7:20 AM  
**To:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Records – Communication

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

Thank you so much. I really appreciate you and the work you are doing. Day and night in leadership. You are day and he was night.

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

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On Aug 20, 2025, at 06:55, Failing, Mike <[Mike\\_Failing@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp,

I received your records request and have begun processing it.

Respectfully,

A/Chief Michael Failing

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 6:04 AM

**To:** Failing, Mike <[Mike\\_Failing@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org)>

**Subject:** Request for Records – Communication

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Acting Chief Failing,

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act, I am formally requesting the following public records:

1. Any and all emails or written communications between Chief James McCann and Council President Joel Arredondo on the dates of July 2 and July 3, 2024.

This request specifically concerns communications related to an email that Council President Arredondo stated he received from Chief McCann, informing him about an interview conducted between Breanna Dull and Lt. Morris on July 2, 2024. The interview allegedly pertained to an incident involving Garon Petty that occurred after the July 1, 2024, City Council meeting.

Please include any attachments, notes, or related internal documentation associated with these communications.

I request that the records be provided in electronic format, if available. If there are any fees associated with processing this request, please notify me in advance.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

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<DOC.pdf>

**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Records – Communication

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 6:04 AM  
**To:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Request for Records – Communication

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Acting Chief Failing,

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act, I am formally requesting the following public records:

- Any and all emails or written communications between Chief James McCann and Council President Joel Arredondo on the dates of July 2 and July 3, 2024.

This request specifically concerns communications related to an email that Council President Arredondo stated he received from Chief McCann, informing him about an interview conducted between Breanna Dull and Lt. Morris on July 2, 2024. The interview allegedly pertained to an incident involving Garon Petty that occurred after the July 1, 2024, City Council meeting.

Please include any attachments, notes, or related internal documentation associated with these communications.

I request that the records be provided in electronic format, if available. If there are any fees associated with processing this request, please notify me in advance.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Records – Emails Between Chief McCann and Loraine Ritchey (2022–Present)

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 6:31 AM  
**To:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Request for Records – Emails Between Chief McCann and Loraine Ritchey (2022–Present)

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Acting Chief Failing,

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act, I am requesting the following public records:

- All emails sent to Chief James McCann from Loraine Ritchey, and
- All emails sent from Chief James McCann to Loraine Ritchey,
- Covering the time period from January 1, 2022, to the present date.

Please include the full email content, metadata (e.g., timestamps, sender/recipient fields), and any attachments.

I am assuming this is a low volume of records. If the request is deemed too broad, I am willing to work with your office to reasonably narrow the scope.

I request that the records be provided in electronic format (PDF or .eml preferred). If there are any costs associated with fulfilling this request, please notify me in advance.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:05 AM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 8:25 AM  
**To:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Ugh. Sometimes I go into the "search feature" and it allows you to specify

To:

From:

What email server do you use? Maybe I can look it up?

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

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On Aug 20, 2025, at 07:23, Failing, Mike <[Mike\\_Failing@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Part of the problem is that the search picks up on your name, whether it's in the "TO", "FROM", or the body of the email.

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 7:19 AM  
**To:** Failing, Mike <[Mike\\_Failing@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Any email that I didn't send (so take out my emails) and keep it specific to me. But if he was in touch with that many people about me or it's that many emails that's insane. I just want emails that mention me preferably. If you can perhaps guide me. On what type of amount we are discussing and reference points. I don't want to eat up your time but this is basically me trying to backtrack this information now that he's gone. I've basically asked for these numerous times in smaller amounts and was always denied.

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

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On Aug 20, 2025, at 06:51, Failing, Mike <[Mike\\_Failing@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

I just wanted to give you an update on your request. I have completed the Hilton request, but I am still searching for the Sheriff request. It is a broad request, and I am searching for it several different ways. Is there anything narrower that you are looking for?

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 11:08 AM  
**To:** Lorain PD Records Request <[LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org](mailto:LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org)>; Lorain daily <[erik@loraindaily.com](mailto:erik@loraindaily.com)>; Mike Mason <[Mike.Mason@woio.com](mailto:Mike.Mason@woio.com)>; Clevescene <[news@clevescene.com](mailto:news@clevescene.com)>; Noelle Williams <[Noelle.Williams@woio.com](mailto:Noelle.Williams@woio.com)>; Robert J. Gargas <[rjgargas@gmail.com](mailto:rjgargas@gmail.com)>; Garon Petty <[onelung2014@gmail.com](mailto:onelung2014@gmail.com)>; Fox <[tips@fox8.com](mailto:tips@fox8.com)>; City Council Mail Group <[CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org](mailto:CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org)>; Bradley, Jack <[Jack\\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org)>; Carrion, Rey <[Rey\\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org)>; David Yost AG <[AGOCARES@ohioago.gov](mailto:AGOCARES@ohioago.gov)>; Brian Ames <[bmames00@gmail.com](mailto:bmames00@gmail.com)>; Dull, Breanna <[Breanna\\_Dull@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org)>; LaVeck, Joseph <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>; Failing, Mike <[Mike\\_Failing@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org)>  
**Subject:** Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I am still awaiting the full set of emails that meet the following criteria:

1. All emails exchanged between James McCann and Tia Hilton that reference or mention Aaron Knapp, including both sent and received messages.
2. All emails sent to or received from the Sheriff and/or Sheriff's Department that reference or mention Aaron Knapp.

Please confirm receipt of this request and provide an estimated timeline for when these records will be made available.

Thank you,

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 12:06 PM  
**To:** Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck  
**Cc:** Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org; Mike Massie; Morris Jacob  
**Subject:** Hitting the fan .. no concrete over shoes please....  
**Attachments:** Bob Gargas.jpg; BG nut.jpg; ahhhhhhhh Bob.jpg

**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.

well finally my emails with my concerns as to Petty and Gargas and Knapp have found there way out into the world of Knapp. ( It is fine I knew eventually they would why I wrote them) and poor old Gargas now has me down as well see for yourselves..... Anyway it will get hotter and heavier..... and I have no problems with that I stand by everything I have ever written and yes as I have mentioned Bob was part of a fishing club ... he was our lawyer at one and friend of my husband ... Well me being mentally unstable etc is my excuse what is his excuse for the pathetic ( in my opinion rhetoric) do you think..... I find it amazing that they can slag people off with innuendo but when someone bites back professionalism is removed..... Anyway I am glad because quite frankly I still see this rhetoric getting out of hand ... just a another citizen ( non Journalist ( smile) Loraine

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:54 AM  
**To:** Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; City Group; Patrick Riley; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Maggie Partin; Michael Scherach; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Tony Cillo; Jeanne Petty; Rocky Radeff; Sheriff Jack Hall; Teresa Upton; jfr\_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; david@yesce.com Moore, David  
**Subject:** Local Gov't Wants to Take 17K Acres for 'Industrial Development'

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. Steel Mill area should be marketed for this newly desired Steel Mill location!! Go after this company. <https://youtu.be/bYqWvngLxNg?si=iFt7lqW84KFVR1DO>

Sent from my iPhone

**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 7:57 AM  
**To:** Telegram  
**Cc:** Aaron Knapp; Rewakcp@rewaklaw.com; Robert J Gargas; Michael Scherach; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Carrion, Rey; rebecca kempton; Carissa Woytách; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Sensai Cobra; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Institute for Justice; Stephanie Jablonsky; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; leigh.prugh@lcprosecutor.org; Tony Cillo; Sheriff Jack Hall; Mike Mason; Major Scharschmidt; Linda Rivera; Denise Wilms; LorainDaily; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Tori Middlebrooks; Tom Niewulis; Lorain Police; Darryl Tucker; Michelle Nicks  
**Subject:** Government employees needs to Learn Our Rights

**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.

To the Editor:

The Brandon Wysocki dismissal of charges needs to be investigated as to why LPD and government dont protect our Rights.

Police dont know our rights? Ghost school employee tells on Brandon Wysocki? Springowski fights to keep Wysocki from appointment by Mayor Bradley? Which member of council works for the city schools? 4th amendment violated by government?

Brandon Wysocki for Mayor of Lorain!

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



Prosecutor to dismiss charge  
against former Lorain school  
employee who went armed on 2023  
field trip  
chroniclet.com

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 8:14 AM  
**To:** Patrick Riley; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Fox; City Group; Jack Bradley; Brian Ames  
**Subject:** Concern Regarding Statement Made During Mediation and Clarification on Reporting

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. Riley, Mr. Bradley, and Council

As we proceed to the special master regarding my public records request for Sunshine Law training records, I want to formally raise a concern about a statement made by Assistant Law Director Donald Zaleski during the recent mediation.

Mr. Zaleski suggested that my records request was politically motivated due to my candidacy against Councilman Angel Arroyo. As a city employee, regardless of classification, Mr. Zaleski should not be bringing politics into official proceedings or influencing the handling of public records requests. Public records laws in Ohio do not require requesters to disclose motives, and political considerations must not impact the process.

Additionally, I am a journalist and have reported on the information obtained through public hearings and official proceedings. At the hearing, I stated my intent to report on the information discussed, including that the Sunshine Law classes had not been completed as requested, and I accurately reported the statement made by Mr. Zaleski. No confidential or privileged mediation information was disclosed.

Furthermore, this matter could have been resolved efficiently with a simple email confirming that the requested training records cannot be provided because the classes have not been taken, rather than expending city tax dollars by advancing to a special master.

I ask that this statement and these concerns be noted as part of the record and addressed accordingly. I trust that Lorain's administration values transparency, fairness, and neutrality in all legal and administrative matters.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW,,BSSW**

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## 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:** Flagged

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

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:** Flagged

**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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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** Jack Bradley  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Rey Carrion; Mike Failing; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; Joseph LaVeck; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**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:** Flagged

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt

<sscharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>

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

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

**Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.**

Dear Mayor Bradley, Director 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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## Beko, Michele

---

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

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Begin forwarded message:

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

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

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

Please send my request ASAP.  
Thank You,  
Garon Petty

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

**RULE 3 - Public Meetings**

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

1 | Page

**RULE 4 - Committee-of-the-Whole**

The Council may resolve into a Committee-of-the-Whole by a majority

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

**RULE 41- Other Rules/Council Chamber**

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



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

Hello,

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

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

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

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

Thank you,  
Garon Petty

Meeting: City Council Regular  
Meeting  
lorainoh.suiteonemedia.com

[<favicon.ico>](#)