

Beko, Michele

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 2:11 PM
To: Carrion, Rey
Subject: RE: McCann settlement agreement

Thanks Rey -

From: Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 2:10 PM
To: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Dowell, Angela <Angela_Dowell@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: McCann settlement agreement

Hi Michele,

Yes, the agreement was released yesterday to Mr. Knapp.

Rey

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 26, 2025, at 1:43 PM, Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Can you tell me if your office released the above documents to Aaron Knapp?

Michele

Michele T. Beko
Administrative Asst/Office Manager
Lorain Law Director's Office
200 West Erie Avenue, 3rd floor
Lorain, OH 44052
440.204.2250
Michele_beko@cityoflorain.org

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 12:15 PM

To: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.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; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.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; 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

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mayor Bradley and ALL Concerned Parties,

This will serve as a formal reminder of the City of Lorain’s continuing legal obligations in matters involving insurance claims, civil rights violations, and retaliation allegations.

While I acknowledge that the City may be coordinating with legal counsel or insurers, such coordination does not negate the City's independent obligations under state and federal law. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Timely Reporting & Good-Faith Review:** As you are aware, most municipal insurance policies require prompt notification of claims and good-faith consideration of settlement offers—especially those within policy limits—to protect the insured from excess judgments. Undue delay or categorical denials may constitute bad-faith conduct.
- **Cooperation Obligations:** The City, as the insured, has an ongoing duty to cooperate with its insurance carrier and to evaluate reasonable offers, rather than summarily reject them or disregard documented evidence.
- **Constitutional & Statutory Duties:** My right to petition public officials on matters of public concern—including civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and disability discrimination—is firmly protected under the First Amendment and federal whistleblower statutes. Attempting to insulate public officials from direct accountability through blanket denials or silence does not comport with constitutional norms or public service ethics.
- **Ohio-Specific Statutes:** Under Ohio law, designated officials—such as a Director of Law—may hold settlement authority within certain thresholds. However, refusal to engage or document a legitimate settlement negotiation may raise serious concerns under both public accountability laws and prohibited insurance practices outlined by the Ohio Department of Insurance.

To be clear: I am not asking for a favor. I am documenting an official request for remedy that remains viable but is time-sensitive. If the City believes this matter should be handled exclusively through counsel, I am fully prepared to proceed accordingly, but I will not accept silence, evasion, or procedural deflection as a substitute for substantive response.

Govern yourselves accordingly.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran | Social Worker | Whistleblower

a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com | (216) 659-9899

Beko, Michele

From: Greszler, Andrew <Andrew_Greszler@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 8:39 AM
To: Santiago, Mallory
Subject: TPO Report with Hilton/Knapp
Attachments: 1C52D94Sview.pdf

Hey Mal,

Just an fyi report so you're aware if it wasn't up there yet.

Gresz

Beko, Michele

From: Greszler, Andrew <Andrew_Greszler@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 8:39 AM
To: Santiago, Mallory
Subject: TPO Report with Hilton/Knapp
Attachments: 1C52D94Sview.pdf

Hey Mal,

Just an fyi report so you're aware if it wasn't up there yet.

Gresz

Beko, Michele

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Kokoski, Lori
Subject: RE: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

Yes I have it -

-----Original Message-----

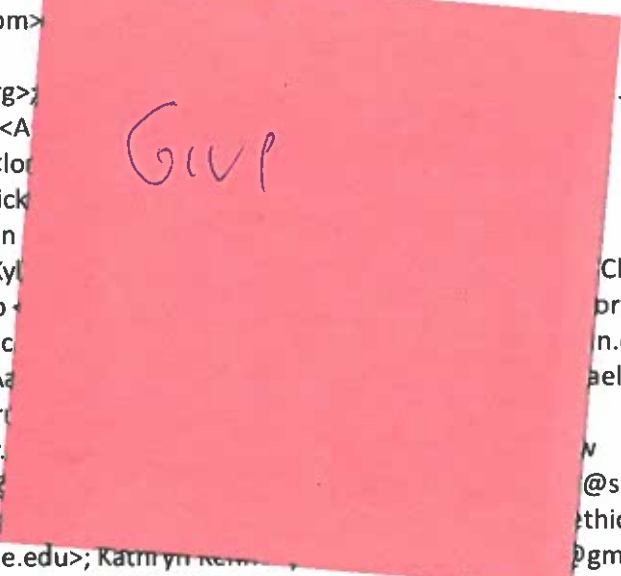
From: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

I provided you with a copy of Rocky Radeff's file already.

Lori

-----Original Message-----

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 11:29 AM
To: Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Joseph
<Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita <A
<Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garcia, Lori <lor
<Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Rick <Rick
<Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don
<DComer@CityofLorain.org>; Gelenius, Kyle <Kyl
<Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob
<mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org>; City Council
Cc: Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; A
<mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Lindsay Cart
<AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; lcp@lcprosecutor.
<greaterlorainareacaucus@gmail.com>; Istark@
cpetrucci@sheffieldlake.net; wwtulich@sheffie
Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Kathryn Ken
Baumgartner <baumgartner.elsebeth@yahoo.com>; skovach@sheffieldlake.net; Dan Gilles <dgillescle@gmail.com>;
Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; David Graves
<dgraves@sheffieldlake.net>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>;
Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>
Subject: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.



External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello, to whoever has the electronic communication records requested below,

Per 149.43 Ohio Revised Code, I am asking for the employment file of prosecutor Rocky Radeff.
His wages, work hours with dates for the last three years 2022, 2023, 2024.

Also ALL electronic communications Mr Radeff has sent or received while working for Lorain during his paid hours.

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 9:15 AM
To: Kokoski, Lori
Subject: RE: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

Yes, I have it thank you -

-----Original Message-----

From: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

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Lori

-----Original Message-----

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 11:29 AM
To: Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Kalo, Ted <Ted_Kalo@cityoflorain.org>; Koziura, Joseph <Joe_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita <Anita_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garcia, Lori <lori_garcia@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Rick <Rick_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Santiago, Mallory <mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@OhioAGO.gov>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; clerkofcourts@sheffieldlake.net; Jon Morrow <greaterlorainareacaucus@gmail.com>; lstark@sheffieldlake.net; mcizl@sheffieldlake.net; rgee@sheffieldlake.net; cpetrucci@sheffieldlake.net; wwtulich@sheffieldlake.net; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Elsebeth Baumgartner <baumgartner.elsebeth@yahoo.com>; skovach@sheffieldlake.net; Dan Gilles <Dgillescle@gmail.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; David Graves <dgraves@sheffieldlake.net>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>
Subject: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello, to whoever has the electronic communication records requested below,

Per 149.43 Ohio Revised Code, I am asking for the employment file of prosecutor Rocky Radeff. His wages, work hours with dates for the last three years 2022, 2023, 2024.

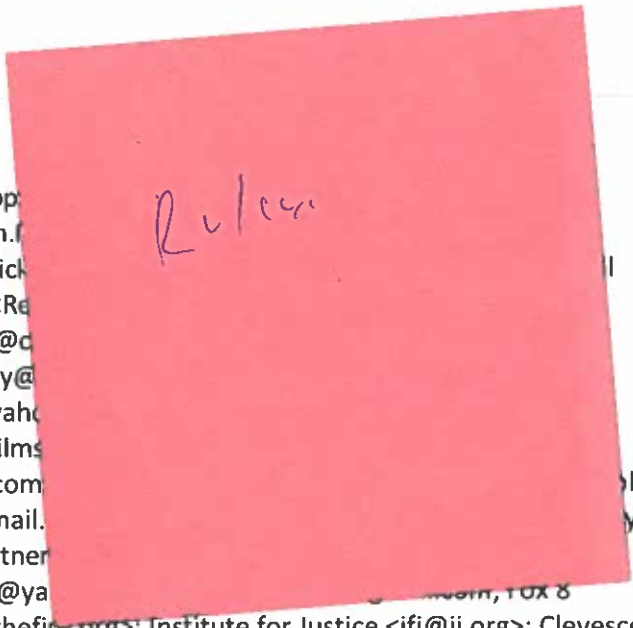
Also ALL electronic communications Mr Radeff has sent or received while working for Lorain during his paid hours.

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 10:18 AM
To: Bowles, Scott
Subject: FW: Please read

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:40 PM
To: Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@OhioAGO.gov>; Jonathan.Schupp <clandestinecanary@proton.me>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Brian.f <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Brad Dick <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Re <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Radeff, Rocky <Rocky_Radeff@c <mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@ <Rick_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yah Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Denise Wilms Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com> bert yn J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Elsebeth Baumgartner Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; jeanne Petty <jeanne_810@ya <tips@fox8.com>; Stephanie Jablonsky <stephanie.jablonsky@thefire.org>; Institute for Justice <ifj@ij.org>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Ashland Source <news@ashlandsource.com>; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>
Subject: Please read



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.

Adobe Acrobat - Complete Report with Exhibits.pdf
acrobat.adobe.com



Beko, Michele

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 3:06 PM
To: Riley, Patrick
Subject: Accepted: meet re Aaron Knapp records requests
Attachments: attachment.ics

Beko, Michele

From: Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 1:22 PM
To: Bowles, Scott
Subject: FW: Lorain City Council Subject: Public Records Request – Council Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

Hi Scott,

Sorry—I forgot to CC you on this earlier.

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

440.204.2050
440.204.2521 fax

From: Dull, Breanna
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 11:27 AM
To: Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>
Cc: Bowles, Scott <Scott_Bowles@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: Lorain City Council Subject: Public Records Request – Council Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

Good Morning, Mr. Comer,

Please see the records request below from Mr. Knapp. Using the keywords “Aaron Christopher Knapp”, can you please assist **in the search for the following:**

- “All emails, texts, internal communications, attachments, or other documents that:
 - Mention or reference “Aaron Christopher Knapp”, or
 - Discuss or relate to any legal matter, charge, or city action involving me, including any communications with or about the Law Director’s Office, the Lorain Municipal Court, or the Prosecutor’s Office”

From the following people:

“3. Custodians of Records (Requested From):

All current members of Lorain City Council, including but not limited to:

- Mary Springkowski, Joanne Moon, Danielle Nutt, Joel Arredondo, Mary Spellacy, Tony Dimacchai, Victoria Kempton, Joshua Thornsberry, Beth Henley, Pam Carter, former council Antonio Baez and current Council Angel Arroyo,
- As well as:
- Council Clerk or Staff
- Any council-appointed representatives who send or receive communications on behalf of Council members”

Please let me know if you need anything from me.

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

440.204.2050
 440.204.2521 fax

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 5:54 AM
To: City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>
Subject: Lorain City Council Subject: Public Records Request – Council 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 am formally requesting access to the following public records from the Lorain City Council and its staff:

1. Date Range:

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

2. Records Requested:

- All emails, texts, internal communications, attachments, or other documents that:
 - Mention or reference “Aaron Christopher Knapp”, or
 - Discuss or relate to any legal matter, charge, or city action involving me, including any communications with or about the Law Director’s Office, the Lorain Municipal Court, or the Prosecutor’s Office
-

3. Custodians of Records (Requested From):

All current members of Lorain City Council, including but not limited to:

- Mary Springkowski, Joanne Moon, Danielle Nutt, Joel Arredondo, Mary Spellacy, Tony Dimacchai, Victoria Kempton, Joshua Thornsberry, Beth Henley, Pam Carter, former council Antonio Baez and current Council Angel Arroyo,
- As well as:
- Council Clerk or Staff
- Any council-appointed representatives who send or receive communications on behalf of Council members

And Safety Service Director Rey Carrion.

4. Format:

I request the records in electronic format (PDF, .eml, or text format preferred). If any responsive communications occurred over personal email, text, or social media accounts used for public business, those are subject to disclosure under the Ohio Public Records Act.

5. Regarding Redactions and Privilege:

I am requesting these records unredacted, unless a valid exemption under Ohio law clearly applies. As you are aware:

- Communications between public officials and city staff are not inherently privileged
- The burden of proof for any claimed exemption lies solely with the public body
- Exemptions must be cited with specific legal justification for any redactions or withholdings

6. Costs and Delivery:

Please notify me in advance of any costs associated with fulfilling this request.

7. Additional Statement:

If the City of Lorain is willing to spend taxpayer money to involve a Special Master over trivial disputes like Facebook posts, then it should have no issue complying with this legitimate public records request concerning actual government communications and conduct.

It is deeply irresponsible to claim transparency while simultaneously burning public funds to avoid disclosure. You've already asserted that no official action was taken by Council, yet you continue to waste our money defending something you say didn't happen. The records should be released. Stop wasting our tax dollars.

This kind of behavior erodes public trust and reflects poorly on Council's stated commitment to accountability.

8. Legal Notice:

This letter serves as my official public records demand. If this request is ignored or improperly denied, I will submit it to the court as part of a formal complaint or legal challenge under the Ohio Public Records Act.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Aaron Christopher Knapp

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

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

Beko, Michele

From: Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Beko, Michele; Soto, Rick
Subject: RE: response to email of 8/1/2025 @ 7:03 AM from Atty. Don Zaleski Re: LaVeck PPP

I have already provided the employee handbook to Mr. Knapp. I do not have a copy of the Lexipol that the police use which may be what he is requesting.

Lori

From: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Soto, Rick <Rick_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: response to email of 8/1/2025 @ 7:03 AM from Atty. Don Zaleski Re: LaVeck PPP

Rick & Lori – can you please review this records request from Aaron Knapp and provide us with any information you may have relative to his request? Don will reach out if he has any questions. Thanks for your help on this!

Michele

*Michele T. Beko
Administrative Asst/Office Manager
Lorain Law Director's Office
200 West Erie Avenue, 3rd floor
Lorain, OH 44052
440.204.2250
Michele_beko@cityoflorain.org*

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 2:00 PM
To: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>
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 response dated August 4, 2025.

As my initial inquiry was not processed, I am now restating the matter as a formal public records request pursuant to R.C. 149.43, the Ohio Public Records Act.

Specifically, I am requesting any records maintained by the City of Lorain—including but not limited to employee handbooks, policies, procedures, training materials, or internal communications—pertaining to the following:

1. City policies or procedures governing outside or secondary employment by City employees;
2. Any internal guidance or oversight concerning City employees applying for or receiving federal relief funds (e.g., Paycheck Protection Program loans);
3. Conflict of interest, ethics, or financial disclosure requirements applicable to City employees;
4. Any relevant communications or administrative memos that address employee participation in external business ventures while employed by the City.

This request includes responsive materials held by the City's Human Resources Department, Law Department, Auditor's Office, or any other applicable entity.

I would prefer to receive the records in electronic format, if available.

Thank you for your time and compliance with your statutory obligations under R.C. 149.43. Please let me know if clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

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

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

On Aug 7, 2025, at 13:28, Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp,

We have received your email dated 8.4.2025. This is not a request for public records and we have no response.

Donald M. Zaleski

Assistant Law Director

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 11:15 AM
To: Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
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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Beko, Michele

From: Failing, Mike <Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:03 AM
To: LaVeck, Joseph
Subject: FW: Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 7:19 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.

Any email that I didn't send (so take out my emails) and keep it private. I don't want that many people about me or it's that many emails that's ins... preferably. If you can perhaps guide me. On what type of amo... I don't want to eat up your time but this is basically me trying... 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> 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?

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 11:08 AM
To: Lorain PD Records Request <LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rigargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey

<Rev_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike_Failing@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Request for Emails Regarding Aaron Knapp

External sender <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

From: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:44 PM
To: Comer, David
Cc: Carrion, Rey
Subject: FW: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

Dave:

Can you see if any such emails exist from Chief McCann's email? Please provide to me directly for review, if applicable.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052
joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:36 PM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Lorain PD Records Request <LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: 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 action

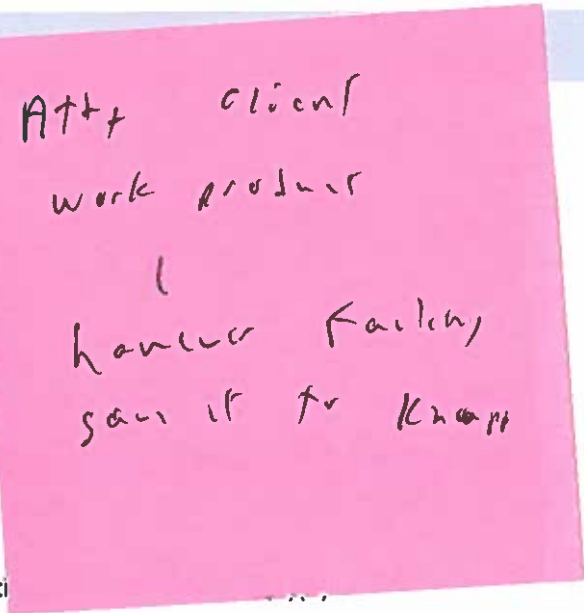
Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA, BSSW
4220 Talbot Lane
Lorain, OH 44055
Email: a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

July 13, 2025

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

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

Dear Attorney LaVeck:



Att client
work product
L
handed folder
sent it to Knapp

Thank you for your July 24, 2023 response to my public records request regarding a complaint reportedly submitted to the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist Board by a member of the Lorain Police Department. I respectfully submit this written reply to clarify the applicable legal standards and to dispute your cited basis for denial.

You state that “even if there was a complaint made or information provided by a City of Lorain employee to ‘the Board,’ any complaint or information provided would be confidential and therefore not a public record,” citing R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v) and R.C. 4757.38(B)(1). However, your interpretation misapplies these statutes by conflating the confidentiality obligations of the receiving agency (i.e., the Social Work Board) with those of the originating public office (i.e., the City of Lorain).

1. The Email Complaint, If Sent from a City-Issued Account, Is a Public Record Under Ohio Law

Under Ohio’s Public Records Act, a “public record” includes any document, regardless of format, “that is created or received by or coming under the jurisdiction of any public office of the state or its political subdivisions, which serves to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the office.” R.C. 149.011(G); see also R.C. 149.43(A)(1).

It is well-settled that emails sent from city-owned computers or email accounts, relating to public business, are public records. See *State ex rel. Wilson-Simmons v. Lake Cty. Sheriff’s Dep’t*, 82 Ohio St.3d 37 (1998); see also *State ex rel. Toledo Blade Co. v. Seneca Cty. Bd. of Comm’rs*, 120 Ohio St.3d 372, 2008-Ohio-6253.

A complaint submitted by a police officer or any city employee using city email or during the course of official duties documents the activities of the city office. The city’s copy—whether in a sent folder, server archive, or data backup—is subject to R.C. 149.43, regardless of where else it may have been sent. As confirmed in *State ex rel. Cincinnati Enquirer v. Krings*, 2000 Ohio App. LEXIS 5854, the public’s right of access does not depend on where a record ends up, but where it originated and whether it documents public business.

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

You cite R.C. 4757.38(B)(1), which indeed prohibits the Social Work Board from disclosing complaints or investigative records. However, this statute applies only to the Board. It does not prohibit the originating agency from disclosing the same document. There is no language in R.C. 4757.38 that extends this confidentiality mandate to third-party public offices like the City of Lorain. As the Ohio Attorney General’s *Sunshine Laws Manual* explains, an exception to the Public Records Act must be “explicit,” and cannot be implied or inferred from another agency’s rules or duties.

Moreover, the Supreme Court of Ohio has been clear that a public record does not become confidential simply because it was later transferred to another agency with stricter disclosure laws. See *State ex rel. Findlay Publishing Co. v. Hancock Cty. Bd. of Comm’rs*, 80 Ohio St.3d 134 (1997).

3. R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v) Does Not Apply Absent a Specific Prohibition on Release by Law

R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v) excludes from disclosure only records “the release of which is prohibited by state or federal law.” To invoke this exemption, a public office must show that a specific statute prohibits the public office in question—in this case, the City of Lorain—from releasing the record. There is no such statute here. Again, R.C. 4757.38(B)(1) governs the Board—not your office, not the police department.

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

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

Finally, I reiterate that the complaint in question was allegedly submitted not merely by a private citizen, but by an individual claiming to act on behalf of "the Lorain Police Department." If a complaint was filed purporting to represent a public agency, it absolutely qualifies as a matter of public interest, accountability, and transparency. It raises significant ethical and administrative questions if a city employee falsely represented the agency to an outside licensing body, and the public has a right to inspect such correspondence.

5. Next Steps

I remain committed to resolving this matter cooperatively. However, if your office continues to deny this request without proper statutory justification, I will proceed with a formal complaint to the Ohio Court of Claims under R.C. 2743.75. Additionally, I will consider filing a whistleblower retaliation claim based on the retaliatory nature of the original complaint and the City's subsequent actions affecting my employment and licensure.

Please respond within a reasonable timeframe and reconsider the City's position in light of the above analysis. I request that the City of Lorain conduct a search of all city email servers, including Chief McCann's, for any communications sent to the Social Work Board between June 2023 and July 2023 referencing me or purporting to represent the Lorain Police Department.

Respectfully,

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

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

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