

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 5:53 PM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck  
**Cc:** Mike Failing; Brian Ames; David Yost AG; Lorain daily; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Fox; Garon Petty; Robert J. Gargas; InvestigatorTips@wews.com; Sheriff Jack Hall; Jack Bradley; Jacob Morris; Jonathan Schuppe; Kathryn Kennedy; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Mike Massie; Mike Mason; Major Steven Scharschmidt; margaretann.adorjan@cswb.ohio.gov  
**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 recent response. I acknowledge your statement that the City of Lorain is not the repository of investigatory records related to the email chain in question. However, I must reiterate that the obligation to clarify and produce public records under R.C. 149.43 is not satisfied by vague referrals or repeated disclaimers of knowledge, especially when:

- The alleged “investigation” was publicly referenced by Chief McCann in an official capacity;
- City employees, using City systems and representing City departments, corresponded with state agencies regarding me personally and professionally;
- These communications appear to have led to professional consequences that I am entitled to understand and document.

In particular:

1. Nature of the Investigation: It remains unclear what, if any, internal inquiry or administrative action was undertaken within the City or its police department, and whether it was communicated formally or informally to the Ohio CSWMFT Board.
2. Use of City Resources: If any complaint or communication was sent via city email servers or on city time, such communication constitutes a public record under Ohio

law. If the City is disclaiming all authorship or responsibility, I ask for that to be stated clearly and unequivocally.

3. Reasonable Identification of the Custodian: Simply pointing to “other persons on the chain” is insufficient. R.C. 149.43(B)(2) obligates a public office to assist in identifying the custodian of records when the requester is unable to determine that on their own. You are in a better position to determine this than I am.

At this point, the City has had ample time and opportunity to comply or to explain its position with the specificity required by law. If no additional records or clarifications are forthcoming, please treat this as my final notice of intent to file a complaint under R.C. 2743.75 with the Ohio Court of Claims. I will also be preserving all legal claims related to retaliation, civil rights violations, and violations of the Ohio Public Records Act.

Respectfully,

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member ID: 886836612

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

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

On Jun 23, 2025, at 14:36, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. The City of Lorain is not the repository of any relevant investigatory records. As you know, the other individuals on the referenced email chain are members of the Ohio CSWMFT Board. Further, as you know, any investigative material that the Board possesses are confidential – you have specifically said so yourself in prior correspondence. The Lorain Police Department is the custodian of records for employees within the Lorain Police Department. I do not know who the custodian of records for the Ohio CSWMFT Board is, though you may contact them directly for further inquiry.

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

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 1:06 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Robert Gargas <robertgargas@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>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Brian Ames <bames00@gmail.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mr. LaVeck,

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

To that end, I respectfully reiterate the following:

1. **Clarification Required:** What exactly was the nature and scope of the “investigation” referred to by Chief McCann? Was it internal, administrative, or external in nature? Who initiated it, and what agency or department led or documented it?
2. **Record Custodianship:** If you are not the custodian of those records, I ask that you identify the appropriate department or individual who is. Referring me to unnamed individuals “on the chain” is insufficient

under R.C. 149.43, which requires a good faith effort to identify and produce public records.

3. **Email Record Obligation:** As stated previously, any record—including emails—created by public employees using public resources, which document official actions or communications (even informal investigations), are presumptively public unless a specific statute exempts them. No such exemption has been clearly cited regarding the supposed investigation.

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

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

Respectfully,

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA, BSSW

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

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On Jun 23, 2025, at 12:51, LaVeck, Joseph  
<[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

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

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq  
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor  
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
[joseph\\_laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

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

**External sender** <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

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

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On Jun 23, 2025, at 10:20, LaVeck, Joseph  
<[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

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

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq  
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor  
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
[joseph\\_laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 8:08 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

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

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On Jun 18, 2025, at 19:57, Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)> wrote:

I appreciate the response. Can you provide the other end of that conversation as well?  
It seems there are replies that then Chief McCann was asking for.  
Any responses the chief received sent or received in regards to this.

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

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

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

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On Jun 18, 2025, at 13:35, LaVeck, Joseph  
<[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>  
> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please find the attached records

responsive to your public records request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq  
Chief Asst. Law Director & Police  
Legal Advisor  
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
[joseph\\_laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

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

**External sender**

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

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

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On Jun 18, 2025, at 09:27, LaVeck, Joseph  
<[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>  
wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

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

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq  
Chief Asst. Law  
Director & Police  
Legal Advisor  
200 W. Erie Avenue,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
[joseph\\_laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

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**From:** Aaron Knapp  
<[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:58 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph  
<[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>

[lorain.org](http://lorain.org)>

Cc: Robert J. Gargasz  
<[rigargasz@gmail.com](mailto:rigargasz@gmail.com)>  
; David Yost AG  
<[AGOCARES@ohioago.gov](mailto:AGOCARES@ohioago.gov)>; Mike Mason  
<[Mike.Mason@woio.com](mailto:Mike.Mason@woio.com)>

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

**External sender**

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

Make sure you trust  
this sender before  
taking any actions.

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

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

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On Jun  
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Knapp  
<[a4xbeeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
wrote:

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@cittvoflorida.org

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSW, LSW, CDCA, NASW Member

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CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED . . . THEREIN

FORMATION 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