

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 1:28 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Subject:** RE: response to email of 8/1/2025 @ 7:03 AM from Atty. Don Zaleski Re: LaVeck PPP

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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On Aug 4, 2025, at 10:04, Beko, Michele <[Michele\\_Beko@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp,

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

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

Regards,

Donald M. Zaleski  
Asst. Law Director

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

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** Michele Beko; Noelle Williams; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Clevescene; Fox; Robert J. Gargasz; Garon Petty; City Group; Bradley, Jack; Rey Carrion; David Yost AG; Brian Ames  
**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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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

Dear Mr. Zaleski,

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 8, 2025 8:10 AM  
**To:** 19tips@woio.com; Clevescene; City Council Mail Group; Garon Petty; Joseph LaVeck; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Robert J Gargasz; Angel Arroyo; Breanna Dull; Fox; Jack Bradley; David Yost AG; Brian Ames; Sheriff Jack Hall; Jacob Morris; Mike Massie; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Sherry Glass; Robert J. Gargasz; Mike Failing; Sensai Cobra  
**Subject:** James McCann

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

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I am writing to formally document and express deep concern regarding egregious violations of my civil and constitutional rights, committed under the color of law by Chief McCann, and the subsequent inaction and complicity of multiple individuals and institutions bound by oath to uphold the law.

Chief McCann used his authority to engage in conduct that violated my rights, including actions that involved the courts and ultimately resulted in my termination. Rather than investigate or hold him accountable, those in oversight positions failed to act—choosing instead to protect him and, by extension, participate in the abuse.

What's worse, there was an attempt to erase the evidence of these violations. I have clear documentation—emails in which Chief McCann contacted a State Board with false and misleading statements. Yet, despite multiple inquiries, I was told those emails did not exist. This is not just a failure of transparency, but a deliberate attempt to obstruct justice and cover for misconduct.

I want to be absolutely clear: I do possess those emails. They exist. And they confirm a pattern of lies, abuse of authority, and coordinated cover-up among individuals who swore to serve justice and uphold the Constitution.

At this point, I am seeking acknowledgment, accountability, and a formal response to these serious allegations. This is not just a personnel matter—it is a matter of law, ethics, and institutional integrity. I reserve all rights to pursue further legal remedies.

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

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 6:22 AM  
**To:** Donald J. Trump; Donald Trump; Jim Jordan; Congressman Gibbs; JD Vance; Robert; Congressman Gosar; Congressman Jim Jordan; Renz LLC; Thomas Renz; Congresswoman Kaptur; Larry; N. Ana Garner; Phyllis Crespo; F. R. Jenkins; Eric Jones; Jonathan Diener; Joey Gilbert; Michael Hamilton; Tom Niewulis; RICHARD ALKIRE; KRAUS STEVEN W; Ohio Up!; Richard Alkire; Mary Team Trump; Mark Pukita; News Daily GOP; Thomas Hach; andrewgargasz; Timothy Josoph Gargasz; Joseph Gargasz; Michael Scherach; Brian Sarvas; Pauline Sherry; Kate Zvara; Maggie Kent; Mike Gargasz; Mark Campolo; Elizabeth Sauer; Anne Olsen; Janice Gargasz; Wanda Gargasz; Barb DeFelice; Terry and Marie Hall; M. Elissa Cachon; Robby Zsigray; Edward Chavez; Kathy Cucco; Mike Campolo; Dan Plow; jeanne Petty; Garon Petty; Aaron Knapp; Wyers; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Charlene Scherach; Robert Gargasz; Paul Young; Molly Antill; Tony Cillo; Sheriff Jack Hall; Patrick Riley; Jim Dowdell; Robert Zvara; Rey Carrion; City Council Mail Group  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your post's visibility is limited

### 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.

Hate speech??

History denied !

X is protecting criminals who have engaged in treason!

Shame on your woke globalist policies.

You do not deserve my thoughts and comments and have proven your platform compromised and corrupt!

Shame on you and your administration of free speech! Leftists run your organization. This is exhibit "a". You do this to many millions of Patriots.

I condemn your conspiring behavior to protect the likes of John Wilkes Booth and Benedict Arnold.

Shame on you! I hope your role in covering for the treasonous individuals is published for all to see. By the way what did the woman receive for her conspiring after the act to conceal Booth letting him sleep in her barn and eat a plate of beans?

Her penalty was to have her neck stretched next to the assassin Booth.

What penalty should you receive for preventing my free speech? You would stop Paul Revere's communication. You would prevent the "Give me Liberty or give me death!" Oratory of patriotic

citizens. May the unknown woke SOUL in charge take more mandated clot Covid shots like fools who believe this is acceptable. The consequences are a democide of our Republic. May God prevent your success!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** X <notify@x.com>  
**Date:** August 11, 2025 at 5:21:01 AM EDT  
**To:** "Robert J. Gargasz" <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Your post's visibility is limited



**Hi Robert J. Gargasz,**

Your post was reported and had its visibility limited for violating the X rules. Specifically:

**We have determined your post violated our rules against [Violent Speech](#).**

You may not share abusive content, harass someone, or encourage other people to do so.



**Robert J. Gargasz**  
@rjgargasz

@MAGAVoice They committed treason against the American Republic! The criminal cabal involved must be punished for their treasonous acts. The penalty for treason is death! Just as George Washington issued a death warrant for Benedict Arnold, so too are these treasonous criminals deserved

As a result, your post may stay on the platform but we have limited its reach. You can learn more about how your post's visibility is limited on our [Help Center](#).

If you think we've made a mistake, you can appeal the violation by going to your post and selecting "Learn more".

**[Need some help?](#)**

X Corp. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103



## **Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 11:29 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Subject:** Records Request Response

“Mr. Knapp, this office is not in possession of any records responsive to your public records request issued to multiple parties, including Joseph LaVeck of the Lorain Law Department, on August 6, 2025 @ 11:08 AM.”

- Law Director Riley

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

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 11:46 AM  
**To:** cityofsheffieldlake@sheffieldlake.net; cityofsheffieldlake@gmail.com; City Group; citycouncil@sheffieldlake.net; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; David Yost AG; Garon Petty; Jackie Conrad; Kathryn Kennedy; Ohio Auditor; Robert J. Gargas; Mike Mason; Lorain daily; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Fox; Brian Ames; Rocky Radeff  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargas; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty  
**Subject:** Free Speech and the 1st Amendment

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regard to a recent comment I posted on your official government platform in response to a post that referenced the mayor participating in a community “snow cone” event.

In my comment, I referenced the mayor’s prior inability to serve a subpoena, making a comparison to the idea of him serving snow cones. This was a direct response to the content of your post and clearly falls within the boundaries of political commentary and satire—both of which are protected forms of speech under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

I received a response asking me to “stay on topic.” However, the topic included the mayor’s role, which I addressed. Asking me to limit or modify my lawful expression—particularly when others may not be similarly policed—raises serious concerns about viewpoint discrimination and the suppression of dissenting or critical voices.

As a government-managed page, your platform is bound by constitutional limitations. When the government opens a public forum for discussion, it may establish reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, but it cannot restrict speech based on viewpoint. Doing so may amount to unconstitutional censorship.

I expect that no further attempts will be made to chill or restrict my participation on this public platform. I also request that all users be held to the same standards, regardless of whether their comments are favorable or critical of government officials.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to upholding constitutional principles.

Sincerely,

11:30

5G 99

< Sheffield Lake Recreation Department's post ...

and snow cones with Mayor Rocky. 🍧 🍷



Sheffield Lake Recreation Department ·

Follow

5d · 🌐

🍧 Snowcones with Mayor Radeff! 🍷

Join us for a cool and colorful afternoon of fun!  
Bring the kids to enjoy free snowcones, playtime,  
and a chance to meet Mayor Radeff!

📍 Guenther Park  
📅 Sunday, August 10th, 2025  
🕒 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

# SNOWCONES WITH MAYOR ROCKY PLAY DATE!



**Sunday August 10th  
12-2pm @ Guenther Park**

**Mayor Rocky will be serving up  
snowcones between 12-1.**

**Bring your friends to have some fun at our park!  
We will have lots of games to play, music  
and delicious snow cones!**

**FREE and open to all kids - bring the family!**

11:29



## Comment

Replies to your comment on **Sheffie Lake Recreation Department's** post



**Aaron Knapp**

This moron doesn't even  
a subpoena. I dont think I  
cone.

2d Like Reply



11:29 ↗



## Comment



Write a reply...



**Gary Farris** 🏆 All-star of  
**Aaron Knapp** who are  
about

2d Like Reply



**Sheffield Lake Recreation  
Department** Author

Everyone is more than

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

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 4:17 AM  
**To:** Mike Failing; Patrick Ward; Mike Massie; jeanne Petty; Tony Cillo; Sheriff Jack Hall; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Patrick Riley; Mark Campolo; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Michael Scherach; Jack Bradley; City Council Mail Group; Rey Carrion; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Maggie Partin; Don Zaleski; Rocky Radeff; Teresa Upton; Jacob Morris; Marty Gallagher; Billie Jo Belcher; David Yost AG; Darryl Tucker; Carissa Woytach; David david@yesce.com Moore; jfr\_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; Leigh Prugh; Julie Wallace; Brad Dicken; Ohio Up!; Lindsay Carr; Joseph Carbonaro; Brad Dicken; David O'Brien; Brian Ames; Lorain daily; Mike Mason; Fox 8; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Jack Bradley; Joseph LaVeck; Arroyo, Angel; Dull, Breanna; Lindsay Carr; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill  
**Subject:** They Tried to Arrest an FBI Agent 🤪

Warning: Unusual link

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Confirm the message is safe before clicking any links.

[https://youtube.com/shorts/9GcUdC8jYDQ?si=VwQBavWwHwj\\_J91oz](https://youtube.com/shorts/9GcUdC8jYDQ?si=VwQBavWwHwj_J91oz)

What is worse than an illusion? A reality that is absurd!

Note the absurdity of the McCann reign as police chief in Lorain, Ohio and the enterprise liabilities he has participated in, help create, and for which should be held responsible for. Sent from my iPhone

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 10:42 AM  
**To:** Tom Niewulis; Thomas Hach; Jim Dowdell; Brian Massie; andrewgargasz; Mark Campolo; Michael Scherach; Mike Gargasz; Timothy Josoph Gargasz; Brian Sarvas; Pauline Sherry; Joseph Gargasz; Wanda Gargasz; Kate Zvara; Janice Gargasz; Maggie Kent; Elizabeth Sauer; Anne Olsen; Barb DeFelice; M. Elissa Cachon; Terry and Marie Hall; Robby Zsigray; Edward Chavez; Dan Plow; Kathy Cucco; Mike Campolo; Wyers; Robert Zvara; Fran Smith; Molly Antill; jeanne Petty; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Keely Hall; Kate Cucco; Frank SULESKI; Matt Hall; Tony Cillo; Charlene Scherach; Sheriff Jack Hall; Patrick Riley; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; City Council Mail Group; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Maggie Partin; Patrick Ward; Rocky Radeff; Teresa Upton; jfr\_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; David david@yesce.com Moore; Jacob Morris; Marty Gallagher; Ohio Up!; Mike Failing; Darryl Tucker; Robert Gargasz; Carissa Woytach; Julie Wallace; Aaron Knapp; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill; Brad Dicken; Joseph Carbonaro; David Yost AG; David O'Brien; Brad Dicken; Leigh Prugh; William. Bill Poplar; Jamie Lynne Turner; Tom rodeoh2 Beres; jon morrow; Chris Niehart; Pete; Jeff Baxter; Don Killinger; GAYLE MANNING; Renz LLC; James Ohliger; William Bill Bobel; Lindsay Carr; Wendy Ohliger; Lindsay Carr; KRAUS STEVEN W  
**Subject:** Fwd: Independent Media – The Pen That’s Destroying the Sword

**External sender** <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** NewsWithViews Global <paul@newswithviews.ccsend.com>  
**Date:** August 14, 2025 at 10:18:35 AM EDT  
**To:** rjgargasz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Independent Media – The Pen That’s Destroying the Sword  
**Reply-To:** info@newswithviews.com



**Independent Media – The Pen That’s Destroying the Sword**

By Devvy

It is said the pen is mightier than the sword. If one knows the history of Thomas Paine, they can't help but admire his grit and determination. Of humble beginnings in England and a very limited education, he went on to become a mighty pen:

"Paine had arrived in America when the conflict between the colonists and England was reaching its height. After blood was spilled at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775, Paine argued that the cause of America should be not just a revolt against taxation but a demand for independence. He put this idea into Common Sense, which came off the press on January 10, 1776. The 50-page pamphlet sold more than 500,000 copies within a few months. More than any other single publication, Common Sense paved the way for the Declaration of Independence, unanimously ratified on July 4, 1776.

"During the war that followed, Paine served as volunteer aide-de-camp to Gen. Nathanael Greene. His great contribution to the patriot cause was the 16 "Crisis" papers issued between 1776 and 1783, each one signed Common Sense. "The American Crisis. Number I," published on December 19, 1776, when George Washington's army was on the verge of disintegration, so moved Washington that he ordered it read to all the troops at Valley Forge. Its opening is among the most stirring passages in the literature of the American Revolution: (Rest at link.)

For a little over a quarter century now, NewsWithViews was one of the first true independent media web sites on the Internet. Original content and I hope, through the decades, all of us who write for NWW's have been able to be that mighty "pen" in bringing you truth, facts and solutions and steer you to organizations that are killing (metaphorically) our enemies within. NWW's does not sell your information but it also cannot exist without reader financial support.

Right now, NWW's desperately needs YOUR donation no matter how small; of course 'large' is better! If Paul doesn't get some operating capital VERY SOON, NWW's will be another killed off by those who hate OUR republic and use their millions and billions to pick us off, one by one.

Please become one of NWW's freedom fighters and make a donation TODAY. Or, become a monthly subscriber in an amount that works for your budget. Without independent media we would have lost the battle decades ago, not just a few skirmishes here and there.

Thank you so much. [Click here to make a donation.](#)

Devvy

I sincerely thank you.

**[Donate here and I thank you.](#)**



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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** Garon Petty; Aaron Knapp; jeanne Petty; Michael Scherach; Mark Campolo; andrewgargasz; Joseph Gargasz; Mike Gargasz; Timothy Josoph Gargasz; Pauline Sherry; Wanda Gargasz; Janice Gargasz; Brian Sarvas; Maggie Kent; Kate Zvara; Elizabeth Sauer; Anne Olsen; Barb DeFelice; M. Elissa Cachon; Terry and Marie Hall; Robby Zsigray; Edward Chavez; Dan Plow; Kathy Cucco; Mike Campolo; Wyers; Fran Smith; Robert Zvara; Molly Antill; Keely Hall; Kate Cucco; Frank SULESKI; Tom Niewulis; Jim Dowdell; Thomas Hach; Matt Hall; Brian Massie; Tony Cillo; Sheriff Jack Hall; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; City Council Mail Group; Joel Arredondo; Jack Bradley; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Maggie Partin; Rocky Radeff; jfr\_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; Teresa Upton; Patrick Ward; David david@yesce.com Moore; Jacob Morris; Marty Gallagher; Mike Failing; Ohio Up!; Darryl Tucker; Carissa Woytach; Julie Wallace; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill; Aaron Knapp; Brad Dicken; Brad Dicken; Jamie Lynne Turner; Joseph Carbonaro; David O'Brien; David Yost AG; Leigh Prugh; William. Bill Poplar; Tom rodeoh2 Beres; jon morrow; James Ohliger; Wendy Ohliger; Chris Niehart; Pete; Jeff Baxter; GAYLE MANNING; Don Killinger; Renz LLC; William Bill Bobel; Lindsay Carr; Lindsay Carr; Charlene Scherach; Robert J. Gargasz; Paul Young; Tomie Patton; Patrick Tavenner II; Carrie Mason  
**Subject:** Fwd: You Don't have Constitutional Rights. You Just Have Rights.

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tenth Amendment Center <team@tenthamendmentcenter.com>  
**Date:** August 14, 2025 at 10:03:49 AM EDT  
**To:** rjgargasz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** You Don't have Constitutional Rights. You Just Have Rights.  
**Reply-To:** Tenth Amendment Center <team@tenthamendmentcenter.com>

## YOU JUST HAVE RIGHTS

Our Natural Rights Foundation ([article](#) | [podcast](#))

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Rights are not gifts from government. They don't come from documents - not a constitution, not even a bill of rights. You have rights because you exist.

But government has never been a big fan of that view. The ruling class prefers a population that thinks liberty is a privilege to be granted and withdrawn. Far too many people today play along - talking about their rights like they're favors written into law.

"My First Amendment free speech rights." "My Second Amendment rights."

Some go even further, insisting all their rights come **from** a particular amendment, like the ninth, as if without those words on paper, they'd have no rights at all - a view the founding generation would have seen as absurd - or dangerous - or both.

### **PAINÉ'S ANSWER**

Thomas Paine rejected the rights come from a document view outright.

*"It is a perversion of terms to say that a charter gives rights."*

Paine saw the trap. Treat rights as gifts of a charter, and they could be redefined, limited, or revoked whenever those in power decided it was "necessary." That would turn rights into government-granted privileges.

Instead, he described rights as something that exist by nature, belonging to every person without exception.

*"Rights are inherently in all the inhabitants."*

### **AMERICA'S DNA**

That truth was already woven into America's political DNA long before independence was won. So Thomas Jefferson and the Continental Congress could declare what they saw as obvious to any free people.

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

This principle in the Declaration wasn't something new. Jefferson later explained the document wasn't meant to break new ground.

*"Not to find out new principles, or new arguments, never before thought of, not merely to say things which had never been said before; but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject."*

Instead, its purpose was to capture and state what Americans already knew to be true.

*"It was intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion."*

He went on to describe the Declaration as a product of ideas that were already widely shared - ideas drawn from conversations, letters, essays, and the great works of political philosophers that shaped the thinking of his generation.

*"All it's authority rests then on the harmonising sentiments of the day, whether expressed, in conversns in letters, printed essays or in the elementary books of public right, as Aristotle, Cicero, Locke, Sidney Etc."*

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## **You Don't have Constitutional Rights. You Just Have Rights.**

Video podcast with reference links to read and share:

👉 <https://blog.tenthamentmentcenter.com/2025/08/you-dont-have-constitutional-rights-you-just-have-rights/>

Article Here

👉 <https://tenthamentmentcenter.com/2025/08/13/not-a-gift-from-government-our-natural-rights-foundation/>

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### **THE COLONIAL VOICE**

Natural rights were at the heart of those harmonizing sentiments. They formed the foundation of the American Revolution itself. Samuel Adams made the case in 1772.

*"Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can."*

Adams grounded this in the oldest rule there is.

*"These are evident branches of, rather than deductions from, the duty of self-preservation, commonly called the first law of nature."*

James Otis Jr. cut right to the point. Like Paine, he understood that natural rights weren't just for the few. They were inherent in everyone.

*"The Colonists are by the law of nature free born, as indeed all men are, white or black."*

Otis also took natural rights to its logical conclusion, a step much further than many in the 1760s.

*"Are not women born as free as men? Would it not be infamous to assert that the ladies are all slaves by nature?"*

## **ANCIENT ROOTS**

The founders didn't invent natural rights. They inherited them, going back centuries.

Jefferson mentioned Cicero for good reason. Two thousand years earlier, the Roman statesman had laid out the same principles.

*"Man is born for justice, and law and equity are not a mere establishment of opinion, but an institution of nature."*

Cicero didn't invent these ideas either. They can be traced even further back to the ancient Greeks. Jefferson also cited Aristotle, who wrote, *"That is natural which has the same validity everywhere, and does not depend on our accepting or rejecting it."*

## **THE BRIDGE FORWARD**

Jefferson also drew from Algernon Sidney, a man who put his life on the line for the same principle. Sidney wrote "Discourses Concerning Government" in the 17th century. He was executed for it before it was even published. He reinforced the same truth echoed by Aristotle and Cicero.

*"The Liberties of Nations are from God and Nature, not from Kings."*

John Locke carried the principle of natural rights forward, making clear that they do not vanish - ever. The law of nature applies to every person, including those who write the laws.

*"The obligations of the law of nature cease not in society, but only in many cases are drawn closer, and have by human laws known penalties annexed to them, to enforce their observation. Thus the law of nature stands as an eternal rule to all men, legislators as well as others."*

## **PUTTING PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE**

This was the bedrock principle the Founders used to justify their secession from Great Britain. But they didn't leave natural rights to theory. They constitutionalized them.

George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights spelled out those rights as beyond the reach of any government.

*"That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the*

*means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”*

Months later, the Pennsylvania constitution adopted language nearly identical to Virginia's. In July 1777, Vermont did the same. But they went a step further and put those words into action. They became the first in the United States to partially ban slavery.

*“Therefore, no male person, born in this country, or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by law, to serve any person, as a servant, slave or apprentice, after he arrives to the age of twenty-one Years, nor female, in like manner, after she arrives to the age of eighteen years.”*

That same natural rights foundation influenced the debates over the Constitution. Luther Martin of Maryland, a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention who would later become a leading Anti-Federalist, emphasized that this was the basis of everything else.

*“The first principle of government is founded on the natural rights of individuals, and in perfect equality.”*

Theophilus Parsons, speaking in the Massachusetts ratifying convention, made clear that the Constitution granted no power to violate natural rights.

*“No power was given to Congress to infringe on any one of the natural rights of the people by this Constitution; and, should they attempt it without constitutional authority, the act would be a nullity.”*



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(they don't!)

[details here](#)

---

## **UNCOMPROMISING**

Virginia's ratification of the Constitution reaffirmed the very language from its 1776 Declaration of Rights. Some rights are untouchable.

*"That there are certain natural rights of which men, when they form a social compact cannot deprive or divest their posterity, among which are the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety."*

North Carolina used the same language in its ratification, making clear that these natural rights were not open to government interference.

Two years before independence, Thomas Jefferson captured the principle in a single, uncompromising line.

*"A free people claim their rights, as derived from the laws of nature, and not as the gift of their chief magistrate"*

It's not liberty if it comes with a government permission slip.

 Read the Article → [HERE](#)

 Watch or listen to the podcast → [HERE](#)

This is DEFINITELY not the kind of thing we learn about in the government-run and government-approved "education" system.

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*(small things grow great by concord)*

Michael Boldin, TAC

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## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp; Brian Ames; Dennis Flores; City Council Mail Group; Jack Hall; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Tony Cillo; Bradley, Jack; Sheriff Jack Hall; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Mike Mason; Major Scharschmidt; Brad Dicken; Institute for Justice; InvestigatorTips@wews.com; Greg Lukianoff; Michael Scherach; Sensai Cobra; Stephanie Jablonsky; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr; Nathan Manning; Jim Renacci; Jacob Morris; Patrick Riley; Partin, Maggie; Dull, Breanna; LorainDaily; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Tori Middlebrooks; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Denise Wilms; Zachary Simonoff; Beko, Michele; leigh.pugh@lcprosecutor.org; Carrion, Rey; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Mike Doran; rebecca kempston; VEK6173@aol.com; Natalio Rodriguez; Darryl Tucker; Mike Massie; Mike Witte; Harry Boomer; Harper, Anita; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Julie Wallace; Ted Kalo; Monica D. Pluta; William Bobel; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Fox 8; Michael Fitzpatrick; Walsh, Jonathan  
**Subject:** Fwd: State of Ohio vs. Petty (224CRB02378)  
**Attachments:** Petty Motion to Dismiss part #2.pdf; attachment.html; Time stamped copy of first page.pdf; attachment.html

### Warning: Unusual link

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FYI our motion to dismiss my case.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: State of Ohio vs. Petty (224CRB02378)  
**Date:** August 14, 2025 at 1:21:26 PM EDT  
**To:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Aug 14, 2025 at 12:44 PM  
**Subject:** State of Ohio vs. Petty (224CRB02378)  
**To:** Patrick Ward <pward@dooleygembala.com>  
**Cc:** James Kimbler <retiredjudgekimbler@gmail.com>, Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>



Petty Motion to Dismiss part #1.pdf

The attached Motion to Dismiss has been filed with the Lorain Municipal Court today.

--

Robert J. Gargas, Esq.  
Robert J. Gargas Co., L.P.A.  
1670 Cooper Foster Park Road  
Lorain, Ohio 44053  
(440) 960-1670  
(440) 960-1754 Facsimile  
[rjgargas@gmail.com](mailto:rjgargas@gmail.com)

## Beko, Michele

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

### Warning: Unusual link

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>  
**Subject:** The City of Lorain vs. Garon Petty: Inside the Motion to Dismiss That Could Collapse the Case  
**Date:** August 16, 2025 at 9:49:46 PM EDT  
**To:** garonpetty@roadrunner.com  
**Reply-To:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<reply+2twpid&5j0f6l&&b7b705c33d693f5f3ee0f8570397ebce77a5d6994de6a43a938abfe552126f51@mg1.substack.com>

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

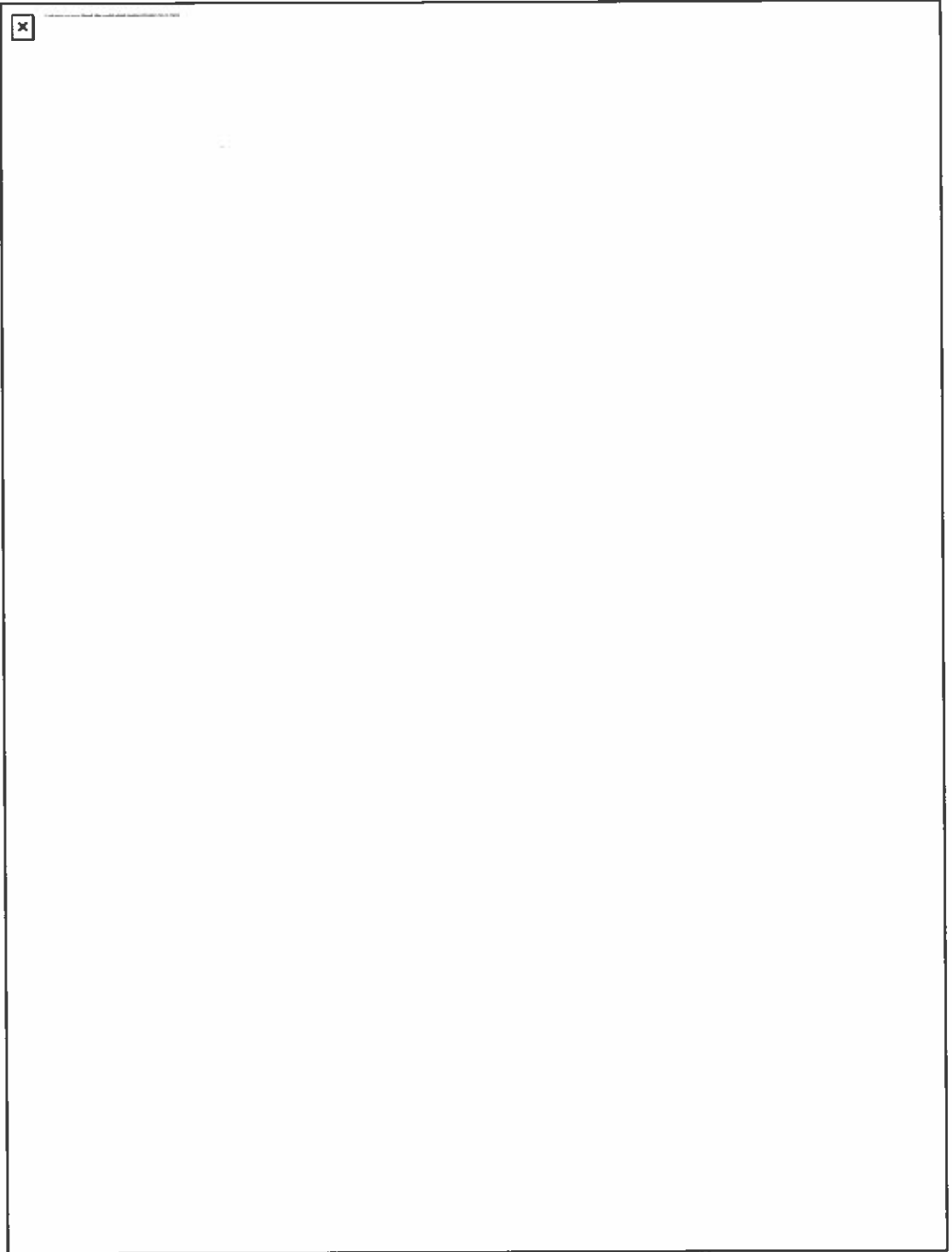
By Aaron Knapp | August 2025 | Lorain Politics Unplugged

AARON C KNAPP

AUG 17



READ IN APP 



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

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

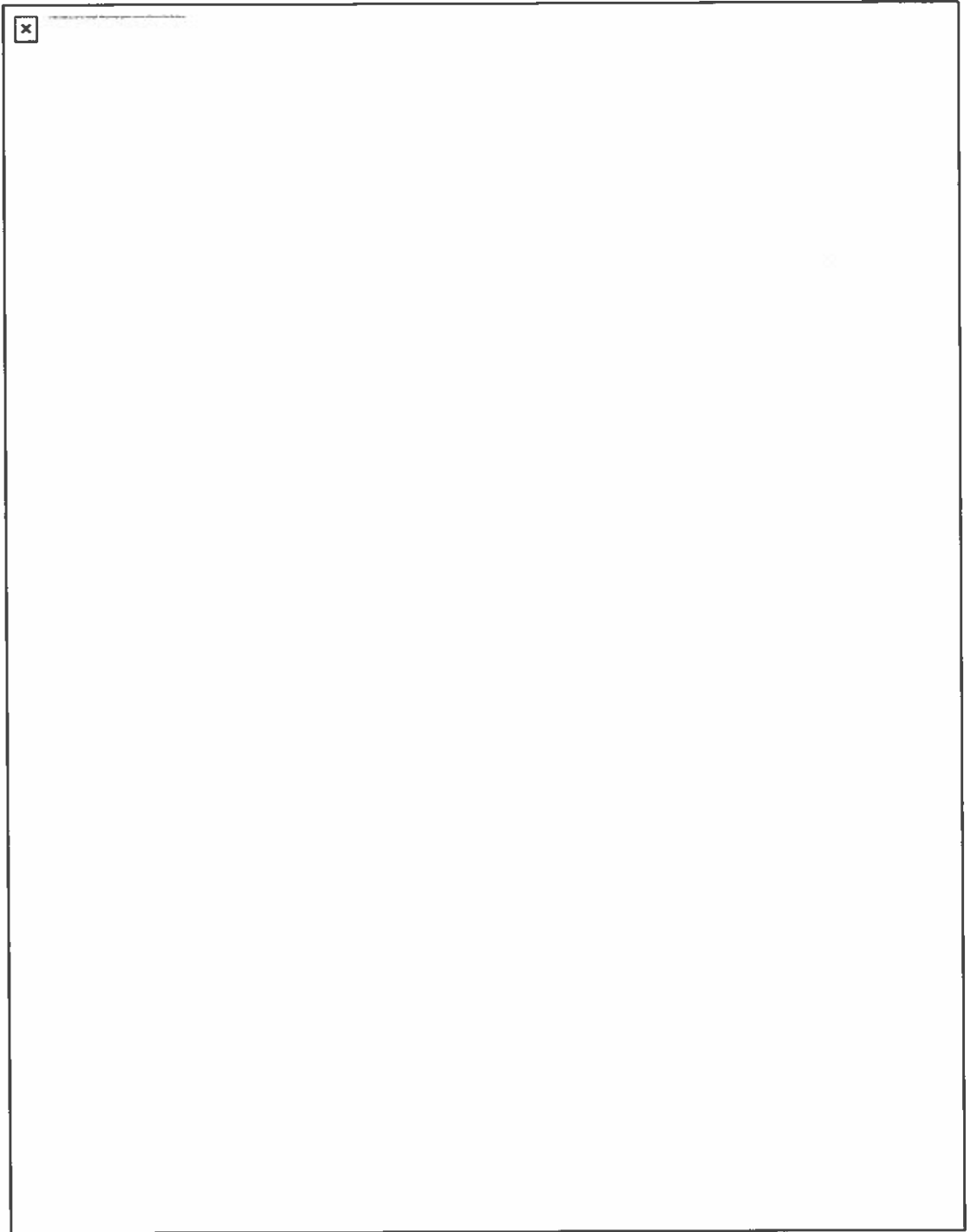
a **nonviolent walk to the Council floor after a meeting**. But the newly filed **Motion to Dismiss** turns that entire narrative inside out.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 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:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 7:14 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: Confirming

I WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE FRIDAY 8/15 RETURNING MONDAY 8/25. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE @ 440.204.2250 - OR CARLIE DIRECTLY AT x2866

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

MICHELE