

Beko, Michele

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

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

To Whom It May Concern,

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

1. Date Range:

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

2. Records Requested:

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

3. Custodians of Records (Staff Involved):

Law Director’s Office

- Patrick Riley (Law Director)

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

Prosecutor's Office

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

4. Format:

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

5. Regarding Redactions and Privilege:

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

- Emails between public officials are not automatically exempt, and
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7. Additional Statement:

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

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

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

8. Legal Notice:

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

Thank you for your attention to this request.

6. Contact:

Please inform me in advance of any potential costs.

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

Sincerely,

Aaron Christopher Knapp

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Falbo, Carlie <Carlie_Falbo@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Bowles, Scott
Subject: FW: Public Records Request – Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 5:46 AM
To: Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@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>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>
Subject: Public Records Request – Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

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Beko, Michele

From: Bowles, Scott <Scott_Bowles@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:20 AM
To: a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Public Records Request – Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

Mr. Knapp,

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Scott Bowles
Assistant Prosecutor
City of Lorain Law Department
(440) 204-2250

From: Falbo, Carlie <Carlie_Falbo@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:51 AM
To: Bowles, Scott <Scott_Bowles@cityoflorain.org>
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From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 5:46 AM
To: Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Beko, Michele <Michele_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@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>; Zaleski, Don <Don_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>
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Beko, Michele

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

External sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Scott Bowles
Subject: Re: Public Records Request – Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

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

Yes, we can send it to my email. And if there's any uncertainty, please feel free to reach out.

Just to clarify: I don't need emails that are sent to me or from me — I already have those. What I'm looking for are emails about me that I'm not included in (i.e., not in my inbox or sent folder).

I hope that narrows down the request. It's honestly a bit unsettling to think there could be that many emails about me — kind of wild.

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On Aug 20, 2025, at 10:20, Bowles, Scott <Scott_Bowles@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

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Subject: Public Records Request – Communications Related to Aaron Christopher Knapp

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Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:54 AM
To: Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; City Group; Patrick Riley; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Maggie Partin; Michael Scherach; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Tony Cillo; Jeanne Petty; Rocky Radeff; Sheriff Jack Hall; Teresa Upton; jfr_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; david@yesce.com Moore, David
Subject: Local Gov't Wants to Take 17K Acres for 'Industrial Development'

Warning: Unusual link

This message contains an unusual link, which may lead to a malicious site.
Confirm the message is safe before clicking any links. Steel Mill area should be marketed for this newly desired Steel Mill location!! Go after this company. <https://youtu.be/bYqWvngLxNg?si=iFt7lqW84KFVR1DO>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 6:12 AM
To: City Group; Rey Carrion; Mike Mason; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Fox; Jack Bradley; Brian Ames; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Joseph LaVeck; Mike Failing; Jacob Morris; Patrick Riley; Angel Arroyo; Lorain daily; Joel Arredondo
Subject: Re: Formal Statement / Notice of Constitutional Audit

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

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On Aug 22, 2025, at 06:04, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

To the City of Lorain and the Office of the Safety-Service Director:

It has come to my attention—and has been personally confirmed—that individuals, including members of the press, have been denied access to City Hall and its offices without an appointment or for failing to present

identification. This includes the recent turning away of a journalist from the Safety-Service Director's office.

Let me be clear: No law—federal, state, or local—requires members of the public to present identification simply to enter a public building or access publicly funded services during regular business hours.

Constitutional Framework

The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures, including compelled identification without lawful cause. Demanding identification as a condition of entry—absent reasonable suspicion, probable cause, or a legally adopted ordinance—is constitutionally suspect.

The Fourteenth Amendment, through its Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses, guarantees that all citizens have equal access to government services and protections without arbitrary or discriminatory barriers.

Additionally, public buildings such as City Hall are considered limited public forums. Access cannot be denied without:

- A clear, narrowly tailored policy;
- Legitimate governmental interest (such as security);
- Equal and transparent enforcement.

Policies that deny access based on lack of ID or appointment—especially without legal authorization or posted notice—are likely unconstitutional.

Sunshine Laws and Transparency Obligations

Ohio's Sunshine Laws require that public records and public offices remain accessible to the people. Blocking access to government officials or facilities without valid cause violates the spirit and possibly the letter of these statutes (Ohio Revised Code §§ 121.22 and 149.43).

Notice of Audit

As such, I—alongside other members of the public and press—will be conducting independent audits of the City of Lorain's entry policies and procedures to ensure that:

- No unconstitutional identification or appointment requirements are being enforced;
- No public services are being unlawfully withheld from individuals without ID;
- No retaliation is directed toward those exercising constitutional rights, including First Amendment-protected recording of public officials.

These audits are peaceful, lawful, and protected activity. Any effort to interfere with or suppress them could lead to civil liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for deprivation of rights under color of law.

Requested Action

I am requesting, in writing:

1. A copy of the City's written policy (if one exists) that authorizes requiring ID or appointments for public access;
2. Clarification as to whether such a policy was lawfully adopted by ordinance, or implemented without public input;
3. Immediate cessation of any unconstitutional restrictions to public access, and assurance that press and civilians will not be denied entry or retaliated against.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and trust you will act in accordance with your oath to uphold the Constitution.

Sincerely

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From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 7:01 AM
To: Aaron Knapp
Cc: City Group; Rey Carrion; Mike Mason; Garon Petty; Clevescene; Noelle Williams; Fox; Jack Bradley; Brian Ames; David Yost AG; Breanna Dull; Joseph LaVeck; Mike Failing; Jacob Morris; Patrick Riley; Angel Arroyo; Lorain daily; Joel Arredondo
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External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

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These requests are minimum requirements under Law.

The Authorized decision makers could install even greater protections for citizens and more stringent protections against abuse of citizens and the destruction of public records.

What do each of the public officials believe? Perhaps each official could publicly declare and publicly post their official support for this requested standard to permit voters and citizens to gauge their level of commitment to transparency and sunshine in local government?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 22, 2025, at 6:11 AM, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

<482346892_122191608152263885_7889013513521966617_n.jpg>

Lorain City Politics Unplugged | Lorain residents
are paying more, getting less, and struggling to
get answers | Facebook
facebook.com

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2. Clarification as to whether such a policy was lawfully adopted by ordinance, or implemented without public input;
3. Immediate cessation of any unconstitutional restrictions to public access, and assurance that press and civilians will not be denied entry or retaliated against.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and trust you will act in accordance with your oath to uphold the Constitution.

Sincerely

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Sheriff Jack Hall; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Carissa Woytach; David O'Brien; David Yost AG; Garon Petty; Ohio Auditor; Tony Cillo; Mike Mason; Robert J. Gargas; Jack Bradley; City Group; cityofsheffieldlake@gmail.com; citycouncil@sheffieldlake.net; cityofsheffieldlake@sheffieldlake.net; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Craig Snodgrass; Lorain daily; Noelle Williams; Clevescene; Fox; Brian Ames; Craig Snodgrass; Ohio Auditor
Cc: Kathryn Kennedy
Subject: Re: In regards to Antonio Baez

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I am writing to follow up on the complaint I submitted on February 16, 2025, regarding potential misconduct by Mr. Baez, including allegations of serving in a classified civil service position while concurrently holding elected office. As of today, August 22, 2025, I have not received any acknowledgment or update regarding the status of this matter.

As outlined in my original correspondence, this issue may involve violations of:

- Ohio Revised Code §124.34, regarding tenure and conduct of classified employees;
- Ohio Administrative Code Rule 123:1-46-02, prohibiting political activity by classified employees;
- And possibly sections 2921.42 and 2921.43 of the Revised Code relating to unlawful interest in public contracts or other ethics violations.

The public has a right to know whether Mr. Baez's service was legally permissible and, if not, whether any decisions he participated in — including votes on ARPA funds and other quorum matters — may be invalidated as a result. Furthermore, if any criminal or ethical violations occurred, they should be investigated by an outside agency to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure transparency.

I respectfully request a written update on the status of this investigation:

- Has the complaint been reviewed?
- Which office or agency is currently handling it?
- What is the anticipated timeline for findings or action?

Please confirm receipt of this message. If this matter has been referred to another agency, I would appreciate the contact information so that I may follow up accordingly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, BSSW

You need to start doing the right thing and following the law. Instead you want to ignore citizens.

So you're looking into my complaint?

Were you planning on notifying me? Of course not, but hey why talk to your constituents.

Also you need to look into his military service as well. I believe while he was serving in active status it was wrong as well.

You people need to start responding to voters.

Very disappointing behaviors from grown people.

Remember this??:

Lorain OKs temp budget

Carissa Woytach The Chronicle-Telegram

LORAIN - The city will be able to spend money in the new year, after Lorain City Council passed a new temporary budget with an emergency clause on Thursday.

During a special meeting, council members unanimously passed the new temporary budget in a 9-0 vote. Sylvia DuVall, D-At Large, and Josh Thornsberry, D-8th Ward, were absent.

City Council originally passed a temporary budget for the first three months of 2025 on Monday, but the measure did not have an emergency clause - meaning it would not take effect until 30 days after the vote.

Thursday's meeting rectified the issue. The emergency clause allows the legislation to take effect immediately.

The city's law department is reviewing allegations from a resident that Councilman Antonio Baez, D-6th Ward, is unable to vote on the temporary budget.

Aaron Knapp, a resident in Baez's ward, alleged in an email to all of Council on Monday that Baez should recuse himself from voting on expenditures of American Rescue Plan Act Funds and budgetary matters involving Rocky Radeff, who is an assistant law director for Lorain and mayor of Sheffield Lake.

Baez is a police officer for Sheffield Lake. Knapp also alleged Baez's position as an elected official in Lorain, while serving as an officer in Sheffield Lake, was not allowed as Lorain City Council is a partisan office.

On Thursday, Lorain Law Director Pat Riley said the city is reviewing Knapp's report and has yet to reach a conclusion.

After Thursday's meeting, Baez said he has sent information to the Law Department and Ohio Ethics Commission and those bodies will make a decision.

"As far as I know, there's nothing that I've done or voted on that has been wrong," Baez said.

Council will need to revisit the budget in the new year to pass a permanent budget by March 31.

Contact Carissa Woytach at (440) 329-7245 or cwoytach@chroniclet.com.

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

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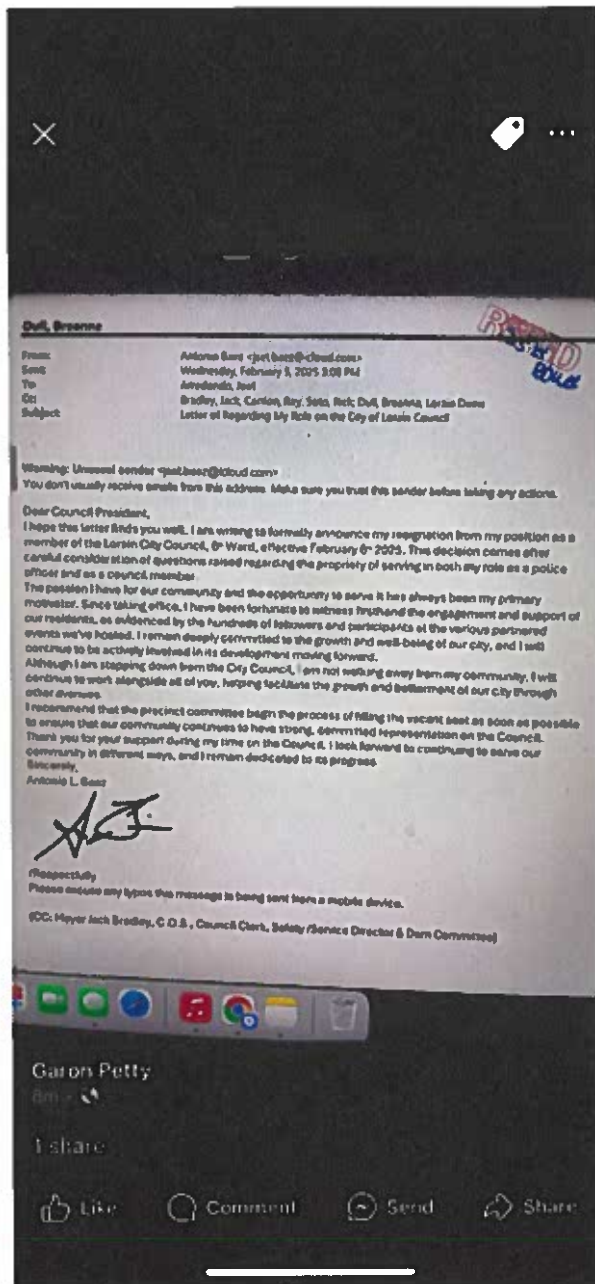
On Feb 16, 2025, at 20:28, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Please ensure the appropriate authorities investigate Mr. Baez and determine if a crime was committed and if he can continue being a police officer.

We need an investigation by an outside agency to ensure that no other laws were broken and what the status of the ARPA funds and all Mr Baez's votes and any meeting he formed a quorum at could be invalidated.

I will be forwarding the information about his vote on Mr Raddeffs pay to the ethics commission but this is a separate matter regarding criminal charges for holding this position for an entire year while also acting as a classified employee.

Please investigate this matter.



Section 124.34 | Reduction in pay or position - suspension - removal.

(A) The tenure of every officer or employee in the classified service of the state and the counties, civil service townships, cities, city health districts, general health districts, and city school districts of the state, holding a position under this chapter, shall be during good behavior and efficient service. No officer or employee shall be reduced in pay or position, fined, suspended, or removed, or have the officer's or employee's longevity reduced or eliminated, except as provided in section 124.32 of the Revised Code, and for incompetency, inefficiency, unsatisfactory performance, dishonesty, drunkenness, immoral conduct, insubordination, discourteous treatment of the public, neglect of duty, violation of any policy or work rule of the officer's or employee's appointing authority, violation of this chapter or the rules of the director of administrative services or the commission, any other failure of good behavior, any other acts of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or conviction of a felony while employed in the civil service. The denial of a one-time pay supplement or a bonus to an officer or employee is not a reduction in pay for purposes of this section.

This section does not apply to any modifications or reductions in pay or work week authorized by section 124.392, 124.393, or 124.394 of the Revised Code.

An appointing authority may require an employee who is suspended to report to work to serve the suspension. An employee serving a suspension in this manner shall continue to be compensated at the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked. The disciplinary action shall be recorded in the employee's personnel file in the same manner as other disciplinary actions and has the same effect as a suspension without pay for the purpose of recording disciplinary actions.

A finding by the appropriate ethics commission, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint under section 102.06 of the Revised Code constitute a violation of Chapter 102., section 2921.42, or section 2921.43 of the Revised Code may constitute grounds for dismissal. Failure to file a statement or falsely filing a statement required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code may also constitute grounds for dismissal. The tenure of an employee in the career professional service of the department of transportation is subject to section 5501.20 of the Revised Code.

Conviction of a felony while employed in the civil service is a separate basis for reducing in pay or position, suspending, or removing an officer or employee, even if the officer or employee has already been reduced in pay or position, suspended, or removed for the same conduct that is the basis of the felony. An officer or employee may not appeal to the state personnel board of review or the commission any disciplinary action taken by an appointing authority as a result of the officer's or employee's conviction of a felony. If an officer or employee removed under this section is reinstated as a result of an appeal of the

removal, any conviction of a felony that occurs during the pendency of the appeal is a basis for further disciplinary action under this section upon the officer's or employee's reinstatement.

A person convicted of a felony while employed in the civil service immediately forfeits the person's status as a classified employee in any public employment on and after the date of the conviction for the felony. If an officer or employee is removed under this section as a result of being convicted of a felony or is subsequently convicted of a felony that involves the same conduct that was the basis for the removal, the officer or employee is barred from receiving any compensation after the removal notwithstanding any modification or disaffirmance of the removal, unless the conviction for the felony is subsequently reversed or annulled.

Any person removed for conviction of a felony is entitled to a cash payment for any accrued but unused sick, personal, and vacation leave as authorized by law. If subsequently reemployed in the public sector, the person shall qualify for and accrue these forms of leave in the manner specified by law for a newly appointed employee and shall not be credited with prior public service for the purpose of receiving these forms of leave.

As used in this division, "felony" means any of the following:

(1) A felony that is an offense of violence as defined in section 2901.01 of the Revised Code;

(2) A felony that is a felony drug abuse offense as defined in section 2925.01 of the Revised Code;

(3) A felony under the laws of this or any other state or the United States that is a crime of moral turpitude;

(4) A felony involving dishonesty, fraud, or theft;

(5) A felony that is a violation of section 2921.05, 2921.32, or 2921.42 of the Revised Code.

(B) In case of a reduction, a suspension of more than forty work hours in the case of an employee exempt from the payment of overtime compensation, a suspension of more than twenty-four work hours in the case of an employee required to be paid overtime compensation, a fine of more than forty hours' pay in the case of an employee exempt from the payment of overtime compensation, a fine of more than twenty-four hours' pay in the case of an employee required to be paid overtime compensation, or removal, except for the reduction or removal of a probationary employee, the appointing authority shall serve the employee with a copy of the order of reduction, fine, suspension, or removal, which order shall state the reasons for the action.

Within ten days following the date on which the order is served or, in the case of an employee in the career professional service of the department of transportation, within ten days following the filing of a removal order, the employee, except as otherwise provided in this section, may file an appeal of the order in writing with the state personnel board of review or the commission. For purposes of this section, the date on which an order is served is the date of hand delivery of the order or the date of delivery of the order by certified United States mail, whichever occurs first. If an appeal is filed, the board or commission shall forthwith notify the appointing authority and shall hear, or appoint a trial board to hear, the appeal within thirty days from and after its filing with the board or commission. The board, commission, or trial board may affirm, disaffirm, or modify the judgment of the appointing authority. However, in an appeal of a removal order based upon a violation of a last chance agreement, the board, commission, or trial board may only determine if the employee violated the agreement and thus affirm or disaffirm the judgment of the appointing authority.

In cases of removal or reduction in pay for disciplinary reasons, either the appointing authority or the officer or employee may appeal from the decision of the state personnel board of review or the commission, and any such appeal shall be to the court of common pleas in accordance with section 119.12 of the Revised Code.

(C) In the case of the suspension for any period of time, or a fine, demotion, or removal, of a chief of police, a chief of a fire department, or any member of the police or fire department of a city or civil service township, who is in the classified civil service, the appointing authority shall furnish the chief or member with a copy of the order of suspension, fine, demotion, or removal, which order shall state the reasons for the action. The order shall be filed with the municipal or civil service township civil service commission. Within ten days following the filing of the order, the chief or member may file

an appeal, in writing, with the commission. If an appeal is filed, the commission shall forthwith notify the appointing authority and shall hear, or appoint a trial board to hear, the appeal within thirty days from and after its filing with the commission, and it may affirm, disaffirm, or modify the judgment of the appointing authority. An appeal on questions of law and fact may be had from the decision of the commission to the court of common pleas in the county in which the city or civil service township is situated. The appeal shall be taken within thirty days from the finding of the commission.

(D) A violation of division (A)(7) of section 2907.03 of the Revised Code is grounds for termination of employment of a nonteaching employee under this section.

(E) The director shall adopt a rule in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to define the term "unsatisfactory performance" as it is used in this section with regard to employees in the service of the state.

(F) As used in this section, "last chance agreement" means an agreement signed by both an appointing authority and an officer or employee of the appointing authority that describes the type of behavior or circumstances that, if it occurs, will automatically lead to removal of the officer or employee without the right of appeal to the state personnel board of review or the appropriate commission.

Last updated August 7, 2023 at 2:17 PM



Rule 123:1-46-02 | Political activity of employees in the classified service

(A) The purpose of this rule is to provide appointing authorities, personnel officers, and others with guidelines concerning political activity. Employees in the classified service of

the state are prohibited by section 124.57 of the Revised Code from engaging in political activity.

(1) "Classified service" means all persons in active pay status serving in the competitive classified civil service of the state. Unless specifically exempted from the classified service in accordance with the Revised Code and these rules, an employee shall be considered to be in the classified service for purposes of this rule.

(2) "Political activity" and "politics" refer to partisan activities, campaigns, and elections involving primaries, partisan ballots, or partisan candidates.

(B) Examples of permissible activities for employees in the classified service include, but are not limited to the following:

(1) Registration and voting;

(2) Expression of opinions, either oral or written;

(3) Voluntary financial contributions to political candidates or organizations;

(4) Circulation of nonpartisan petitions, petitions that do not identify with any particular party, or petitions stating views on legislation;

(5) Attendance at political rallies;

(6) Signing nominating petitions in support of individuals;

(7) Display of political materials in the employee's home or on the employee's property;

(8) Wearing political badges or buttons, or the display of political stickers on private vehicles; and

(9) Serving as a precinct election official under section 3501.22 of the Revised Code.

(C) The following activities are prohibited to employees in the classified service:

(1) Candidacy for public office in a partisan election;

(2) Candidacy for public office in a nonpartisan general election if the nomination to candidacy was obtained in a partisan primary or through the circulation of nominating petitions identified with a political party;

(3) Filing of petitions meeting statutory requirements for partisan candidacy to elective office;

(4) Circulation of official nominating petitions for any candidate participating in a partisan election;

(5) Service in an elected or appointed office in any partisan political organization;

(6) Acceptance of a party-sponsored appointment to any office normally filled by partisan election;

(7) Campaigning by writing for publications, by distributing political material, or by writing or making speeches on behalf of a candidate for partisan elective office, when such activities are directed toward party success;

(8) Solicitation, either directly or indirectly, of any assessment, contribution or subscription, either monetary or in-kind, for any political party or political candidate;

(9) Solicitation of the sale, or actual sale, of political party tickets;

(10) Partisan activities at the election polls, such as solicitation of votes for other than nonpartisan candidates and nonpartisan issues;

(11) Service as witness or challenger for any party or partisan committee;

(12) Participation in political caucuses of a partisan nature; and

(13) Participation in a political action committee which supports partisan activity.

(D) An employee in the classified service who engages in any of the activities listed in paragraphs (C)(1) to (C)(13) of this rule is subject to removal from his or her position in the classified service. The appointing authority may initiate such removal action in accordance with the procedures in section 124.34 of the Revised Code. The director may also institute an investigation or action in case of a violation.

(E) Employees in the unclassified service service of the state, are not prohibited from engaging in political activity unless specifically precluded by federal or state constitutional or statutory provisions.

(F) Service in an appointed or elected position is prohibited when such position is subordinate to or in any way a check upon a position concurrently occupied by a classified or unclassified employee, or when it is physically impossible for one person to discharge the duties of both positions, or if some specific constitutional or statutory bar exists prohibiting a person from serving both positions.

(G) If any person holding public office or employment is convicted of violating the Revised Code provisions prohibiting abuse of political influence, such office or position shall thereby be rendered vacant.

Last updated September 14, 2023 at 9:37 AM

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Michele Beko; Clevescene; Jack Bradley; Lorain daily; Fox; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Rey Carrion; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; City Group; David Yost AG; Patrick Riley; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Brian.Ring@ethics.ohio.gov
Cc: Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; akory@sheffieldlake.net; rgee@sheffieldlake.net; citycouncil@sheffieldlake.net
Subject: Formal Request for Investigation – Councilman Baez & Classified Service Conflict

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I am following up once more regarding allegations that extend beyond a single vote and raise significant concerns under Ohio law and local policy. Specifically:

In Sheffield Lake, *full-time police officers are members of the classified civil service, as established under the City Charter . Ohio law makes it clear that employees in classified service are barred from engaging in partisan political activity—including being a candidate for, or serving in, public office .*

Therefore, Councilman **Antonio Baez's** service as both a full-time, classified police officer and as an elected member of City Council *likely constitutes a direct violation of both local municipal policy and state law.*

Given this dual-role conflict, the integrity of actions taken by Councilman Baez—such as votes on the temporary budget, ARPA appropriations, and formation of quorums—must be reviewed.

I respectfully request that the City:

1. Confirm whether a formal investigation into these violations has been opened.
2. Identify the entity overseeing the investigation—whether it remains in the Law Department or has been referred elsewhere.

3. Ensure the matter is referred to an independent outside agency (e.g., County Prosecutor's Office, Ohio Ethics Commission, or Ohio Inspector General) to avoid conflicts of interest.
4. Provide a timeline for when findings will be released or made available to the public.

This is a matter of both legal and public interest. Please confirm receipt of this request and advise on next steps.

Sincerely,

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, BSSW

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

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Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 11:06 AM
To: Patrick Tavenner; mwalker.cmcc@gmail.com
Cc: Mike Failing; Patrick Riley; Rocky Radeff; Mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Tony Cillo; Billie Jo Belcher; Leigh Prugh; kitnee@odjfs.state.oh.us; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr; Aaron Knapp; Lorain daily
Subject: Kathy L. Tavenner vs. Krystal Sextella. A PLEA FOR HELP / CAN YOU LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS ?
Attachments: K Tavenner filed Complaint.pdf; attachment.html

External sender <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

My client Kathy L. Tavenner has been victimized by a daughter who has scammed her out of the title to her home.

Can you send out the legal Calvary of elder protective social workers, investigators, and law enforcement officers who might be capable of helping the competent and financially abused widow who served the public for 14 years as a Lorain City Council woman from a predatory daughter who has scammed her out of the title to her home, locked her out, and seeks to declare her incompetent by filing an application and asking the probate court to become her guardian?

Mrs. Tavenner is seeking help!

Can you help?

--

Robert J. Gargasz, Esq.
Robert J. Gargasz Co., L.P.A.
1670 Cooper Foster Park Road
Lorain, Ohio 44053
(440) 960-1670
(440) 960-1754 Facsimile
rjgargasz@gmail.com

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 1:01 AM
To: David Yost AG; Carissa Woytach; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Aaron Knapp; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Garon Petty; Michael Scherach; Mark Campolo; Leigh Prugh; Christine Mendoza; Patrick Riley; Rocky Radeff; Mike Failing; Don Zaleski; Rey Carrion; Jack Bradley; City Council Mail Group; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Maggie Partin; Teresa Upton; jfr_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; david@yesce.com Moore, David; Jacob Morris; Patrick Ward; Marty Gallagher; jeanne Petty; Julie Wallace; Lindsay Carr; Brad Dicken; Brad Dicken; Darryl Tucker; Ohio Up!; Lorain daily; Lindsay Carr; Joseph LaVeck; Brian Sarvas
Subject: Fwd: Medina County project was awarded \$2M for roundabout based on falsified data, state finds Source: Akron Beacon Journal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Patrick Tavenner II <patrick.tavennerii@gmail.com>
Date: August 22, 2025 at 6:40:39 PM EDT
To: "Robert J. Gargasz" <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Subject: Medina County project was awarded \$2M for roundabout based on falsified data, state finds Source: Akron Beacon Journal

Unethical behavior from other government engineers

Medina County project was awarded \$2M for roundabout based on falsified data, state finds

Source: Akron Beacon Journal

<https://share.newsbreak.com/enns8mc6>

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 5:47 AM
To: Garon Petty; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; jeanne Petty; Mark Campolo; Tony Cillo; Sheriff Jack Hall; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Billie Jo Belcher; Mike Failing; Patrick Riley; Rocky Radeff; Rey Carrion; Don Zaleski; Jack Bradley; City Council Mail Group; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Maggie Partin; Teresa Upton; jfr_74@hotmail.com; Jeff Riddel; david@yesce.com; Moore, David; Jacob Morris; David Yost AG; Patrick Ward; Leigh Prugh; Carissa Woytach; Marty Gallagher; Christine Mendoza; Lorain daily; Julie Wallace; Darryl Tucker; Lindsay Carr; Patrick Tavenner; Clevescene; Mike Mason; Fox 8; Brian Ames; Bradley, Jack; Brad Dicken; Brad Dicken; Lindsay Carr; Arroyo, Angel; Noelle Williams; Joseph LaVeck; Ohio Up!; Joseph LaVeck; Monica D. Pluta; Joseph LaVeck; Craig Snodgrass; Garon Petty; Dull, Breanna; David O'Brien; Brian Sarvas; Timothy Joseph Gargasz; Mike Gargasz; Joseph Gargasz; andrewgargasz; Maggie Kent; Elizabeth Sauer; Anne Olsen; Pauline Sherry; Kate Zvara; Janice Gargasz; M. Elissa Cachon; Terry and Marie Hall; Robby Zsigray; Barb DeFelice; Edward Chavez; Dan Plow; Kathy Cucco; Wanda Gargasz; Mike Campolo; Wyers; Paul Young; Molly Antill; Robert Zvara; Tom Niewulis; Jim Dowdell; Brian Massie; Fran Smith; Thomas Hach; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org; Hill, William. Bill Poplar; Tom rodeoh2 Beres; Charlene Scherach; Robert Gargasz; Noelle Williams; Jamie Lynne Turner; Aaron Knapp; Keely Hall; KATE Cucco; Robert J. Gargasz; Special investigations unit State Of Ohio; Matt Hall; EDMUND GARGASZ; Dennis Flores
Subject: 2025 Investigations

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<https://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/85-2025-investigations>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 9:20 AM
To: City Council Mail Group; Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Patrick Riley; Joel Arredondo; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Michael Scherach; Mike Brosky; Tony Cillo; Garon Petty; Sheriff Jack Hall; Aaron Knapp; Jeanne Petty; Rocky Radeff; Maggie Partin; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mark Campolo; Mike Massie; Mike Failing; Billie Jo Belcher; Teresa Upton; jfr_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; David david@yesce.com Moore; Jacob Morris; Patrick Ward; David Yost AG; Leigh Prugh; Carissa Woytach; Marty Gallagher; Christine Mendoza; Patrick Tavenner; Lorain daily; Lindsay Carr; Julie Wallace; Mike Mason; Darryl Tucker; Clevescene; Fox; Brian Ames; Breanna Dull; Jack Bradley; Dennis Flores; Brad Dicken; Garon Petty; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Kathryn Kennedy; Brad Dicken; Lindsay Carr; Noelle Williams; Joseph LaVeck; Joseph LaVeck; Ohio Up!; Joseph LaVeck; Monica D. Pluta; Craig Snodgrass; andrewgargasz; Brian Sarvas; Joseph Gargasz; Mike Gargasz; Pauline Sherry; Timothy Josoph Gargasz; Kate Zvara; Maggie Kent; Wanda Gargasz; Janice Gargasz; Barb DeFelice; Anne Olsen; Elizabeth Sauer; M. Elissa Cachon; Terry and Marie Hall; Edward Chavez; Robby Zsigray; Dan Plow; Paul Young; Mike Campolo; Kathy Cucco; Wyers; Molly Antill; Robert Zvara; Fran Smith; Tom Niewulis; Jim Dowdell; Brian Massie; Charlene Scherach; Noelle Williams; William. Bill Poplar; Thomas Hach; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill; Tom rodeoh2 Beres; Jamie Lynne Turner; Jackie Conrad; Robert J. Gargasz
Cc: rjgargasz@gmail.com
Subject: State Leaders Briefings: The GENIUS Act and Stablecoins with Tobi Maier,...

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Confirm the message is safe before clicking any links. <https://youtu.be/bzuoowiUb5E?si=UHtsW4gGfkGK3RIJ>
All, please take the time to hear this important discussion. How do we create alternatives to the coming control grid?

Can local and state policies be established for the preservation of freedom, liberty, and constitutional money?

Can we create local mediums of financial exchange as a stand alone system to the coming control grid?

Can we lead the way and alter the future planned by globalist authoritarian governments?

Energy, power, food, water, the infrastructure of commerce must be preserved and protected. How can you contribute to the preservation of Liberty, Freedom, and the America Republic. Pass this on to your friends and families. Become an advocate for Liberty and Freedom. Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 1:28 PM
To: SIUComplaints@ohioauditor.gov
Cc: aos_siu Ohio Auditor; WATCHDOG@OIG.OHIO.GOV; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Chris Niehart; Mike Failing; Billie Jo Belcher; Leigh Prugh; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr
Subject: Fwd: The Contradictor-in-Chief: Dave Moore's 8/15 Performance and the Unraveling of the CCI Sabotage Narrative

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Robert J. Gargasz" <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Date: August 23, 2025 at 1:21:19 PM EDT
To: Chris Niehart <chrisniehart@oh.rr.com>
Subject: Fwd: The Contradictor-in-Chief: Dave Moore's 8/15 Performance and the Unraveling of the CCI Sabotage Narrative

Pass this on to all fire departments and police departments (emergency responders). Seek the trail of how this has occurred and why the story has changed.

Mr. Knapp has raised good questions that need to be answered with truth.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>
Date: August 20, 2025 at 9:23:36 PM EDT
To: rjgargasz@gmail.com
Subject: The Contradictor-in-Chief: Dave Moore's 8/15 Performance and the Unraveling of the CCI Sabotage Narrative
Reply-To: Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack
<reply+2u4d3n&gfc5&&6d77b0ad1d5cf9818c7214d5a39cffd56c3bf5c363c5d9f737f2eee36ec1cbe4@mg1.substack.com>

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The Contradictor-in-Chief: Dave Moore's 8/15 Performance and the Unraveling of the CCI Sabotage Narrative

Moore's own words confirm what insiders have been saying all along: this was never about safety—it was about control.

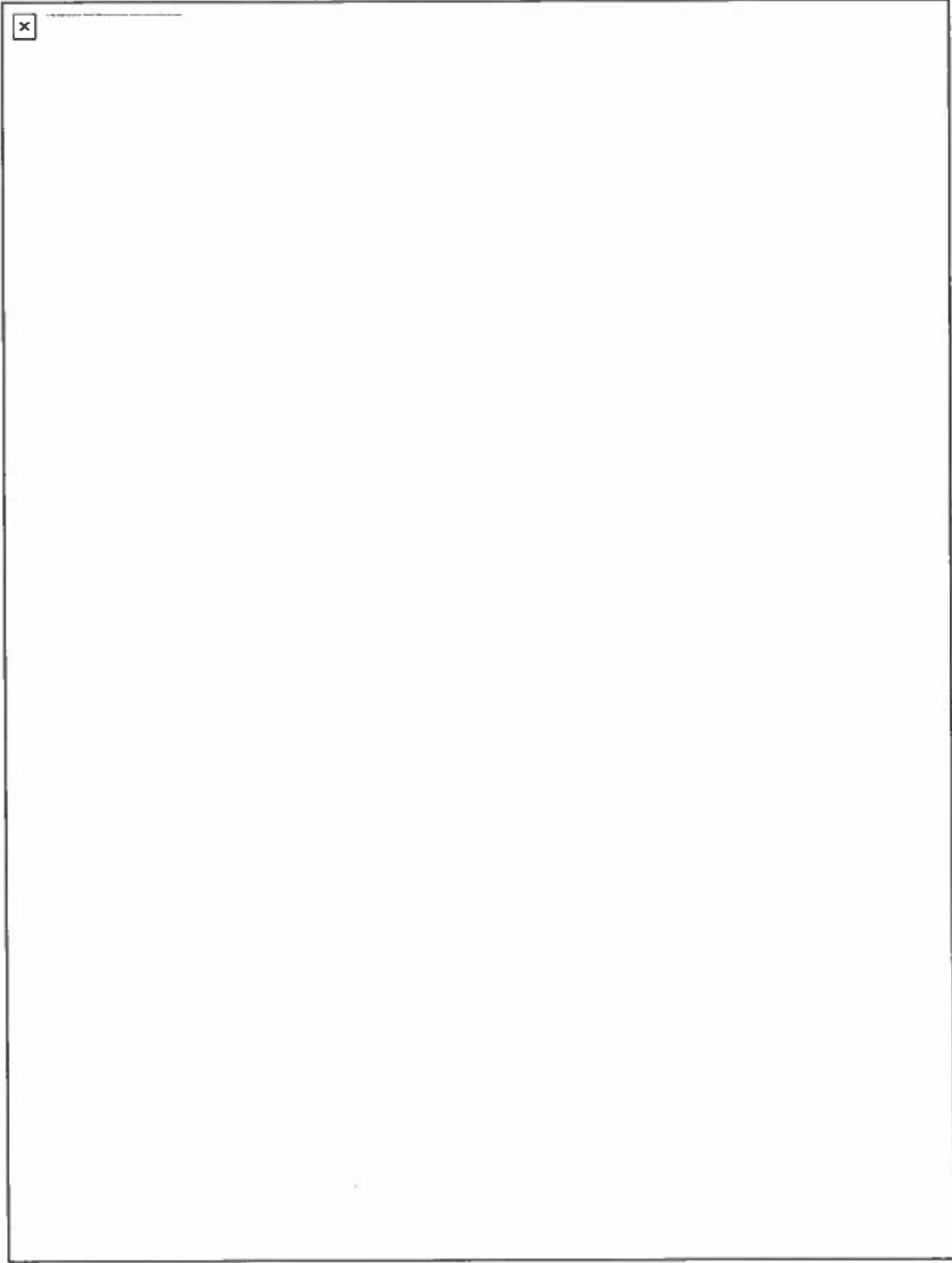
AARON C KNAPP

AUG 21



READ IN APP

I. Four Years



of Backpedaling—Now on the Record

“This is not prepared. This is just me sitting up here after Brian brought it up in his public comments.” — Commissioner Dave Moore, August 15, 2025

Commissioner Dave Moore’s comments at the August 15 Commissioners meeting were framed as spontaneous, but they read like a long-delayed damage control operation. After years of scripted attacks, contract cancellations, press leaks, and manufactured outrage over the CCI radio contract, Moore finally tried to reframe the entire narrative. The problem is, **his own words now contradict everything he’s been saying since 2022.**

At the height of the controversy in 2023, Moore and fellow commissioner Jeff Riddell repeatedly alleged that the original CCI deal was “rigged,” “steered,” and possibly illegal. They implied it was a sweetheart deal handed to a vendor without proper oversight. Riddell went as far as to suggest it was under state-level scrutiny. Moore, meanwhile, fed the same line to press contacts, first responders, and even state officials. The implication was always that the **entire CCI project—not just the radios—was tainted.**

But on August 15, Moore changed his tune:

“The contract that Jeff Redell and I rescinded has nothing to do with what we did. We rescinded buying 1,049 radios at \$5,800 apiece.”

Suddenly, the issue wasn’t the infrastructure, the tower leases, the network management, or the long-term sustainability of the system—it was just the price tag on radios. That’s a convenient pivot for a board now under federal scrutiny, facing allegations in a RICO case, and being called out by their own constituents. It’s also false.

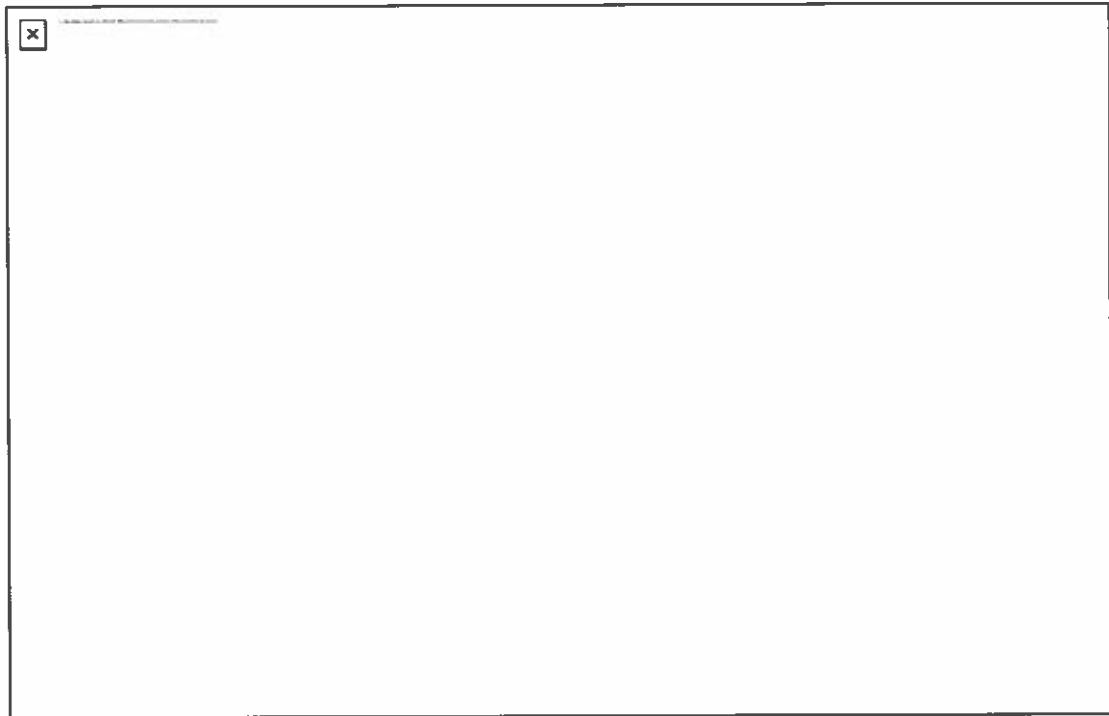
The **resolution Moore and Riddell rescinded in 2023** was not limited to radios. The full documentation shows it was part of a broader purchase order with Communications Consulting, Inc. (CCI), whose proposal included infrastructure build-out, tower integration, and long-term maintenance. And while Moore now frames the cost as excessive, the CCI deal also included **network ownership, system upkeep, and a guaranteed savings structure** compared to state MARCS fees. That’s the part he leaves out.

More importantly, Moore's 2025 version of events directly contradicts the narrative he weaponized to kill the deal. If it was just about overpriced radios, **why did he and Riddell allege political corruption, state-level interference, and demand contract termination "for cause"?** Why did they circulate no-bid letters from Motorola and partial bids from Vasu as if they proved impropriety—when in fact they proved there was interest, competition, and a bidding process?

The only thing that's changed is the political calculus.

Now that Moore is back in office and Riddell squeaked through reelection, the urgency to attack CCI has cooled—but the paper trail remains. And Moore, despite his attempt to reframe the contract as a misunderstanding over hardware costs, can't scrub the public record of two years' worth of vendetta-driven policy decisions.

What we're witnessing isn't transparency. It's a cover story. One hastily rolled out in response to public comment and media pressure—one that Moore hopes will rewrite the very history he authored. But the facts, the resolutions, and the emails don't lie. He does.



II. “We Built It. Use It If You Want”—But Did They Also Block the Exit?

*“We built it. We put the road in. You can drive on it if you want.” —
Commissioner Dave Moore, August 15, 2025*

That’s the line Moore used to defend the board’s \$28 million MARCS infrastructure switch—an infrastructure, he claimed, that gives every public safety agency in Lorain County the “freedom” to choose whichever radio vendor they prefer. But like most things Moore says when he’s under scrutiny, that freedom isn’t what it appears to be.

What Moore didn’t disclose in the meeting—and what internal emails and sourcing suggest—is that the Commissioners **intentionally restricted CCI’s ability to use the county’s tower infrastructure** after the original contract was rescinded. According to documentation your source provided, a clause was quietly added to county tower agreements that effectively blocked co-use or

leasing by CCI. The clause didn't exist in the original tower terms. It was amended after the fact—**specifically to exclude a competitor.**

That's not "choice." That's a **forced monopoly**, engineered under the pretense of public safety.

Worse still, Moore and Riddell appear to have anticipated that CCI might seek alternate sites to maintain its network. Internal correspondence tied to the MCM consulting firm—who were brought in under the Moore-Riddell regime—identified **the LCCC tower near the 911 center** as a potential backup site CCI could use if excluded from county infrastructure. That's when the real interference appears to have begun.

On May 20, 2025, the Lorain County Commissioners appointed **Lee Armbruster**—the wife of County Administrator Jeff Armbruster—to the **LCCC Board of Trustees**. The timing is suspect. And when CCI approached LCCC about potentially leasing space on the tower, a member of the college reportedly replied: *"We're unsure of what we can do, and we're afraid of the political ramifications because of one of our board members and her connections to county government."*

The name Armbruster didn't need to be said. It was already understood.

That fear alone—of political retaliation from county commissioners or their administrative appointees—**compromised the independence of a public education institution**. And it proved what many have suspected since this battle began: that this was never about interoperability or safety. It was about cutting CCI off from every possible avenue to survive.

Moore went on to say:

"If they want to participate, great. If they don't want to participate, that's fine."

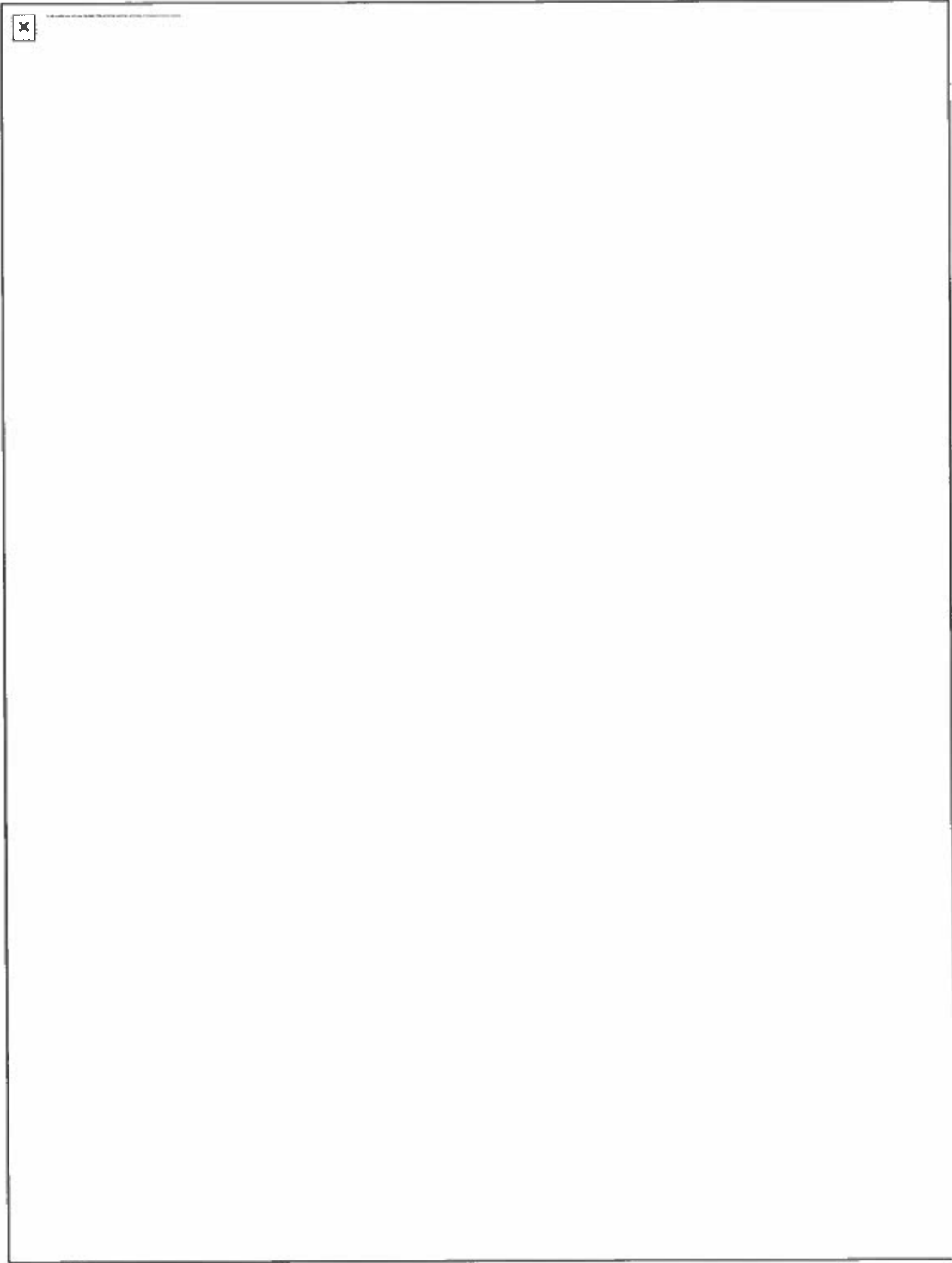
But participation in what? A network they no longer control? A tower they can't access? A policy that was re-engineered to drive them out of the market?

When you block a company from using public infrastructure, strong-arm local institutions into silence, and then **frame their demise as a “choice,”** it’s not public policy. It’s retaliation—plain and simple.

Even Moore’s language betrays that reality. In the same breath, he called the conflict a “civil separation,” noting that CCI, the Prosecutor, and the Sheriff were “working it out.” That’s not how civil litigation or contract enforcement works. That’s how backroom political pressure works. That’s how you quietly kill a competitor and call it consensus.

What happened to CCI wasn’t just a business casualty. It was a **targeted takedown**, orchestrated through board appointments, contract amendments, and institutional intimidation.

And no matter how many times Moore claims the public can “drive on the road” they built, **he forgets to mention all the signs they posted saying “Do Not Enter—Unless You Pay the State.”**



III. L3 Harris Didn't Bid? Or Was the Field Rigged?

“L3 Harris did not bid.” — **Commissioner Dave Moore**, August 15, 2025

That’s how Moore tried to explain away the county’s rejection of the CCI contract—by claiming no one else was in the game. If you take him at his word, the commissioners were forced to rescind the 2023 resolution because they had no other choice: the county had only one vendor on the table, and they needed to go back out to bid.

But that claim doesn’t hold up to scrutiny—because it conveniently erases everything that happened during the procurement process, and everything that came through the hands of MCM Consulting, the county’s own hired expert.

Multiple public records and internal sources confirm that Motorola submitted a formal no-bid letter, a standard procedural move indicating that while the company declined to submit a complete proposal, it remained interested and available for partnership. Vasu Communications, a regional competitor and frequent government vendor, submitted a partial bid tied to specific hardware and communication services. Most significantly, MCM rated CCI’s proposal at 97 percent compliance with the county’s own request for proposals. That is not failure. That is near-total compatibility with the stated goals of the county’s radio transition.

Moore’s “L3 Harris didn’t bid” statement is not only misleading—it’s dishonest. While it’s technically true that the L3 Harris corporation didn’t submit a bid directly, that claim is a red herring. The bid didn’t have to come from corporate headquarters. CCI, a certified L3 Harris dealer and integration firm, submitted a full proposal that included L3 Harris equipment, build-out of a new countywide network, training, and long-term maintenance. Moore knows this. He knew it in 2023 when he voted to rescind the contract. He knows it now.

What Moore and Commissioner Marty Gallagher have done is construct a false binary—one that suggests a legitimate competitive process didn’t exist. The only way that works is by ignoring the actual structure of vendor relationships in this industry. Large technology manufacturers like L3 Harris often work through certified integrators and partners for projects of this nature. That is the norm, not the exception. CCI wasn’t just some middleman. It was the delivery system.

Despite this, Gallagher joined Moore in pushing the same narrative minutes later, stating, “The rescinding of that contract was a single bid contract.” That statement, made for the record, is false. It erases Vasu’s bid. It omits Motorola’s no-bid letter. It pretends the 97% compliance score never existed. It suggests that the commissioners acted in a vacuum, rather than a coordinated political maneuver to kill a deal they never liked.

Moore’s effort to downplay the controversy also reveals how his story has changed over time. In 2023, the argument wasn’t about bid quantity—it was about bid integrity. Moore and then-Commissioner Jeff Riddell cast suspicion on the entire CCI proposal, implying that it had been steered, manipulated, or influenced behind closed doors. They sent inflammatory accusations to the State Auditor’s Office. They briefed reporters. They gave public comments alleging wrongdoing without offering evidence. That talking point was central to their effort to tank the contract.

Now that those claims have been quietly discredited, Moore is rewriting the history. The problem, according to him, was never that CCI was corrupt—it was that no one else showed up. But the record says otherwise. The field was never empty. It was just narrowed, massaged, and distorted until it suited the outcome Moore and Gallagher wanted.

At the heart of this revisionist defense is a deeper concern. The federal lawsuit now pending against the County by CCI doesn’t just allege breach of contract. It alleges intentional interference. It suggests that the commissioners engineered a process to fail—and then smeared the contractor when it didn’t. The complaint accuses them of manipulating the record to favor the Ohio MARCS system and bury the CCI partnership permanently.

The deposition phase of that lawsuit will likely ask hard questions Moore tried to brush aside on August 15. Was the decision to rescind the contract based on political pressure? Did Moore and Riddell make knowingly false claims to state agencies or the press? Did they rely on manufactured doubts to cover a preference for a state-run system? And was the entire bidding field misrepresented—on purpose—to justify a shift that was already decided?

Moore can keep saying “L3 Harris didn’t bid.” But repetition doesn’t make it true. What it does is signal desperation—an attempt to escape the consequences of a narrative collapsing in real time. The truth, long buried under spin, is now clawing its way back into the public record. And Moore, for all his backpedaling, can’t run from that deposition forever.

IV. Who’s Afraid of a Deposition?

“We’ve heard nothing from them.” — **Commissioner Dave Moore**, August 15, 2025

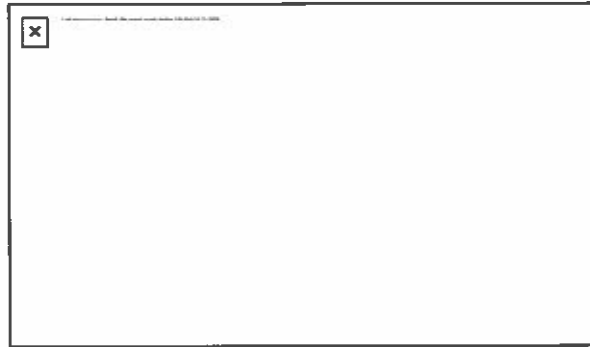
The claim, again, is that there’s no real legal problem. That CCI—despite filing a federal lawsuit and triggering outside counsel retention—is somehow not pursuing anything at all. Moore’s line that “we’ve heard nothing from them” is as deceptive as it is strategic. He wants the public to believe this is a dead issue, that there’s no pending liability, no serious claims, and no risk to the County’s reputation or finances. But the truth, plainly visible in the court docket and attorney records, tells a very different story.

The CCI lawsuit is real. Filed in federal court, it alleges that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners—under Moore, Gallagher, and former commissioner Jeff Riddell—intentionally torpedoed a lawfully awarded contract, spread defamatory claims to law enforcement and the media, and abused their public office to favor a competitor: the state-run MARCS system.



The complaint details not just breach of contract, but a pattern of bad-faith conduct. CCI’s team contends that they were guaranteed a path forward in 2023, only to be blindsided by a coordinated political campaign designed to

destroy their credibility and remove them from the equation. The lawsuit seeks damages. Substantial ones. And it's not going away.



So when Moore stood at the dais on August 15 and said, “We’ve heard nothing from them,” it wasn’t a statement of fact. It was a performance. A way to delay accountability, minimize public awareness, and control the narrative just a little longer. But that clock is ticking.

Depositions are coming. Discovery will open. And when it does, Moore’s own emails, texts, notes, and recorded conversations—those made in public and those he thought were private—will all be subject to subpoena. That includes his correspondence with Riddell, Gallagher, County Administrator Tom Williams, and anyone else involved in the contract’s reversal. It also likely includes communications with the State Auditor, law enforcement agencies, and even media contacts if they were part of an effort to push a false narrative.

What happens when Moore is asked, under oath, whether he had any documentation or evidence that the CCI contract was improperly steered?

What happens when Gallagher is asked if he had independent knowledge of the facts, or merely repeated what Moore told him?

What happens when subpoenaed communications show that key players were pushing for MARCS even before the CCI contract was cancelled?

And perhaps most importantly—what happens when those depositions contradict the statements Moore just made for the record on August 15?

Because they already do.

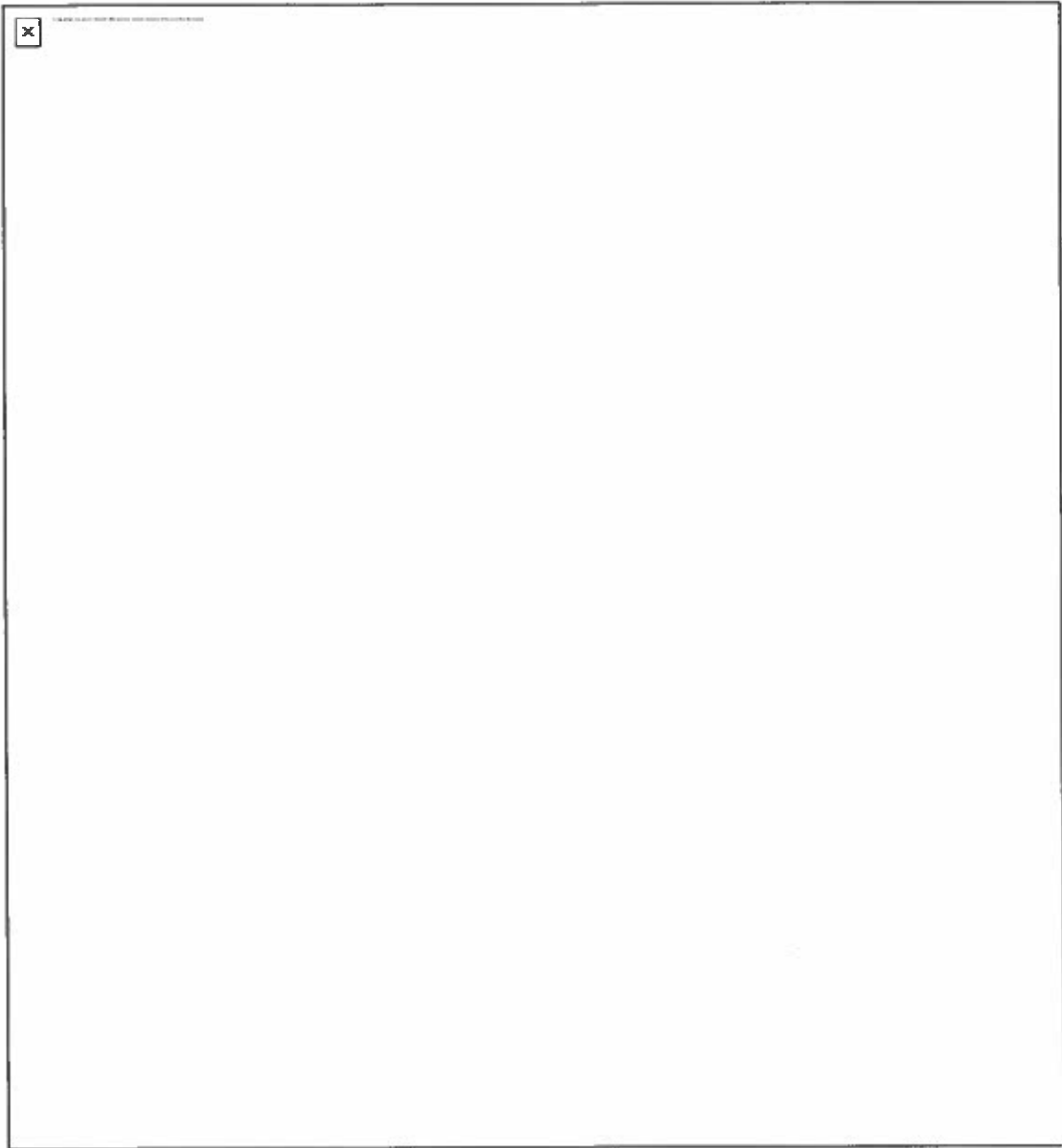
Moore claimed the contract was rescinded purely because it was a single bid. That's not what he said in 2023. Moore claimed they've "heard nothing" from the vendor. That's not what the court record shows. Moore claimed the County acted properly, and that no harm has come to anyone. That's not what the lawsuit alleges—and it's not what the evidence is likely to reveal.

He can't spin his way out of sworn testimony. He can't coach himself through a deposition. When the questions come, they will come with documents, with timelines, with corroborating exhibits that leave no room for improvisation. And unlike a county meeting, Moore won't be able to filibuster or lean on Marty Gallagher to echo him. The law doesn't play that game.

Nor should the public.

The costs of this lawsuit—financial, reputational, and operational—will be borne not by Moore personally, but by Lorain County residents. By taxpayers. And all because the Board's leadership couldn't admit they lost control of the process and tried to shift blame onto a private vendor who followed the rules. Now, after years of spinning, Moore will have to do something he's carefully avoided since 2021: answer real questions under real legal pressure.

There's a reason he's nervous. There's a reason he's backpedaling. And there's a reason the word "deposition" sends a shiver through the halls of county government. Because the truth is no longer optional. It's coming—with subpoenas, transcripts, and consequences.



V. MARCS by Force—Not by Consensus

Commissioner Dave Moore wants you to believe this was about consensus. About compromise. About meeting the needs of first responders.

It wasn't.

It was about power. And it still is.

The record shows that the decision to move Lorain County to the MARCS system was neither driven by local demand nor backed by unanimous expert support. In fact, the opposite is true. As of 2023, nearly every fire chief and police chief consulted—including those who publicly spoke during commissioner meetings—favored CCI's hybrid, locally controlled digital radio network. That system, unlike MARCS, would have required zero taxpayer dollars for infrastructure. CCI planned to own and maintain the network itself, much like a cellular carrier builds its towers and recovers the cost through service plans.

Commissioner Moore's new position is that the rescinded contract was merely for radios—not infrastructure. But the March 2023 resolution to rescind the CCI purchase order was sold to the public and to the press as a full unraveling of the CCI contract. Moore himself warned of potential “steering,” “favoritism,” and “corruption”—none of which was ever substantiated. In fact, the State Auditor's Office and federal investigators both reviewed the procurement process and found no wrongdoing. Yet Moore, Riddell, and Gallagher pressed on, citing unspecified legal concerns and political optics.

They never explained what changed. They never admitted they were wrong. They simply handed control of Lorain County's emergency communications to the State of Ohio—and they're calling that a win.

Worse still, they did so while burying the financial consequences. The MARCS system now requires every local agency to pay user fees—estimated to exceed \$750,000 annually for the county alone. Cities like Elyria, Amherst, Sheffield Lake, and Avon are being forced to retrofit systems, replace dispatch equipment, and pay per-radio access costs that were never part of the original CCI plan.

And let's not forget: CCI's system was already under construction. Towers were being erected. Radios were ordered. The contract was active. And then—political panic.

By the time Moore and Riddell reversed course in 2023, CCI had already sunk considerable capital into building a public safety-grade network based on their bid—one that won based on a 97% technical match to the RFP, unlike Motorola

(which submitted a no-bid letter) and Vasu (whose proposal was deemed partial and unresponsive).

This wasn't about the best system. It wasn't about savings. It was about severing a deal that had become politically radioactive in the wake of internal power shifts and election-year optics. Now, Moore's "regionalism" talking points ring hollow—especially as local agencies quietly explore creating sub-regional 911 collaborations just to avoid MARCS dependency.

In the end, the only consensus forged was among the commissioners themselves—overriding experts, ignoring the procurement scorecard, and throwing millions of taxpayer dollars into a statewide system that local responders never asked for.

VI. The Lawsuit Is the Truth Serum

For all the spin, deflection, and revisionist history on display on August 15, the facts remain—and soon they'll be sworn under oath.

Commissioner Dave Moore may have hoped that his sudden change in tone would help him regain control of the narrative. But the lawsuit filed by CCI isn't a press release. It's a freight train of accountability. And no matter how many public statements Moore delivers from the dais, none of them will matter when he's sitting across from opposing counsel with a transcript recorder running.

Because in court, there are no backpedals. There are no redactions. There is no cutting off public commenters or reframing the debate mid-sentence. There is only the record—and the consequences of contradicting it.

That record shows a far different story than the one Moore attempted to tell on August 15. It shows a deliberate effort to sabotage a functioning, independently-built emergency communications network. It shows a coordinated media and political campaign to discredit CCI—despite the fact that no criminal investigation was ever initiated, no wrongdoing ever substantiated, and no procurement laws ever violated. And it shows a Board that didn't course-correct after being cleared by the State Auditor, but instead doubled down on its

conspiracy theories, manufacturing a justification to ram through an overpriced shift to MARCS.

The discovery process in that lawsuit will force open the very black box Moore and his allies have tried to seal. It will document who wrote the resolution rescinding the CCI purchase order and under whose direction. It will trace the timing and content of communications between the commissioners and competing radio vendors or Motorola lobbyists. It will subpoena procurement scoring records that the Law Department refused to release to the public. And it will raise a critical fiscal question: why did this Board push through a multi-million-dollar MARCS system when they had every reason to know it would cost taxpayers more—and deliver less?

These are not rhetorical questions. They are now legal ones. And Moore will not be able to answer them with another monologue. He'll have to answer them with sworn testimony.

That's why the lawsuit matters. It strips away the spin and forces a reckoning with the facts. It cuts through the fog of misdirection and demands a timeline. And for Moore, Riddell, Gallagher, and anyone else involved in the 2023 collapse of Lorain County's independent radio system, that reckoning is no longer political—it's judicial.

There's a reason Moore tried to reframe the narrative on August 15. He sees what's coming. The depositions. The interrogatories. The evidence he can't redact or deny. And if this really was all above board, if there was nothing to hide, the question is obvious:

Why did they try so hard to bury it?

Final Thought: The Microphone Is Not a Shield

Commissioner Dave Moore stood before the public on August 15 and tried to rewrite history with the confidence of a man who's never had to testify under oath. But unlike the dais, a deposition doesn't come with a gavel to hide behind

or the luxury of an audience that doesn't get to reply. In court, your words follow you—and lies don't get second readings.

For two years, Moore, Riddell, and Gallagher peddled a narrative that CCI's contract was shady, that something nefarious had gone on behind the scenes, that taxpayers had been duped. They pushed that fiction so hard that it helped drive CCI out of the county—only for the same officials to pivot months later and admit, publicly, that the rescinded contract was merely about radios. Infrastructure? Never in question, Moore now says. Procurement? Never disputed. The very things they spent months insinuating were corrupt were, apparently, fine all along.

This isn't just backpedaling. It's intellectual dishonesty on a government salary. And the public deserves better.

The truth is catching up. The lawsuit Moore tried to downplay is moving forward. Depositions are coming. Paper trails are being followed. The same men who once demanded an audit will now face one under penalty of perjury. And no matter how many public statements Moore gives, none of them will override the record he already helped create.

You can't redline reality in retrospect. You can't reframe the facts when they're attached to sworn affidavits. And when the courtroom lights turn on, the very microphone Moore once used to distort the truth will become the spotlight that reveals it.

Let's hope he's prepared. Because we are.

Disclosure

This article is based on a combination of public records, verified reporting from mainstream and local outlets, court filings, video footage, and firsthand documentation obtained through official requests and confidential sources. Statements attributed to public officials, including Commissioners Dave Moore, Jeff Riddell, and Marty Gallagher, are drawn directly from recorded meetings and public statements. Certain allegations regarding tower lease amendments,

scoring rubrics, and influence by outside actors are based on whistleblower communications and remain under investigation.

Aaron Knapp is an investigative journalist, licensed social worker, and candidate for Lorain City Council. He has filed multiple public records requests and legal complaints related to the matters discussed herein. This disclosure is made in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Legal Disclaimer

This newsletter article is based on publicly available records, official county meeting transcripts, and verified documentation. The opinions and commentary provided are intended for journalistic and informational purposes, grounded in the protections afforded by the **First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** and **Article I, Section 11 of the Ohio Constitution** (which affirm freedom of speech and press) [ficlaw.com](https://www.ficlaw.com)[law.justia.com](https://www.law.justia.com)+1. All individuals referenced are presumed innocent **unless proven guilty in a court of law**—a legal principle firmly enshrined in Ohio criminal procedure codes.ohio.gov. Any errors identified will be addressed and corrected as warranted.

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