

Beko, Michele

From: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 10:21 AM
To: Failing, Mike
Cc: Beko, Michele
Subject: FW: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)
Attachments: Aaron Knapp Public Records Request - Social Workers BoardEmails.pdf

FYI.

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

From: LaVeck, Joseph
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 1:35 PM
To: 'Aaron Knapp' <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

Mr. Knapp:

Please find the attached records responsive to your public records request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Jun 18, 2025, at 09:27, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph.LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

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

Best Regards,

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

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:58 PM

To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph.LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Robert J. Gargas <rgargas@gmail.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>

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

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

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

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

On Jun 3, 2025, at 15:58, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

It doesn't take this long. Stop and just do what is required and provide them in a timely manner.

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

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

On Jun 3, 2025, at 11:36, LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph.LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

The City is still working on processing your public records request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

From: LaVeck, Joseph
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 1:22 PM
To: 'Aaron Knapp' <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

Mr. Knapp:

As you know, the Law Department is not the repository of records that may be responsive to your request. Your request is being processed, and I will have a response to you as soon as possible. I appreciate your continued patience.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 12:36 PM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Its been 15 days on this matter (and longer due to previous denials)
please accept this as 3 days notice of intent to file with court of claims.

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

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

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 02:28:53 PM EDT, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

1. On Jul 24, 2023, at 16:05, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

I am simply informing you that I am unaware of any complaint being made against you, but even if there was a complaint made or information provided by a City of Lorain employee to "the Board," any complaint or information provided would be confidential and therefore not a public record. See R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v). See also R.C. 4757.38(B)(1).

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Aaron Knapp [<mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:46 PM
To: LaVeck, Joseph
Subject: Re: Public Records Request

To be clear it was specifically stated to the Board that it was the "Lorain Police Department" not one particular person.

So as the legal advisor and law director are you saying that someone within the department filed this complaint and claimed to represent the Police Department as an agency?

We both know it was the chief who has harassed me since the department decided to break the law. Also now my employment has been threatened.

So you're stating that filing a false complaint saying that you represent the Lorain Police isn't a matter of public record?

I'm going to the court of claims next but I needed to give you an opportunity to respond. I've tried my best to handle this out of court. A simple apology and a fix of the problem.

To be clear I witnessed the Lorain Police post illegal documents online and tried to report it as a whistleblower. As such I consider myself protected under state and federal law.

And I've given the city multiple opportunities to deal with this the right way. Instead my employment has been attacked and my license threatened when the police broke the law.

I'm not the one who posted juvenile court records online in violation of Ohio Revised Code and then tried to cover it up.

In the end I think it's at minimum a matter of public record to inquire who filed the complaint representing a public agency?

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

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

On Jul 24, 2023, at 13:18, LaVeck, Joseph
<Joseph.LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please find this correspondence to serve as the response to your public records request dated July 23, 2023. At this time, the City of Lorain does not possess nor is aware of any complaint allegedly made against you, and even if a City employee did make such a complaint, such complaint would not be subject to disclosure, pursuant to R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v).

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

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

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

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 02:25:27 PM EDT, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Understood. I know this was almost a year ago. Recent discussion and discovery have lead me to understand the law differently in how it applies to the deferent branches of the government. In this case if he did use a city server to send it then it's my contention I would be afforded the document based on this interpretation of the the ORC.

Thank you. I'll forward the original.

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

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

On May 13, 2025, at 13:45, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph.LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. I am in the process of re-reviewing your original request, the response provided, and checking City records. I am working to provide a timely response to your request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:36 PM
To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Lorain PD Records Request <LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

July 13, 2025

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq.
Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
City of Lorain

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Email: joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

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

Dear Attorney LaVeck:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You cite R.C. 4757.38(B)(1), which indeed prohibits the Social Work Board from disclosing complaints or investigative records. However, this statute applies only to the Board. It does not prohibit the originating agency from disclosing the same document. There is no language in R.C. 4757.38 that extends this confidentiality mandate to third-party public offices like the City of Lorain. As the

Ohio Attorney General's *Sunshine Laws Manual* explains, an exception to the Public Records Act must be "explicit," and cannot be implied or inferred from another agency's rules or duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Next Steps

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

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

Respectfully,

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

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member ID: 886836612

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

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 8:21 AM
To: lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; Mike Massie; Lorain Police; David Yost AG
Cc: Robert J Gargas; City Council Mail Group; Patrick Riley; Bradley, Jack; Carrion, Rey; Kathryn Kennedy; Aaron Knapp; Elsebeth Baumgartner; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Brad Dicken; Michael Scherach; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Mike Mason; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Beko, Michele; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Denise Wilms; rebecca kempton; clandestinecanary; Carissa Woytach; Lindsay Carr; Tony Cillo; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com
Subject: Please investigate who attacked Clerk Dull.
Attachments: 474533125_8847690358662701_1508369052596682506_n (4).jpeg

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Good Morning,

Councilmember Springowski reports in the email below (dated July 2, 2024) that a Lorain City council member was involved in an attack of Clerk Breanna Dull July 1, 2024.

I am requesting and investigation by the Lorain County Prosecutor and Lorain County Sheriff office into the claim made by Mary Springowski as to who she is writing about in her email.

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 3:05 AM
To: City Council Mail Group; Joel Arredondo; Rey Carrion; Jack Bradley; Patrick Riley; Joe K Auditor; Don Zaleski; Jeanne Petty; Rocky Radeff; Maggie Partin; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; Jacob Morris; Tony Cillo; Garon Petty; Sheriff Jack Hall; Patrick Ward; Teresa Upton; jfr_74@hotmail.com Jeff Riddel; david@yesce.com Moore, David; Darryl Tucker; Julie Wallace; Brad Dicken; Joseph Carbonaro; David O'Brien; Mark Campolo; Brad Dicken; Carissa Woytach; David Yost AG; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Lindsay Carr; Scott Bowles; Ohio Up!; Aaron Knapp; Craig Snodgrass; Lindsay Carr
Cc: Maggie Partin; Breanna Dull; Joseph LaVeck; Jacob Morris; Jon Schuppe; Rey Carrion
Subject: Ohio Supreme Court orders Hamilton County Clerk of Courts to put older eviction cases back online

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. All

Why has no government official responsible for the public records of Lorain City Council meetings that have been removed without explanation responded to Garon Franklin Petty's public records request for an explanation?

Does Lorain, Ohio have a public records Commission? Who is on it?

Has it assented to the destruction and removal of the public records of Lorain City Council? Robert J. Gargasz

<https://www.fox19.com/2025/06/18/ohio-supreme-court-orders-hamilton-county-clerk-courts-put-older-eviction-cases-back-online/>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 2:04 PM
To: City Council Mail Group; Carrion, Rey; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Beko, Michele; Robert J Gargas; Mike Massie; Tony Cillo; clandestinecanary; Mike Mason; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores; Kathryn Kennedy; Jackie Conrad; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Michael Scherach; Brian Ames; Dan Gilles; Lindsay Carr; Carissa Woytach; Darryl Tucker
Subject: Fwd: Demo or Favor? Lorain's Fast-Tracked Teardown Next to the Council President's Club Raises Red Flags

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

Interesting story..

Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>
Subject: Demo or Favor? Lorain's Fast-Tracked Teardown Next to the Council President's Club Raises Red Flags
Date: June 18, 2025 at 1:39:57 PM EDT
To: garonpetty@roadrunner.com
Reply-To: Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack
<reply+2qzjei&5j0f6l&&6f03d19b9d9ac52aec182da8999a440cb45677cae5068b84aee15be2020ec558@mg1.substack.com>

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

Demo or Favor? Lorain's Fast-Tracked Teardown Next to the Council President's Club Raises Red Flags

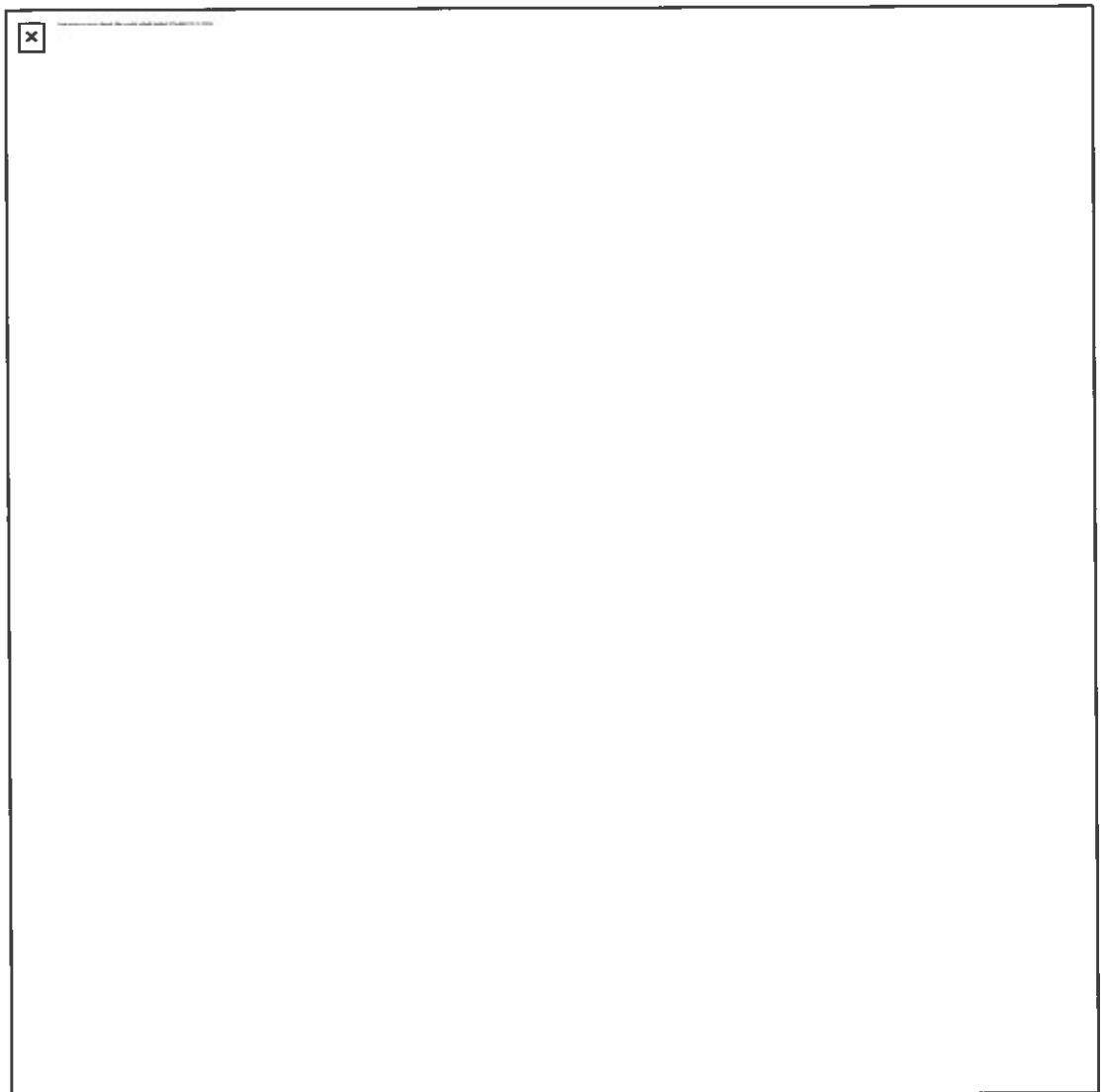
A crumbling South Lorain building is finally coming down—but critics say its proximity to the Mexican Mutual Society and the political power of Council President Joel Arredondo make the timing suspect



READ IN APP 

By Aaron Knapp Investigative Journalist, Social Worker, & Advocate

A Building Falls, Questions Rise



Facebook: Angel Arroyo 6th Ward Council

On the surface, it looks like a win for the neighborhood: a long-blighted commercial structure at 1808 East 28th Street is finally coming down. Councilman Angel Arroyo Jr. proudly posted the announcement on

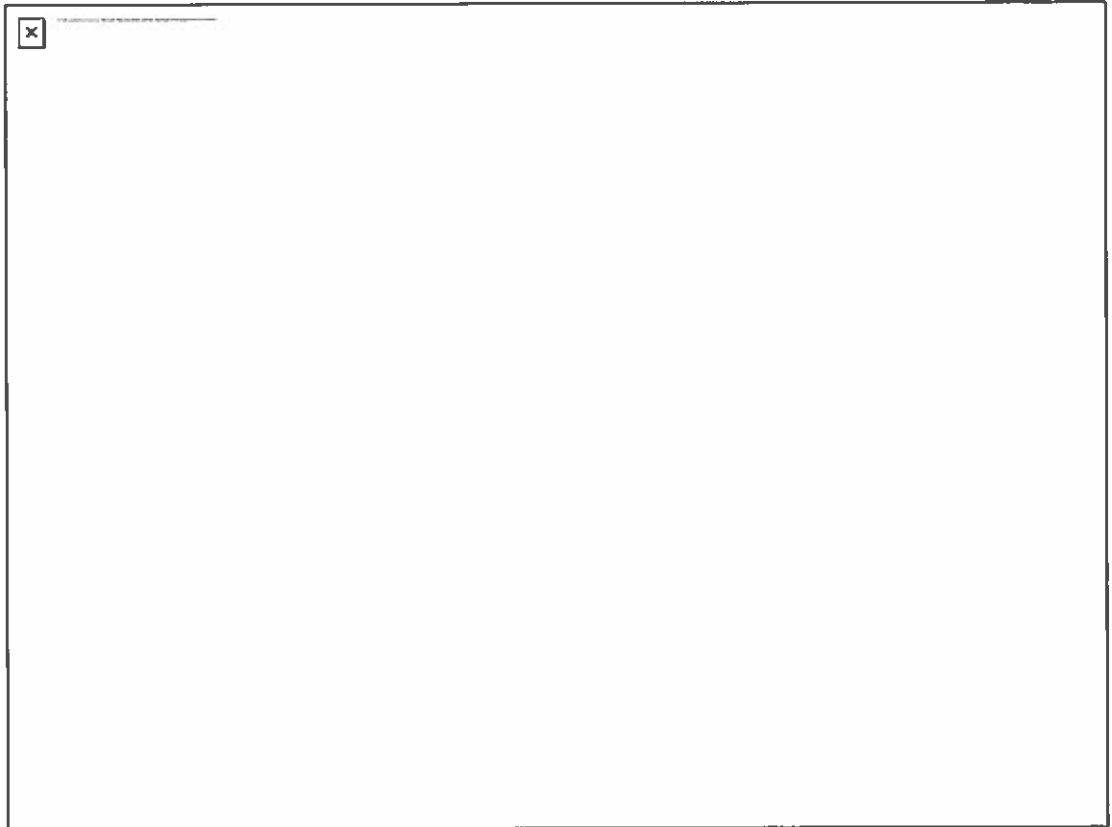
Facebook: the City of Lorain has approved the demolition and will knock the building down within two weeks. But beneath the surface of that celebratory message lies a deeper and more politically charged question: why this building, and why now? Lorain is littered with hundreds of dilapidated houses and commercial eyesores that have lingered for years. Yet this property—connected to a prominent social club with ties to Council President Joel Arredondo—is being expedited for demolition, raising legitimate concerns of selective enforcement, favoritism, and political self-dealing.

The building at 1808 E. 28th isn't just any property. It shares a wall—or at least sits inches away from—the Mexican Mutual Society at 1820 E. 28th, a landmark Hispanic community club where Arredondo serves as president. This proximity means that the Mutual stands to benefit directly from the removal of the blighted building. While the City says it's acting out of concern for public safety, critics wonder aloud: is this simply good governance or a quiet favor for political allies? The timeline for the demo—approved and scheduled in a matter of weeks—has only added fuel to the speculation.

Thanks for reading Aaron's Substack! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

Pledge your support

I've spent the most of today reviewing demolition records, Lorain County property ownership data, and council ordinances, and interviewing my source's who've long waited for their own neighborhood nuisances to be addressed. The findings reveal a pattern: while demolitions elsewhere get bogged down in red tape, this one raced to the front of the line. And while there's no smoking gun—no email or council motion proving a favor was called in—there is something arguably worse: the unmistakable appearance of privilege. In politics, appearances matter. And in this case, the optics are bad.



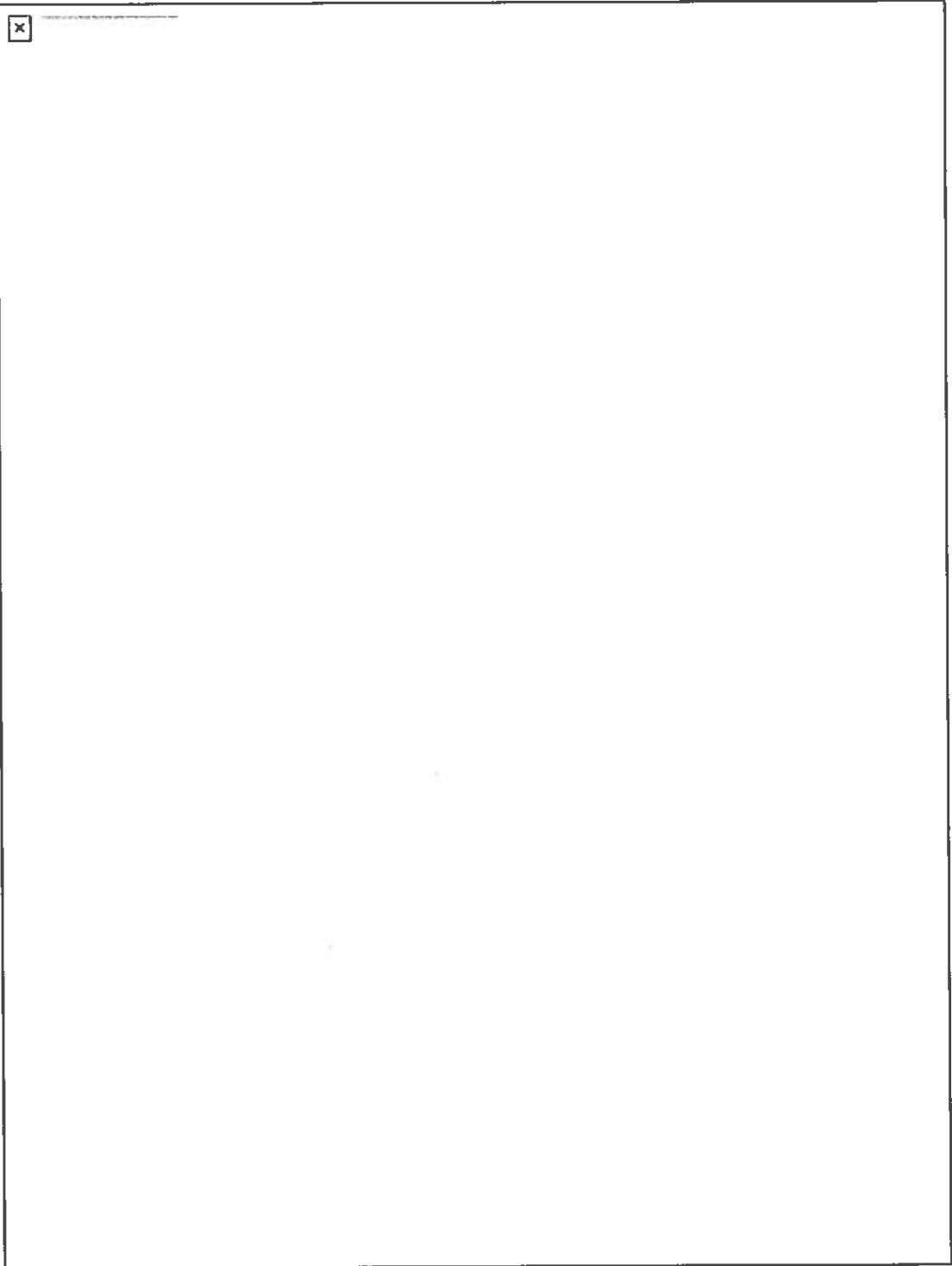
The Property: 1808 E. 28th – Eyesore or Emergency?

Let's be clear: 1808 E. 28th Street is not a hidden gem. It's a crumbling 1-story commercial structure, most recently listed for sale in 2024 for a meager \$12,999. Photos from real estate sites and councilmember posts show visible roof damage, boarded windows, and a building that has clearly outlived its use. According to city ordinance, buildings that are more than 50% deteriorated and pose a public hazard can be demolished by the City. But the City rarely moves this fast. Most demolitions, even after being declared dangerous, sit on the books for months—sometimes years—before the wrecking crew shows up.

So what makes this case different? According to Ward 6 Councilman Angel Arroyo Jr., it was an emergency order signed off by the Chief Building Official. That means it bypassed the normal route through the

Demolition Board of Appeals, saving months of public hearings, contractor bidding, and environmental reviews. Emergency orders are legal—but they're usually reserved for buildings on the verge of collapse or those already damaged by fire. The city's rapid action here suggests a level of urgency not publicly explained. And given the building's long-standing vacancy, one has to ask: what changed now?

The building's close proximity to the Mexican Mutual Society—perhaps inches away—raises further questions. Could a structural inspection have determined the building was threatening its neighbor? Maybe. But why now, after it stood derelict for years? Was it really unsafe overnight, or simply politically inconvenient? The pattern is familiar to anyone who's watched city governments long enough: action where it benefits the powerful, delays where it doesn't. And in this case, that line may have been crossed.



The Neighbor: The Mexican Mutual and the Council President

The Mexican Mutual Society isn't just another neighborhood club. Founded nearly a century ago, it's a cultural institution in Lorain's Hispanic community. And its current president is none other than Lorain City Council President Joel Arredondo. This dual role—as both elected official and adjacent property stakeholder—makes the demolition of 1808 E. 28th a matter of public ethics as much as public safety.

Arredondo has not made any public statements about the demolition, nor has there been any council vote linking him directly to the process. But silence doesn't erase suspicion. When a powerful official stands to gain from the city's action—even if indirectly—it casts a long shadow. The Mutual will benefit from the demolition. Whether it uses the space for parking, security, or visual appeal, it will clearly be in a better position than before. And given the club's prominence, any benefit to it has political value.

This isn't to say Arredondo did anything illegal. **There's no proof of backroom deals or official misconduct.** But the appearance of influence—of city resources deployed in a way that ultimately helps a sitting council president—is something the public has every right to scrutinize. Especially when other neighborhoods have been waiting years for similar action. The public deserves to know: was this building just that dangerous, or just that politically inconvenient?

The Records: Recent Demolitions Show a Slower Pattern

To understand how unusual the 1808 E. 28th demolition is, you have to look at what's happened elsewhere in the city. Over the past two years, the City of Lorain has approved dozens of demolitions. Many were routine: fire-damaged homes, abandoned duplexes, or neglected commercial buildings. In nearly every case, the process took months. In some, it took over a year.

Take 1756 Oakdale, a dilapidated duplex owned by an out-of-state LLC. It was declared unsafe in early 2024 but still stood for months before the City took action. Or 958 Washington Ave., whose owner never even showed up to their Demolition Board hearing. Still, the process dragged. Even the infamous El Patio building on Grove Ave., known for its massive size and high-profile vacancy, wasn't torn down until months after its approval.

In most cases, the City relied on federal grants or county land bank partnerships to fund the work. These funding mechanisms come with strings attached—environmental reviews, asbestos testing, competitive bidding—which slow things down. So when 1808 E. 28th skips all that and gets bulldozed in under a month, people notice. Especially those still living next to hazard homes that have been on the list for years.

The Process: Emergency Powers or Political Expediency?

City ordinance allows for emergency demolition when a structure is deemed an imminent public hazard. In theory, that makes sense: if a roof is caving in or a wall threatens to collapse, the City shouldn't have to wait through weeks of hearings. But emergency powers are supposed to be used sparingly. In most of the city's recent demolitions, even dangerous structures were processed through the usual appeals board.

So what triggered the emergency declaration for 1808 E. 28th? There's no public record of a building inspection, no fire report, no complaint from a neighboring resident or business—at least none released to the public. That absence of documentation is troubling. Because if this wasn't truly an emergency, then the City bent its own rules to benefit a politically connected party. That's not just poor governance—it's a red flag. (as of the writing of this article no evidence could be found to signify these actions were ever taken)

Transparency matters. The City should be able to provide records of the building's condition, the decision to fast-track, and any communication from elected officials. If the decision was made purely on safety grounds, great—show us. But so far, there's been no such transparency. And in the absence of answers, the public is left to connect the dots. And those dots don't look good.

The Timeline: When Speed Becomes Suspicion

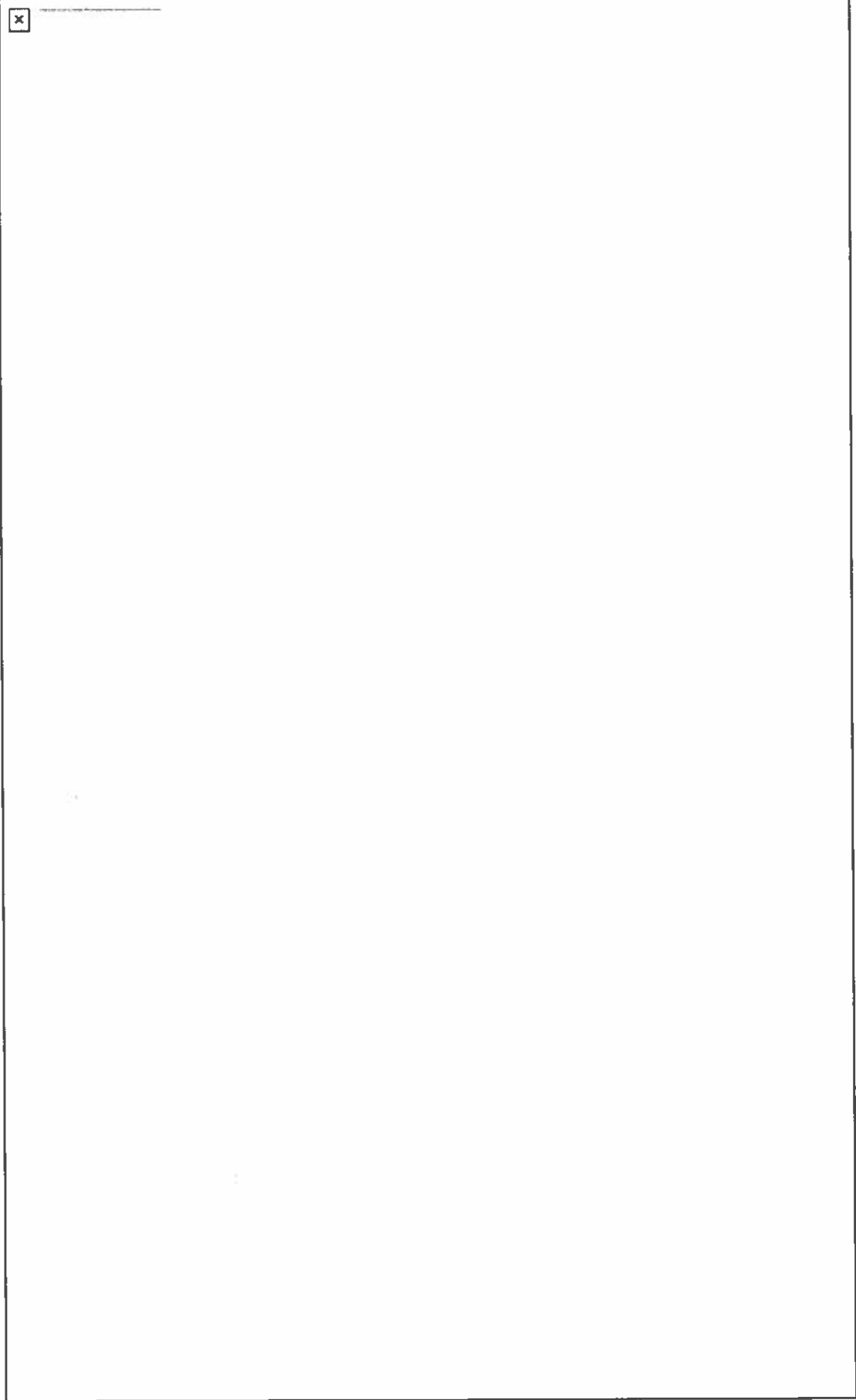
City demolitions are rarely swift. They typically follow a long paper trail of code violation notices, hearings, cost estimates, environmental checks, and eventual scheduling based on funding availability. That's what makes the 1808 E. 28th case so unusual. The timeline from city notice to approved demolition—followed by a public announcement of imminent teardown—all unfolded in a matter of weeks. Compare that to the standard timeline for demo projects in Lorain, which can drag on for six months to two years.

Councilman Arroyo's announcement makes it clear that the demolition is moving under an emergency declaration. But when emergency orders are invoked without a precipitating event—such as a fire, structural collapse, or police/fire report—the public is right to question why. What made this building an emergency now, in June 2025, when it has sat crumbling for a decade? Where is the documentation of the tipping point? If city officials have a structural report or safety analysis, they should release it.

The truth is, demolition "speed" in Lorain often depends more on politics than hazard. Residents in other wards have waited years to get even modestly dangerous homes removed. Yet here, with a structure connected to the Council President's longtime community club, the timeline shortens dramatically. The process was treated as urgent, but the urgency wasn't publicly explained. It's not hard to see why people believe it may have been fast-tracked—not because it became more dangerous overnight, but because someone wanted it gone.

The difference between a one-year wait and a two-week turnaround is not just logistics—it's priority. And that priority often reflects who stands to benefit. If that benefit happens to flow directly to a politically connected

nonprofit where the Council President is the leader, then the public has every reason to press for transparency. Because this demolition may not just be an outlier—it may be a template for how connected buildings get cleaned up faster while everyone else is left to wait.



The Council Connection: When Proximity Isn't Neutral

Proximity matters. And in Lorain, proximity to power often changes outcomes. Council President Joel Arredondo is not just an at-large elected official; he's also the president of the Mexican Mutual Society, the building directly adjacent to the condemned 1808 E. 28th. When the city acts on a property that borders a politically powerful figure's interest, the line between governance and favoritism becomes hard to distinguish—even if technically no rules are broken.

There's no evidence, as of this writing, that Arredondo filed any formal request to prioritize the demolition.

But politics often works in subtler ways. A quiet conversation, a heads-up email, a suggestion in a back hallway—these are all tools of influence that leave no paper trail. And when a council president stands to benefit directly from the clearing of an eyesore, even indirect signals can carry weight. The very fact that Arredondo leads a property adjacent to 1808 makes it impossible for the public to view the demolition as neutral.

What further complicates this situation is the dual role Arredondo occupies. As Council President, he has oversight over budgetary decisions, departmental accountability, and inter-agency coordination. He doesn't have to overtly direct staff to exert influence—the mere knowledge of who benefits can subtly steer decisions. And in a city like Lorain, where personal relationships often overlap with political roles, these entanglements should not be ignored.

This isn't a call to smear Arredondo. It's a call for clarity. If the City acted in the best interest of public safety, then prove it. Release the inspection reports. Publish the internal timeline. Show that the demolition was prioritized on merit, not on adjacency to political leadership. Because without that

transparency, every resident in Lorain has a reason to wonder whether their neighborhood would get the same treatment.

The bigger issue isn't what happened to 1808 E. 28th—it's what didn't happen elsewhere. If this building went down because of who it touched, what about the hundreds of other buildings that touch no one with political pull? The fairness of city enforcement depends on the impartiality of its process. Right now, the process looks partial—and Arredondo's proximity makes it impossible to ignore.

The Community Response: Favoritism or Fairness?

Reaction to the demolition announcement has sparked concern in at least one corner of the community. A local resident reached out to the author and questioned the timing of the demolition, its proximity to the Mexican Mutual Society, and whether political connections played a role in fast-tracking the process (The Post is on Angel Arroyo's Campaign Page and he has me blocked even though he posts government information there, maybe if he took the Sunshine Law course he would know that's a no-go...but I digress). While not a groundswell of backlash, the individual reporting it to me captures a familiar sentiment in Lorain: that who you know often matters more than what's falling down around you.

Community skepticism is not without precedent. Lorain has a long and complicated history with selective enforcement—from uneven code crackdowns to politically convenient investments in public works. People remember when other structures, arguably worse than 1808 E. 28th, were allowed to rot for years. They remember being told that there were no funds, no crews, no capacity to act. And they remember being promised that blight removal would follow a fair and transparent process. That's why this case feels different—and not in a good way.

What troubles observers is not the demolition itself, but the pattern it could represent. If the City of Lorain is in the business of clearing eyesores only when politically advantageous, then every future decision is now suspect. The public has a right to ask whether resources are being allocated equitably—

and whether neighborhoods without council allies are being left behind. That's not cynicism; that's civic vigilance.

Residents in Lorain deserve to live in neighborhoods free from collapsing structures and city neglect. But they also deserve a government that plays by the same rules, no matter the address or political affiliation. When a city moves with urgency for one block but inertia for another, people notice. And when that block happens to sit beside a council president's property, people talk. That's not paranoia; that's democracy in action. And when that block happens to sit beside a council president's property, people talk. That's not paranoia; that's democracy in action.

The Double Standard: Who Gets Help, Who Gets Ignored?

Walk through other parts of Lorain and you'll find buildings that make 1808 E. 28th look like a fixer-upper. There are houses with caved-in roofs, porches hanging by a nail, and whole commercial corridors where vacancy and vandalism are the rule, not the exception. And yet, these properties remain standing. Some have been on the city's radar for years. Residents in those areas, many of whom lack the proximity to political influence, are still waiting.

That's where the double standard becomes obvious. It's not that 1808 didn't deserve to come down—it's that it came down so fast.

The same urgency is rarely extended to less visible corners of the city. Where was the emergency order for the fire-damaged duplex on Oakdale? Where was the fast-tracking for the boarded-up triplex on Grove? If public safety is truly the measure, then many other buildings should have beaten 1808 to the bulldozer.

It's this selective urgency that fuels distrust. And it's why public faith in city processes erodes even when the end result is technically defensible. Because if demolition timelines vary based on who's watching—or worse, who's standing next door—then the whole system becomes a matter of favoritism, not fairness. Cities don't just need rules. They need consistency.

And the pattern here is consistent—but not in the right way. Buildings that touch political interests get attention. Those that don't are left to rot. It may not be a formal policy, but it's a lived reality for too many residents. If your street lacks a councilman's clubhouse or a family connection to city hall, you learn to live with blight. You learn that the rules don't apply evenly.

To be clear, this isn't just a Lorain problem. Cities across Ohio face similar struggles with enforcement equity, funding gaps, and community trust. But Lorain can choose to be better. It can lead with transparency, follow its own timelines, and apply its standards universally. What it cannot do—at least not without consequence—is pretend that no one notices the disparity.

When residents see crumbling buildings linger year after year in their own neighborhoods while one next to a council president gets bulldozed within days, the message is clear: power speeds things up. And that message, left unchallenged, does lasting harm. Because once people believe the city doesn't treat them equally, they stop expecting it to. And that apathy is far more dangerous than any decaying building.

Final Thought: The Danger of Appearances

Sometimes the problem isn't what's done—it's how it looks. The demolition of 1808 E. 28th may well have been legal, justified, and overdue. But its timing, its speed, and its proximity to a council president's property all raise valid questions about fairness, access, and influence. Even if no favors were explicitly asked or granted, the fact that so many residents instantly suspected one says something profound about public trust in Lorain.

That suspicion is a problem all its own. Cities function best when residents believe their government acts impartially. When demolitions are carried out based on risk, not relationships. When eyesores are addressed according to need, not neighborhood rank. And when leadership goes out of its way not only to avoid impropriety, but to avoid the appearance of it. Because appearance matters. In fact, it's everything.

If Lorain wants to restore public faith, it must prove that access to power doesn't determine access to services. That every unsafe structure gets the same urgency, regardless of whose backyard it's in. That neighborhoods

without clout matter just as much as those that have it. And that elected officials won't quietly benefit from the machine they were elected to manage.

This story isn't over. The demolition will happen. But the questions will remain. Who's next in line? Who isn't? And how will the public know whether the next teardown is about safety—or politics? The people of Lorain deserve answers. And if they don't get them, they deserve to keep asking.

Legal Disclosure

This article represents the informed opinion of the author, based on publicly available records, property data, and firsthand documentation at the time of publication. All individuals and public officials are presumed innocent of any wrongdoing unless proven otherwise. No portion of this report should be interpreted as a legal accusation, and no allegations of criminal activity are made. Readers are encouraged to review official records and seek out additional sources to form their own conclusions.

Thanks for reading Aaron's Substack! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

[Pledge your support](#)

Aaron's Substack is free today. But if you enjoyed this post, you can tell Aaron's Substack that their writing is valuable by pledging a future subscription. You won't be charged unless they enable payments.

[Pledge your support](#)

LIKE COMMENT RESTACK

© 2025 Aaron C Knapp
548 Market Street PMB 72296, San Francisco, CA 94104

[Unsubscribe](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Robert J Gargas; Tony Cillo; City Council Mail Group; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; Patrick Riley; Bradley, Jack; Arredondo, Joel; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Mike Mason; Mike Massie; mark campolo; Dennis Flores; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Brian Ames; Denise Wilms
Subject: Tyrants in Texas.. Will it happen here?

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



TRIAL TODAY! Arrested for saying the f word and it is going to trial!
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Beko, Michele

From: Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 11:54 AM
To: Garon Petty; Partin, Maggie; Riley, Patrick; Comer,David; City Council Mail Group; Zaleski,Don
Subject: RE: Minutes and videos of May 2023 council regular and committee meetings
Attachments: 2.17.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 2.24.25 Fed Progs.pdf; 3.3.25 Pub Hearing - Eschtruth .pdf; 3.3.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 3.10.25 Streets & Utilities - traffic signal - NOPEC - PayPlan.pdf; 3.17.25 Pub Hearing - Zoning Code Amendment.pdf; 3.17.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 3.24.25 B & L - ST Rental Ord - Code Enforcement Ord .pdf; 4.7.25 Fed Progs.pdf; 4.7.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 4.14.25 B & L - Vacant Comm. Bldg Ord - Rathlin Soils .pdf; 4.21.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 5.5.25 B & L and P & R Joint committee- park parcels .pdf; 5.5.25 B & L and P & R Joint committee- park parcels (1).pdf; 5.5.25 Reg Mins.pdf; Finance Committee 1.13.25- 2025 Budget- LPD LFD BHP.pdf; Finance Committee 1.27.25- 2025 Budget- PPD ENG SSD.pdf; Finance Committee 4.14.25- 2025 Quarterly Budget.pdf; 1.6.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 1.21.25 Reg Min- Revised.pdf; 2.3.25 Reg Mins.pdf; 2.10.25 Pub Hearing - Short Term Rental Amendment.pdf; 1-20.pdf; 1-22.pdf; 1-24.pdf; 7-22.pdf; 21-23.pdf; 40-23.pdf; 1-16.pdf; 1-18.pdf; 22 Sunshine Law Attendance.pdf; 24 Attendance Report.pdf; 20 Attendance Cert.pdf

Mr. Petty,

Please see the attached files requested. This is the last email and completes this request.

Regards,

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

440.204.2050
440.204.2521 fax

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:05 AM
To: Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Partin, Maggie <Maggie_Partini@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Comer,David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Jim Dowdell <jwdowdell@frontier.com>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Tori Middlebrooks <tmiddlebrooks4@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@OhioAGO.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@LorainCounty.com>; Andy Young <AYoung@chroniclet.com>; Julie Wallace <JWallace@chroniclet.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Carolyn White <cwhite@centurytell.net>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; rebecca kempton <REK5767@aol.com>; Linda Rivera

<nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>; VEK6173@aol.com; Nathan Manning <manning@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: Minutes and videos of May 2023 council regular and committee meetings

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello,

Please provide the meetings on demand videos and the official minutes taken for ALL council regular and committee meetings for the month of May 2023 per 149.43 ORC.

Also and explanation why council regular and committee meeting minutes and videos are no longer public Accessible for the years 2021, 2022, 2023. I have requested an explanation previously.

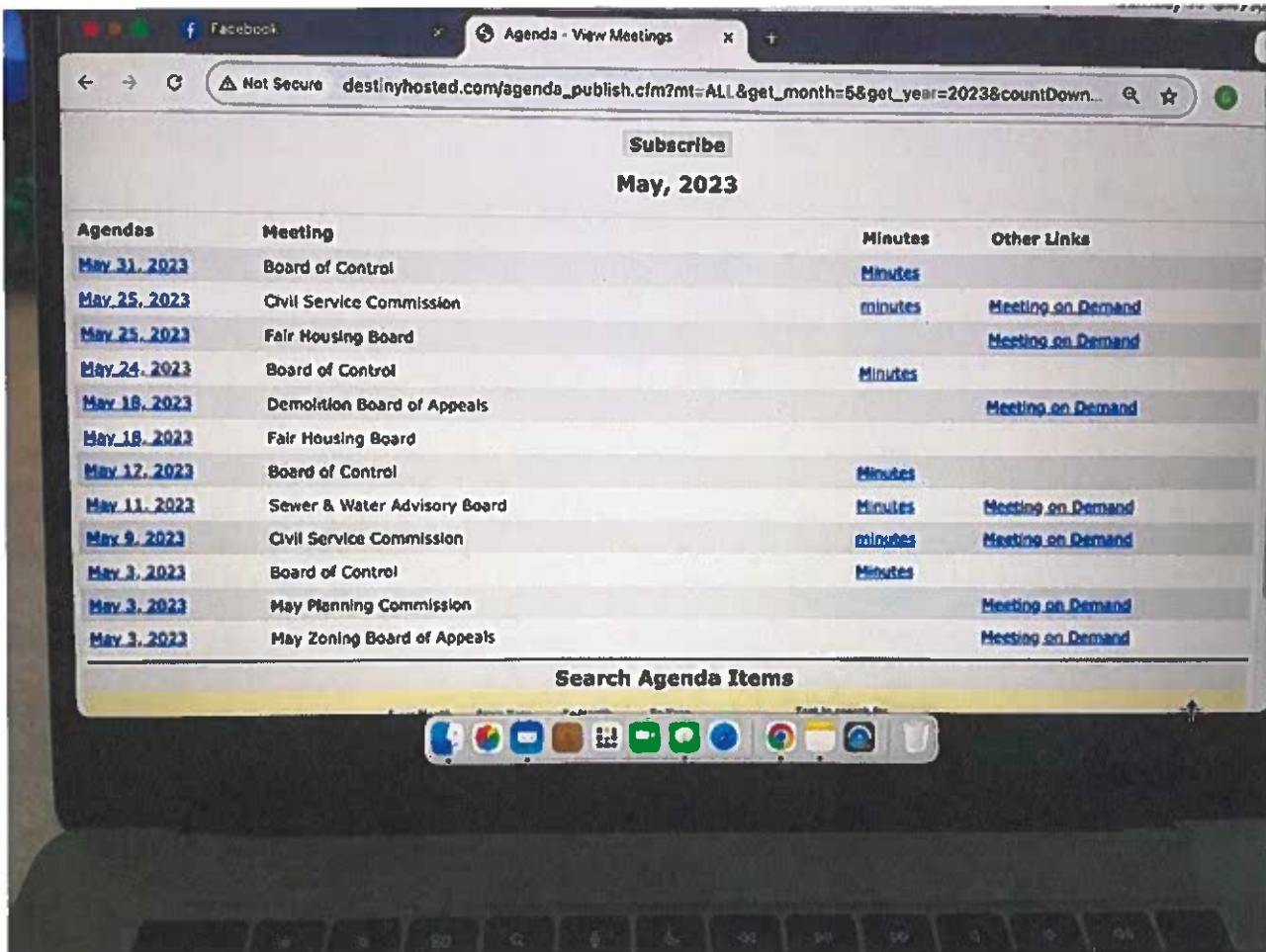
Please provide all of them from the years 2020 until the present.

The voted on City council rules for the years of 2015 until the present rules of record.

All records requests per 149.43 Ohio Revised Code.

All certificates of completion for the Ohio Sunshine Laws training per council Rules 41 of all council members for the last 15 years.

Thank you,
Garon Petty



Beko, Michele

From: Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Garon Petty; Partin, Maggie; Riley, Patrick; Comer,David; City Council Mail Group; Zaleski,Don
Subject: RE: Minutes and videos of May 2023 council regular and committee meetings
Attachments: 1-18-2022regmin.pdf; 1-24-22 B & L.pdf; 1-24-22 ESideTrack & Zone Corrections.pdf; 1-24-22 ESideTrack & Zone Corrections(1).pdf; 02.14.2022 B & L Drydock & Kart Racing.pdf; 02.14.2022 Clemons Nelson proposed salary study.pdf; 02.14.2022 Kronos time keeping minutes.pdf; 02.28.2022 2022 Budget Appropriation Ord meeting.pdf; 02.28.2022 Police Fire Com minutes.pdf; 2.pdf; 2-7-2022reg,min.pdf; 2-28-22 B L.pdf; 03.14.22 Parks & Recreation Committee Mtg.pdf; 03.14.2022 federal programs BHP & ARPA funds.pdf; 3.pdf; 3-14-22 ZCA 1-2022 1154 W. 17th.pdf; 3-21-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 04.11.2022 1st Quarter Financial Review.pdf; 4.25.22 B&L.pdf; 4.25.2022 Department Updates.pdf; 4-18-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 5-16-2022reg,min.pdf; 06.13.2022 streets and utilities committee meeting.pdf; 6.20.2022 Police Fire Com minutes (Fireworks.pdf; 6-6-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 6-8-22 Special Call Minutes.pdf; 6-20-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 6-23-22 Special Call Minutes.pdf; 7.25.22 B & L Meeting SeeClickFix.pdf; 7.25.22 BHP Office Manager & 2nd Quarter Financial Review.pdf; 7-5-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 7-18-22 B&L & FedProg- 4Ward Planning.pdf; 7-18-22 B&L & FedProg- 4Ward Planning(1).pdf; 7-18-22 B&L & FedProg- 4Ward Planning(2).pdf; 7-18-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 7-25-22 Special Call Minutes.pdf; 9.26.22 Timeclocks.pdf; 9.26.2022 streets and utilities committee meeting.pdf; 9-6-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 9-19-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 10.3.22 Fed prog Main Street.pdf; 10.10.22 Finance Committee.pdf; 10.24.22 Police Fire Com minutes.pdf; 10.24.22 Finance Committee.pdf; 10.24.22 Parks & Rec Committee.pdf; 10-3-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 10-19-22 Special Call Minutes.pdf; 11.14.22 Streets & Utility.pdf; 11.28.22 B&L SeeClickFix & ZCA 5-2022.pdf; 11.28.22 Fed Prog Comm Mtg ARPA.pdf; 11-7-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 11-21-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 12.12.22 Finance Committee.pdf; 12-5-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 12-19-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 713_1-3-2022regmin.pdf; 734_2-21-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 743_3-7-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 756_4-4-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 769_5-2-2022 Reg Min.pdf; 855_10-17-2022 Reg Min Pub Hear.pdf; 855_10-17-2022 Reg Min Pub Hear(1).pdf; Federal Prog Committee Mtg 10.10.22.pdf; Police 10.10.22.pdf; ZCA 2-2022 3917 W. Erie Ave.pdf; ZCA 3-2022 4851 W. Erie Ave.pdf; ZCA 5-2022 1548 Reid Ave ZCA 6-2022 6130 Broadway Ave Sandy SpringsTIF.pdf; 01.10.2022 committee meeting SWAB.pdf; 01.10.2022 legislative committee minutes.pdf; 1.pdf

Mr. Petty,

Please see the attached response and files requested. There will be more emails to follow, due to the volume of files requested.

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

440.204.2050
440.204.2521 fax

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:05 AM

To: Dull, Breanna <Breanna_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Partin, Maggie <Maggie_Partin@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Jim Dowdell <jwdowdell@frontier.com>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Tom Niewulis <tniewulis@ncdcs.com>; Tori Middlebrooks <tmiddlebrooks4@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@OhioAGO.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Craig Snodgrass <auditor@LorainCounty.com>; Andy Young <AYoung@chroniclet.com>; Julie Wallace <JWallace@chroniclet.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Carolyn White <cwhite@centurytel.net>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; rebecca kempton <REK5767@aol.com>; Linda Rivera <nrivera25594@gmail.com>; Mike Brosky <fflorain.bank>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>; Natalio Rodriquez <natalio@centurytel.net>; VEK6173@aol.com; Nathan Manning <manning@ohiosenate.gov>

Subject: Minutes and videos of May 2023 council regular and committee meetings

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello,

Please provide the meetings on demand videos and the official minutes taken for ALL council regular and committee meetings for the month of May 2023 per 149.43 ORC.

Also and explanation why council regular and committee meeting minutes and videos are no longer public Accessible for the years 2021, 2022, 2023. I have requested an explanation previously.

Please provide all of them from the years 2020 until the present.

The voted on City council rules for the years of 2015 until the present rules of record.

All records requests per 149.43 Ohio Revised Code.

All certificates of completion for the Ohio Sunshine Laws training per council Rules 41 of all council members for the last 15 years.

Thank you,
Garon Petty



Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Joseph LaVeck
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Its been 15 days on this matter (and longer due to previous denials) please accept this as 3 days notice of intent to file with court of claims.

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

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

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 02:28:53 PM EDT, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

- On Jul 24, 2023, at 16:05, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

I am simply informing you that I am unaware of any complaint being made against you, but even if there was a complaint made or information provided by a City of Lorain employee to "the Board," any complaint or information provided would be confidential and therefore not a public record. See R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v). See also R.C. 4757.38(B)(1).

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Aaron Knapp [mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:46 PM
To: LaVeck, Joseph
Subject: Re: Public Records Request

To be clear it was specifically stated to the Board that it was the "Lorain Police Department" not one particular person.

So as the legal advisor and law director are you saying that someone within the department filed this complaint and claimed to represent the Police Department as an agency?

We both know it was the chief who has harassed me since the department decided to break the law. Also now my employment has been threatened.

So you're stating that filing a false complaint saying that you represent the Lorain Police isn't a matter of public record?

I'm going to the court of claims next but I needed to give you an opportunity to respond. I've tried my best to handle this out of court. A simple apology and a fix of the problem.

To be clear I witnessed the Lorain Police post illegal documents online and tried to report it as a whistleblower. As such I consider myself protected under state and federal law.

And I've given the city multiple opportunities to deal with this the right way. Instead my employment has been attacked and my license threatened when the police broke the law.

I'm not the one who posted juvenile court records online in violation of Ohio Revised Code and then tried to cover it up.

In the end I think it's at minimum a matter of public record to inquire who filed the complaint representing a public agency?

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

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

On Jul 24, 2023, at 13:18, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please find this correspondence to serve as the response to your public records request dated July 23, 2023. At this time, the City of Lorain does not possess nor is aware of any complaint allegedly made against you, and even if a City employee did make such a complaint, such complaint would not be subject to disclosure, pursuant to R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v).

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor
200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

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

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

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 02:25:27 PM EDT, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Understood. I know this was almost a year ago. Recent discussion and discovery have lead me to understand the law differently in how it applies to the deferent branches of the government. In this case if he did use a city server to send it then it's my contention I would be afforded the document based on this interpretation of the the ORC.

Thank you. I'll forward the original.

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

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

On May 13, 2025, at 13:45, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. I am in the process of re-reviewing your original request, the response provided, and checking City records. I am working to provide a timely response to your request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

Chief Asst. Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:36 PM

To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Lorain PD Records Request <LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org>

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

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

July 13, 2025

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

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

Dear Attorney LaVeck:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You cite R.C. 4757.38(B)(1), which indeed prohibits the Social Work Board from disclosing complaints or investigative records. However, this statute applies only to the Board. It does not prohibit the originating agency from disclosing the same document. There is no language in R.C. 4757.38 that extends this confidentiality mandate to third-party public offices like the City of Lorain. As the Ohio Attorney General’s *Sunshine Laws*

Manual explains, an exception to the Public Records Act must be “explicit,” and cannot be implied or inferred from another agency’s rules or duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Next Steps

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

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

Respectfully,

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

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member ID: 886836612

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

PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE SENDER AND DELETE THE COPY YOU RECEIVED.

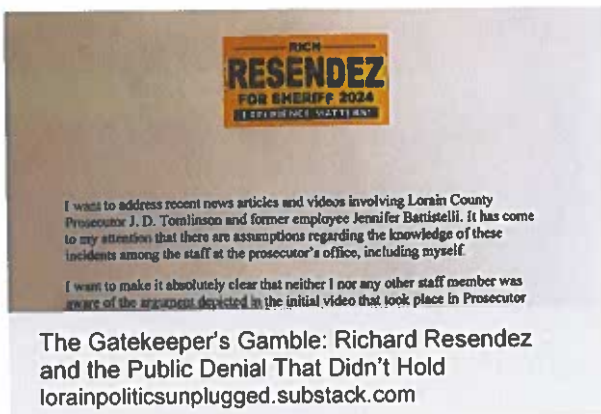
Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 8:15 AM
To: Robert J Gargas; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Anthony Nici; Mike Massie
Cc: Aaron Knapp; Brian Ames; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Brad Dicken; Julie Wallace; City Council Mail Group; Carrion, Rey; Patrick Riley; Lorain PD Records Request; Bradley, Jack; Arredondo, Joel; Zaleski, Don; Darryl Tucker; Lindsay Carr; David Yost AG; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Lorain Police; Jackie Conrad; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Kathryn Kennedy; Michael Scherach; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Denise Wilms; Comer,David; Carissa Woytach; mark campolo; Nathan Manning; Institute for Justice; Stephanie Jablonsky; Ted Kalo; Jacob Morris; Harper, Anita; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Fox 8
Subject: Will the Sheriff department investigate why my Name is used by Rich Resendez?

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I'm adding Mr Nici to this email since his boss Sheriff Hall and my name is used by former member of the Lorain County Prosecutor office and current employee of Lorain Police Department, Richard Resendez!



Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; City Council Mail Group; Beko, Michele; Patrick Riley; Bradley, Jack; Soto, Rick; Zaleski, Don; Carrion, Rey
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; Brian Ames; Brad Dicken; Andrew Geronimo, JD; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Michael Scherach; Denise Wilms; Dennis Flores; Jackie Conrad; Kathryn Kennedy; Dan Gilles; Lindsay Carr; Linda Rivera; Nathan Manning; Don Killinger; Darryl Tucker; Institute for Justice; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Jon Morrow; Carissa Woytach; Jeanne Petty; Mike Mason; Fox 8; clandestinecanary; Clevescene; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; David Yost AG; rebecca kempton
Subject: When will I get the certificates of completion for Sunshine Laws training? Council rule 41

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.

Good morning,

Below are statements recorded during a Lorain Council Committee meeting which has been removed from public access.

C@L Springowski had Sunshine Law training incorporated into council rules?

So now by ORC 149.43 I am requesting the Sunshine laws certificates for ALL council members from their time elected.

Council President Joel Arredondo is the first one I want.

Please respond. Also why are minutes and videos missing from the city council pages?

The State auditor and Attorney General has been tagged in this email.

Ohio Auditor of State
ohioauditor.gov



Online Sunshine Laws Training
ohioattorneygeneral.gov



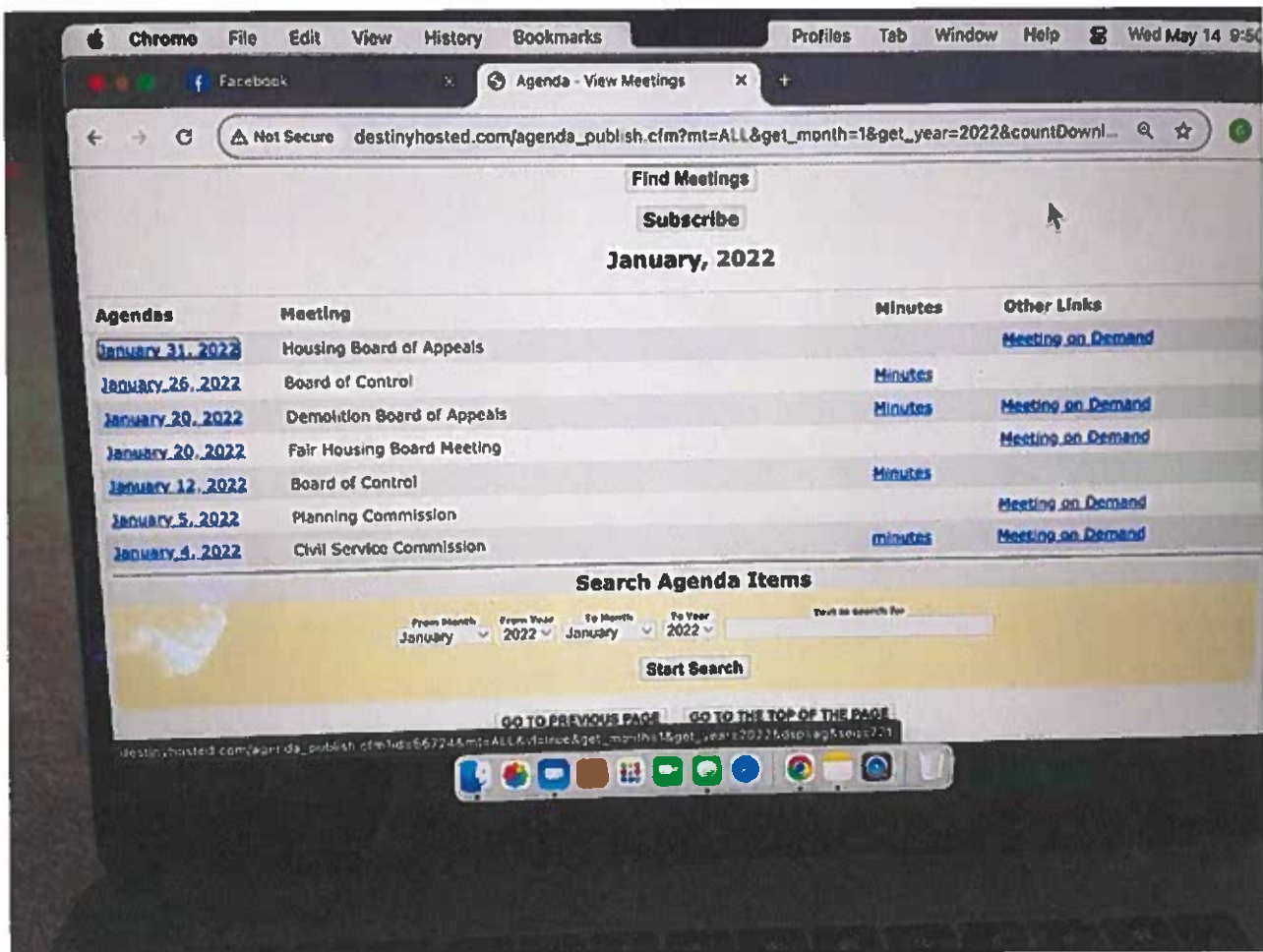
Thank you,
Garon Petty

Sunshine Law Violation??? 1/10/2022

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I received a text message from someone who is watching on line and asked if council goes out and kills someone from drinking and driving they can't be held accountable because it didn't happen on city time. This person then went on to say they are a reflection of the citizens whether they are working on council or not.

ASST. LAW DIRECTOR ZALESKI: No. That type of conduct, obviously you are committing a felony, there is a statute that if you are a felon you cannot hold public office. That's not even close.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I understand that I was just asked by a constituent to please ask so that is what I have done. What I would like to do at this time is ask that the committee include the mandatory training for the sunshine law and sensitivity training proposed by Councilmember Carter and that at this time where I had incorporated the language into the rule as is highlighted on line in our packet, that we would go with that as I feel it is extremely inclusive, comprehensive and very definitive as to the expectations of behavior during council meetings and other council business are as expected.



Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Joseph LaVeck
Subject: Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Understood. I know this was almost a year ago. Recent discussion and discovery have lead me to understand the law differently in how it applies to the deferent branches of the government. In this case if he did use a city server to send it then it's my contention I would be afforded the document based on this interpretation of the the ORC.

Thank you. I'll forward the original.

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

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

On May 13, 2025, at 13:45, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. I am in the process of re-reviewing your original request, the response provided, and checking City records. I am working to provide a timely response to your request.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:36 PM

To: LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Lorain PD Records Request <LPDRecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org>

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

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA, BSSW

4220 Talbot Lane

Lorain, OH 44055

Email: a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

July 13, 2025

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq.

Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor

City of Lorain

200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor

Lorain, Ohio 44052

Email: joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org

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

Dear Attorney LaVeck:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Next Steps

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

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

Respectfully,

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

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

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

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Patrick Riley; Bradley, Jack; Carrion, Rey; City Council Mail Group; Beko, Michele
Cc: Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Institute for Justice; Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Kathryn Kennedy; Carissa Woytach; rebecca kempton; Michael Scherach; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; David Yost AG; Darryl Tucker; Dan Gilles; Jeanne Petty; Jackie Conrad; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Natalio Rodriquez; Clevescene; Nathan Manning; Fox 8; Mike Mason; Noelle Williams; Lindsay Carr; Linda Rivera; Lisa Swenski; Dennis Flores; Denise Wilms
Subject: How much has Lorain PD and City Council cost taxpayers for lawsuits from 2023 to the Present?

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.



CITY OF LORAIN Special Call Board of Control Meeting of May 12, 2025

I. **ROLL CALL**

The Board of Control meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Mayor Bradley. In attendance were Mayor Jack Bradley, Safety/Service Director Rey Carrion, Joe Profford, and Amanda Lopez.

II. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A. The Law Department's request for authorization to pay a settlement agreement with Mercy Health Hospital in the amount of \$75,000.00. Funding will come from Safety/Service GL account 8000 Van Van 8000-0000 Contractual Services. The City will be reimbursed by the City's insurance program (PFD).

Discussion: An amendment was made to this request to avoid the GL account number to use Van Van 8000-0000 Damages and Judgments. Approval was given subject to the transfer of funds into the Damages and Judgments account.

Mayor Bradley made the motion to approve the request as amended. Safety/Service Director Carrion seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Safety/Service Director Carrion: yep; Mayor Bradley: yep. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Control Meeting of May 12 adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Jack W. Bradley, Mayor
City of Lorain, Ohio

Amanda Lopez
Secretary for Board of Control

1331_BOC Minutes 5.12.25
PDF Document · 82 KB

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:05 AM
To: Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; Patrick Riley; Comer, David; City Council Mail Group
Cc: Jim Dowdell; Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Tony Cillo; Tom Niewulis; Tori Middlebrooks; Bradley, Jack; Carrion, Rey; Lindsay Carr; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; Noelle Williams; Brian Ames; Brad Dicken; Craig Snodgrass; Andy Young; Julie Wallace; Carissa Woytach; Carolyn White; David Yost AG; rebecca kempton; Linda Rivera; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Michael Scherach; Mike Mason; Dennis Flores; Natalio Rodriquez; VEK6173@aol.com; Nathan Manning
Subject: Minutes and videos of May 2023 council regular and committee meetings
Attachments: 7ef0737f-73bf-4042-b6a6-922b1391e500.jpeg

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Hello, Please provide the meetings on demand videos and the official minutes taken for ALL council regular and committee meetings for the month of May 2023 per 149.43 ORC.
Also and explanation why council regular and committee meeting minutes and videos are no longer public Accessible for the years 2021, 2022, 2023. I have requested an explanation previously.
Please provide all of them from the years 2020 until the present. The voted on City council rules for the years of 2015 until the present rules of record.
All records requests per 149.43 Ohio Revised Code.
All certificates of completion for the Ohio Sunshine Laws training per council Rules 41 of all council members for the last 15 years.

Thank you, Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 7:57 AM
To: City Group; Jacob Morris; Jack Bradley; Robert J. Gargas; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Cillo; Garon Petty; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion
Cc: Mike Failing; David Yost AG; Craig Snodgrass; Auditor; David Comer; Brian Ames
Subject: Emails

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I've been ignored long enough. I want every email sent from James McCann that contains my name. I want ALL the emails you have been lying and saying don't exist to a constituent.

You have one week. If I don't have them by a week from tomorrow, if not in my possession by the 19th, I take you to court. No excuses. Just emails. Period. I'm done.

This pig broke the law and I'm done playing games. You have lied and covered for him long enough.

Ps: if you have been withholding them, I ccd the sheriff and prosecutor as that's a crime. You've all been previously asked and failed to respond, if I hear nothing this time I'm naming all of you in the suit.

I don't care who brings them but if Morris can hand deliver all of councils interviews to me on Pettys case I'm certain you can hand deliever my requests as well??

Make it Happen.

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

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

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2025 8:06 AM
To: Robert J Gargas; Linda Rivera; Jackie Conrad; Jeanne Petty; City Council Mail Group; rebecca kempton; Carrion, Rey; Bradley, Jack; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Anthony Nici; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Brad Dicken; Monica D. Pluta; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Michael Scherach; Mike Mason; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Carissa Woytach; Carolyn White; Tom Niewulis; Tori Middlebrooks; Aaron Knapp; Fox 8; InvestigatorTips@wews.com; Clevescene; clandestinecanary; mark campolo; William Bobel; Denise Wilms; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores; leigh.prugh@lcprosecutor.org; Lindsay Carr; Craig Snodgrass; Mike Doran; Sheriff Jack Hall
Subject: Indictments coming for Lorain City Council members?

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.



Locked Out of My Own Primary
youtube.com

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 5:13 PM
To: Dull, Breanna; Joel Arredondo; Patrick Riley; Partin, Maggie; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Soto, Rick; Carrion, Rey
Cc: Robert J Gargasz; Michael Scherach; Aaron Knapp; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Tony Cillo; Mike Mason; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr; Linda Rivera; Anthony Nici; Brad Dicken; Carissa Woytach; Carolyn White; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Institute for Justice; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Denise Wilms; dennis Flores; rebecca kempton
Subject: Re: This meeting is not Listed for June 6, 2023,

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.

Sorry this video is from the May 8th 2023 meeting and it is not posted on the city website.

Agendas	Meeting	Minutes	Other Links
May 31, 2023	Board of Control	Minutes	
May 25, 2023	Civil Service Commission	minutes	Meeting on Demand
May 25, 2023	Fair Housing Board		Meeting on Demand
May 24, 2023	Board of Control	Minutes	
May 18, 2023	Demolition Board of Appeals		Meeting on Demand
May 18, 2023	Fair Housing Board		
May 17, 2023	Board of Control	Minutes	
May 11, 2023	Sewer & Water Advisory Board	Minutes	Meeting on Demand
May 9, 2023	Civil Service Commission	minutes	Meeting on Demand
May 3, 2023	Board of Control	Minutes	
May 3, 2023	May Planning Commission		Meeting on Demand
May 3, 2023	May Zoning Board of Appeals		Meeting on Demand

On May 8, 2025, at 4:40 PM, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

Why isn't this meeting posted for public access on the City website for June 6, 2023?

Please explain.

Also why is Springowski allowed to attack me during a public meeting from the council floor about activity on facebook?

Council Rule 3 and the ORC121.22 is at stake.

Please respond ASAP

Garon Petty

<345328406_128422436898163_1828711789960033020_n.jpeg>

Garon Petty was live. | By Garon |
Facebook
facebook.com

Beko, Michele

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Jeff Graham; FERPA.Complaints@ed.gov; David O'Brien; Brad Dicken; Robert J. Gargas; City Group; Jack Bradley; Tony Cillo; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrion; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Ted Kalo; Sheriff Jack Hall
Cc: Noelle Williams
Subject: Re: Stuff

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.

Just following up. It's been a week and I wanted to see if you had gotten a response from State yet?

Lorain Schools and Lorain Police are racially distributing against these juveniles.

You cannot post juveniles pictures and school records online to punish them. It was almost 3 years ago and they were never charged with a crime.

Noelle Williams I'm forwarding this to you since it seems 19 News gets result's.



For Immediate Release

April 11, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION / REVIEW OF 126 W. 27TH ST

The administrative investigation and review of the incident that occurred at 126 W. 27th St. on February 12, 2023 at 8:30 hours has been completed. Shortly after the incident, officers from the address were posted on social media and the incident was "viral" in the community and on multiple platforms.

Truth and Transparency is of the utmost importance to the Lorain Police Department. The public has a right to know what we do, why we do it, and if we are doing within the confines of the Constitution. I took several steps to ensure a proper review of this incident took place. First, I directed the Lorain Police Department's Office of Professional Standards to conduct a complete administrative investigation into the incident. Second, I hired an outside expert to review the case independently of the Lorain Police Department's administrative investigation. Third, I met with the local NAACP Executive Board, an independent 501(c)(3) and gave them all the "raw" data to include reports and all videos from the residence and police BWC footage. Fourth, I met with community-based leaders and parents and gave them all the "raw" data to include reports and all videos from the residence and police BWC footage. Lastly, I supported the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office to conduct a complete review of the administrative investigation and evidence to make a determination if any actions were warranted.

Attached to this release is the Executive Summary from the Lorain Police Department's administrative investigation, a statement from the A.I.P., the independent expert's review of the incident, the complete review from Lorain County Prosecutor's Office, and the complete I.P.S. Administrative Investigation.

###

Chief Jim McCann
LORAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

L 6402 204 2023 © 6402 204 2023 | www.lorainpolice.com | 100 West Erie Avenue - Lorain, Ohio 44042-1600

126-W-27TH-ST-MEDIA-RELEASE-
ADMINISTRATIVE-
INVESTIGATION
PDF Document · 9.6 MB

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

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

On Feb 16, 2025, at 14:24, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I appreciate the last part. Asking the state and getting an answer will satisfy me 100%. I think in my haste I responded without digesting that part. I wish you had lead with that, my fault.

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

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

On Feb 16, 2025, at 12:10, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Correct. I'm asking you to get a real legal opinion. Documented to protect the school district.

I'm telling you there are new laws that govern this. Dan Petticord thought he was infallible and he was wrong. Cost the county money.

The County Court Lawyers were wrong about me not being an officer if the court.

The city lawyers wrong about a document being public records.

I don't want promises I want paperwork.

I'm saying you are my public servant, you represent my kids and our schools, I'm asking you to look into it more and then provide me the laws you feel coverage school from liability.

The feel is different because you said and agreed it was FERPA and then backed out. I don't trust Phillips or whomever lawyers in Lorain y oh retain. The State has free council for ethics you can consult. But the bottom line is school documents are online.

I want an answer. In our first meeting I got the feeling you would stand up for student rights. Now I don't feel that way.

And yes I did report it to the federal portal as I believe both LCS and Black River our allowing their documents to be shared online when ORC clearly says that's not allowed.

The tone is different because your answer is different. In the meeting you totally agreed it was FERPA documents, now you don't?

Here is the law:

Section 3319.321 | Confidentiality.
Ohio Revised Code /Title 33 Education-Libraries /Chapter 3319 Schools - Superintendent; Teachers; Employees

(A) No person shall release, or permit access to, the directory information concerning any students attending a public school to any person or group for use in a profit-making plan or activity. Notwithstanding division (B)(4) of section 149.43 of the Revised Code, a person may require disclosure of the requestor's identity or the intended use of the directory information concerning any students attending a public school to ascertain whether the directory information is for use in a profit-making plan or activity.

(B) No person shall release, or permit access to, personally identifiable information other than directory information concerning any student attending a public school, for purposes other than those identified in division (C), (E), (G), or (H) of this section, without the written consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian of each such student who is less than eighteen years of age, or without the written consent of each such student who is eighteen years of age or older.

(1) For purposes of this section, "directory information" includes a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, date of graduation, and awards received.

(2)(a) Except as provided in division (B)(2)(b) of this section, no school district board of education shall impose any restriction on the presentation of directory information that it has designated as subject to release in accordance with the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended, to representatives of the armed forces, business, industry, charitable institutions, other employers, and institutions of higher education unless such restriction is uniformly imposed on each of these types of

representatives, except that if a student eighteen years of age or older or a student's parent, guardian, or custodian has informed the board that any or all such information should not be released without such person's prior written consent, the board shall not release that information without such person's prior written consent.

(b) The names and addresses of students in grades ten through twelve shall be released to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States armed forces who requests such information, except that such data shall not be released if the student or student's parent, guardian, or custodian submits to the board a written request not to release such data. Any data received by a recruiting officer shall be used solely for the purpose of providing information to students regarding military service and shall not be released to any person other than individuals within the recruiting services of the armed forces.

(3) Except for directory information and except as provided in division (E), (G), or (H) of this section, information covered by this section that is released shall only be transferred to a third or subsequent party on the condition that such party will not permit any other party to have access to such information without written consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian, or of the student who is eighteen years of age or older.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any parent of a student may give the written parental consent required under this section. Where parents are separated or divorced, the written parental consent required under this section may be obtained from either parent, subject to any agreement between such parents or court order governing the rights of such parents. In the case of a student whose legal guardian is in an institution, a person independent of the institution who has no other conflicting interests in the case shall be appointed by the board of education of the school district in which the institution is located to give the written parental consent required under this section.

(5)(a) A parent of a student who is not the student's residential parent, upon request, shall be permitted access to any records or information concerning the student under the same terms and conditions under which access to the records or information is available to the residential parent of that student, provided that the access of the parent who is not the residential parent is subject to any agreement between the parents, to division (F) of this section, and, to the extent described in division (B)(5)(b) of this section, is subject to any court order issued pursuant to section 3109.051 of the Revised Code and any other court order governing the rights of the parents.

(b) If the residential parent of a student has presented the keeper of a record or information that is related to the student with a copy of an order issued under division (H)(1) of section 3109.051 of the Revised Code that limits the terms and conditions under which the parent who is not the residential parent of the student is to have access to records and information pertaining

to the student or with a copy of any other court order governing the rights of the parents that so limits those terms and conditions, and if the order pertains to the record or information in question, the keeper of the record or information shall provide access to the parent who is not the residential parent only to the extent authorized in the order. If the residential parent has presented the keeper of the record or information with such an order, the keeper of the record shall permit the parent who is not the residential parent to have access to the record or information only in accordance with the most recent such order that has been presented to the keeper by the residential parent or the parent who is not the residential parent.

(C) Nothing in this section shall limit the administrative use of public school records by a person acting exclusively in the person's capacity as an employee of a board of education or of the state or any of its political subdivisions, any court, or the federal government, and nothing in this section shall prevent the transfer of a student's record to an educational institution for a legitimate educational purpose.

(D) A board of education may require, subject to division (E) of this section, a person seeking to obtain copies of public school records to pay the cost of reproduction and, in the case of data released under division (B)(2)(b) of this section, to pay for any mailing costs, which payment shall not exceed the actual cost to the school.

(E) A principal or chief administrative officer of a public school, or any employee of a public school who is authorized to handle school records, shall provide access to a student's records to a law enforcement officer who indicates that the officer is conducting an investigation and that the student is or may be a missing child, as defined in section 2901.30 of the Revised Code. Free copies of information in the student's record shall be provided, upon request, to the law enforcement officer, if prior approval is given by the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian. Information obtained by the officer shall be used solely in the investigation of the case. The information may be used by law enforcement agency personnel in any manner that is appropriate in solving the case, including, but not limited to, providing the information to other law enforcement officers and agencies and to the bureau of criminal identification and investigation for purposes of computer integration pursuant to section 2901.30 of the Revised Code.

(F) No person shall release to a parent of a student who is not the student's residential parent or to any other person, or permit a parent of a student who is not the student's residential parent or permit any other person to have access to, any information about the location of any elementary or secondary school to which a student has transferred or information that would enable the parent who is not the student's residential parent or the other person to determine the location of that elementary or secondary school, if the elementary or secondary school to which the student has

transferred and that requested the records of the student under section 3313.672 of the Revised Code informs the elementary or secondary school from which the student's records are obtained that the student is under the care of a shelter for victims of domestic violence, as defined in section 3113.33 of the Revised Code.

(G) A principal or chief administrative officer of a public school, or any employee of a public school who is authorized to handle school records, shall comply with any order issued pursuant to division (D)(1) of section 2151.14 of the Revised Code, any request for records that is properly made pursuant to division (D)(3)(a) of section 2151.14 or division (A) of section 2151.141 of the Revised Code, and any determination that is made by a court pursuant to division (D)(3)(b) of section 2151.14 or division (B)(1) of section 2151.141 of the Revised Code.

(H) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a principal of a public school, to the extent permitted by the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," shall make the report required in section 3319.45 of the Revised Code that a pupil committed any violation listed in division (A) of section 3313.662 of the Revised Code on property owned or controlled by, or at an activity held under the auspices of, the board of education, regardless of whether the pupil was sixteen years of age or older. The principal is not required to obtain the consent of the pupil who is the subject of the report or the consent of the pupil's parent, guardian, or custodian before making a report pursuant to section 3319.45 of the Revised Code.

The police can have them. They cannot share them.

Period.

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

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

On Feb 16, 2025, at 10:03, Jeff Graham
<jgraham@lorainschools.org> wrote:

Aaron, I appreciated meeting you, listening to you share your story, who you are and what's in your heart — all of the things that motivate you to advocate. I also appreciated your priorities as it comes to raising your daughter and supporting many other children who need your support and guidance.

However, in our most recent email exchanges, I got a very different feel from what I had in our original meeting. I understand your position on whether or not the district or LPD violated FERPA in the police report and again, based on our one conversation, I believe your intentions are honorable.

With that being said, I get the impression that you're asking me to do one of two things:

1. Take your legal advice over that of our attorney — who I'm sure is not infallible but has been doing this for well over 40 years; or
2. Pay our attorney to debate you on social media. Candidly, I don't believe that's an effective use of district funds especially when you've made it clear that you've already turned this over to the state and plan to file a civil suit.

If I'm mistaken or misunderstood you, please let me know.

I will never hide or bury anything we've done. We will reach out to the state on Tuesday — Monday is a holiday — and share all the information we have. If we've done anything wrong, we'll own it.

Thanks for doing what you believe to be right as it relates to taking care of our kids.

Jeff

Beko, Michele

From: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 10:34 PM
To: Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Michael Scherach; jeanne Petty; Patrick Riley; Jack Bradley; Joel Arredondo; Rey Carrion
Subject: IADLEST > Our Services > NDI > About NDI

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.

<https://www.iadlest.org/our-services/ndi/about-ndi>

Sent from my iPhone

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 11:29 AM
To: Patrick Riley; Ted Kalo; Joe K Auditor; Harper, Anita; Bradley, Jack; Garcia, Lori; Kokoski, Lori; Soto, Rick; Joseph LaVeck; Zaleski, Don; Comer, David; Lorain Police; McCann, James - Chief; Jacob Morris; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; City Council Mail Group
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; Lindsay Carr; David Yost AG; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; clerkofcourts@sheffieldlake.net; Jon Morrow; lstar@sheffieldlake.net; mcizl@sheffieldlake.net; rgee@sheffieldlake.net; cpetrucci@sheffieldlake.net; wwtulich@sheffieldlake.net; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; skovach@sheffieldlake.net; Dan Gilles; Brad Dicken; Darryl Tucker; David Graves; Carissa Woytach; Mike Mason; Clevescene; Fox 8
Subject: Employment file for Prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

Per 149.43 Ohio Revised Code, I am asking for the employment file of prosecutor Rocky Radeff.

His wages, work hours with dates for the last three years 2022, 2023, 2024.

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

Thank you,
Garon Petty

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; McCann, James - Chief; Jacob Morris; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Zaleski, Don; Beko, Michele; Rocky_Radefff@cityoflorain.org; Soto, Rick; Soto, Terri; Joe K Auditor; Ted Kalo; City Council Mail Group; Harper, Anita; Carrion, Rey
Cc: Robert J Gargas; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Bradley, Jack; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; Sheriff Jack Hall; mark campolo; Dennis Flores; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Mike Mason; Brad Dicken; Denise Wilms; Jackie Conrad; rebecca kempton; Tom Niewulis; Jon Morrow; Jim Dowdell; Jim Renacci; Darryl Tucker; Carissa Woytach; Lindsay Carr
Subject: Police are supposed to be at Monday meetings in Full Gear? Make it Happen?
Attachments: 464091392_8317617415003334_6771831068328615854_n.jpeg

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:22 PM
To: Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; City Council Mail Group; Joseph LaVeck; Zaleski, Don; mallory_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Rocky_Radeff@cityoflorain.org; Ted Kalo; Soto, Rick; Carrion, Rey; Beko, Michele; Joe K Auditor; Harper, Anita
Cc: Robert J Gargasz; Aaron Knapp; Michael Scherach; Darryl Tucker; Mike Mason; Brad Dicken; Carissa Woytach; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tom Niewulis; mark campolo; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Dennis Flores; Denise Wilms; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank
Subject: No police at February 17, 2025 meeting. Why wasn't Police there? Disturbing of a Lawful Meeting. Council rule 47.
Attachments: 464460185_8347559705342438_6127257066281729351_n.jpeg

Beko, Michele

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:55 AM
To: Robert J Gargasz; Aaron Knapp; City Council Mail Group; Michael Scherach; Brad Dicken; Brian Ames; Dennis Flores; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Soto, Terri; Ted Kalo; Harper, Anita; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; Mike Mason; Jackie Conrad; Joseph LaVeck; Jon Morrow; Natalio Rodriquez; Darryl Tucker; Denise Wilms; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Mike Witte; Carissa Woytach; Tony Cillo; Tom Niewulis; Kathryn Kennedy; Elsebeth Baumgartner; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Linda Rivera; Jeff Riddell; David J Moore; mgallagher@loraincounty.us; Jim Renacci; Jim Dowdell
Subject: Over Paid?

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.



Unequal Pay: Lorain's Public
Officials Earn Triple the Average
Resident
loraindaily.com