

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 2:36 PM  
**To:** 'Aaron Knapp'  
**Cc:** Failing, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

Mr. Knapp:

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

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

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 1:06 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Robert Gargas <robertgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Andrew Geronimo JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mr. LaVeck,

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

To that end, I respectfully reiterate the following:

1. **Clarification Required:** What exactly was the nature and scope of the “investigation” referred to by Chief McCann? Was it internal, administrative, or external in nature? Who initiated it, and what agency or department led or documented it?
2. **Record Custodianship:** If you are not the custodian of those records, I ask that you identify the appropriate department or individual who is. Referring me to unnamed individuals “on the chain” is insufficient under R.C. 149.43, which requires a good faith effort to identify and produce public records.
3. **Email Record Obligation:** As stated previously, any record—including emails created by public employees using public resources, which document official actions or communications (even informal investigations), are presumptively public unless a specific statute exempts them. No such exemption has been clearly cited regarding the supposed investigation.

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

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

Respectfully,

Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA, BSSW

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

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

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

Mr. Knapp:

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

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

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

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

What was the "investigation" then? McCann stated it was still ongoing?

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

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

Mr. Knapp:

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

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

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

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

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

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

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

I appreciate the response. Can you provide the other end of that conversation as well?  
It seems there are replies that then Chief McCann was asking for.

Any responses the chief received sent or received in regards to this.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Knapp:

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

Thank you.

Best Regards,

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

From: Aaron Knapp <[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 10:02 AM  
To: LaVeck, Joseph <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Knapp:

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

Best Regards,

Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq

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

**From:** Aaron Knapp  
<[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:58 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph  
<[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz  
<[rjgargasz@gmail.com](mailto:rjgargasz@gmail.com)>; David Yost AG  
<[AGOCARES@ohioago.gov](mailto:AGOCARES@ohioago.gov)>; Mike  
Mason <[Mike.Mason@woio.com](mailto:Mike.Mason@woio.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records  
Denial and Misapplication of R.C.  
149.43(A)(1)(v)

**External sender**

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

Make sure you trust this sender before  
taking any actions

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

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

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THE COPY YOU RECEIVED.

On Jun 3, 2025, at  
15:58, Aaron Knapp  
<[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

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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, LaVec k, Josep h <Josep h\_LaV eck@cityoflo rain.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  
Directo  
r &  
Police  
Legal  
Adviso

r  
200 W.  
Erie  
Avenu  
e, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Floor  
Lorain,  
Ohio  
44052  
[joseph  
lavec  
k@city  
oflorai  
n.org](mailto:joseph_lavec<br/>k@city<br/>oflorai<br/>n.org)

From:  
LaVeck,  
Joseph  
Sent:  
Wedne  
sday,  
May  
28,  
2025  
1:22  
PM  
To:  
'Aaron  
Knapp'  
<a4xbe

[averman@vghoo.com](mailto:averman@vghoo.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,  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
Floor  
Lorain,  
Ohio  
44052  
[joseph  
laveck  
@city  
oflorain  
.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

**From:**  
Aaron  
Knapp  
<[a4xber  
man  
@yah  
oo.com](mailto:a4xberman@yahoo.com)  
>

**Sent:**  
Wedne  
sday,

May  
28,  
2025  
12:36  
PM  
To:  
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Joseph  
<[Joseph  
LaVeck@city  
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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](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)> wrote

1. On July 24, 2023, at 11:05 PM, a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

— — — — — M

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a City of Lorain employee to the Board; any complaint or information pr

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F r o m : A a r o n K n a p p l m a i l t o : a a x b e e y e r E l a n n @ y a n o r i a

Plaintiff : Monday July 24 2023 4:08 PM To : Lavack Joseph Subileau Re

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With the help of the Department of Health and Social Security, the following information is being provided to you:

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Aaron Christopher Mark Knapp  
1515 S.W. Cocoa (P) BSW

NOTICE

HIGHWAY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315  
ATTENTION: THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315

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and you

Best Regards

Joseph L. Vack, Esq.  
Assistant Law Director

CORPORAL LEGAL ADVISOR 200 W. Erie Avenue, 3rd Floor, Lorain, Ohio 44400

10/10/10 10:10:10 AM

Aaron  
Christopher  
Knapp,  
BSSW,  
LSW,  
CDCA  
NASW  
Member  
ID: 886  
835612

NOTICE  
THIS  
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TRANSMISSION  
CONTAINS  
INFORMATION

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

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

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discovery have lead me to understand the law differently in how it applies to the different 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

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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  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
Floor

Lorain,  
Ohio  
44052

[joseph.laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph.laveck@cityoflorain.org)

**From:**  
Aaron  
Knapp  
<[a4xb@everman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xb@everman@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:**  
Tuesd  
ay,  
May  
13,  
2025  
1:36  
PM

**To:**  
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k,  
Joseph  
<[Joseph.LaVreck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph.LaVreck@cityoflorain.org)>; City  
Council  
I Mail  
Group  
<[CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org](mailto:CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org)>

[ain.org](mailto:ain.org)  
>  
Robert  
J.  
Garga  
sz  
<[rgargasz@gmail.com](mailto:rgargasz@gmail.com)>  
Bradley, Jack  
<[JackBradley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:JackBradley@cityoflorain.org)>  
Garon  
Petty  
<[gnelung2014@gmail.com](mailto:gnelung2014@gmail.com)>  
>  
Lorain  
PD  
Records  
Request  
<[LPDRrecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org](mailto:LPDRrecordsRequest@cityoflorain.org)>  
**Subject:**  
Response to  
Public  
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Denial  
and  
Misapp  
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of R.C.  
149.43  
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External  
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<[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)>

Make  
sure  
you  
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before  
taking  
any  
actions.

**Aaron  
Christopher  
Knapp,  
LSW,  
CDCA,  
BSSW**  
4220  
Talbot  
Lane  
Lorain,  
OH  
44055  
Email,  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)

**July  
13,  
2025**

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

Lorain  
200 W  
Erle  
Avenue  
, 3rd  
Floor  
Lorain  
Ohio  
44052  
Email  
[joeph.laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joeph.laveck@cityoflorain.org)

**RE:  
Response to  
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Misapp  
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149.43(  
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Dear  
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Marriage & Family Therapists 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*

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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.  
149.01  
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see also  
R.C.  
148.43(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*

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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 docum

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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).

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nt 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

licensur  
e

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.

Respec-  
tfully,

Aaron  
Christo-  
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Knapp,  
LSW,  
CDOA(  
P),  
BSSW

Aaron  
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Workers Board Emails.pdf>

<Aaron Knapp Public Records Request - Social Workers Board Emails -  
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