

## Beko, Michele

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** Jack Bradley  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Rey Carrion; Mike Failing; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG, ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakal@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; Joseph LaVeck; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@pland.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mayor Bradley,

Your response—simply “**Denied**”, without explanation, legal basis, or identification of counsel—is noted for the record.

Its brevity is as telling as it is irresponsible. Given the gravity of the allegations, the volume of corroborating evidence, and the number of public officials and journalists copied, such a flippant dismissal reflects either a profound misunderstanding of your responsibilities—or a willful refusal to engage them.

To date, you have:

- **Declined a lawful, pre-litigation settlement offer** backed by documentation, emails, and multiple witnesses
- **Refused to identify legal counsel** for the City, despite prior statements that this matter was referred to your legal department
- **Failed to address or dispute any material facts**, including documented civil rights violations, ADA violations, defamation, or the misuse of public office under color of law

This is no longer just bureaucratic avoidance—it is **obstruction of process**. And it will not be shielded by silence.

To prevent unnecessary escalation, this is your **final opportunity** to respond meaningfully:

1. **Provide the name and contact information** of the City’s legal representative handling this matter
2. **Clarify whether your “denied” response constitutes a formal rejection** of the \$450,000 one-time settlement offer
3. **Confirm whether this matter has been submitted to your municipal liability insurer** (e.g., CORSA) as required under Ohio law and your policy terms

If no response is received by **Monday, June 30, 2025 at 5:00 PM**, I will proceed immediately with:

- Filing of suit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- Submission of claims to state and federal oversight bodies
- Public release of records and documentation to local and national media
- Pursuit of full compensatory and punitive damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and state tort law

You were given every opportunity to resolve this matter quietly and fairly. Your continued disregard only compounds the damage—to me, to the City of Lorain, and to public trust.

**Govern yourself accordingly.**

Respectfully,

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**  
Disabled Veteran | Social Worker | Whistleblower  
4220 Talbot Lane | Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899 | a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 15:17, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Denied!

---

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 3:01 PM  
To: Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
Cc: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Falling, Mike <Mike\_Falling@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcft.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <MIMASSIE@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.waish@wews.com

<jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
<JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious  
Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Mayor Bradley,

Let me be unambiguous.

You work for the people. You are not a passive participant in these events, nor are you free to dismiss public instructions with one-liners like “Thank you for your comments.” That may suffice in lesser matters—but not here, not when civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and federal crimes under color of law are on the record and under your watch.

I am not seeking your permission. I am instructing you, as my government, under the full protection of the Constitution of the United States. This communication is not a “comment” – it is a lawful directive from a constituent to an elected official.

You may choose to ignore that instruction. If so, you will face it again—through deposition, through discovery, and ultimately through public judgment.

Your job is not to issue pleasantries. Your job is to protect the civil liberties of the residents of Lorain. That includes me.

Failure to comply with this final directive and respond substantively to the settlement offer already presented will be taken as formal declination, and all further remedies will proceed through the courts and press as outlined.

Govern accordingly.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA  
Disabled Veteran | Social Worker | Whistleblower  
4220 Talbot Lane Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899 | a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 14:04, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comments, Jack

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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Mayor Bradley,

Let me make something clear: I don't have to "understand" your political balancing act. That's your job—not mine. My job is to hold public officials accountable when they fail to act, enable misconduct, or try to sidestep responsibility behind vague references to "community interests."

What you've called "balancing" is, in reality, evasion. And I'm not obligated to tolerate it, respect it, or fall in line with it—especially when your administration green-lit or ignored retaliatory behavior that violated my rights.

You may think deflecting to your office or suggesting private meetings is enough to minimize public exposure. It's not. This is about public harm and public accountability. So yes, I will keep addressing you—and every official copied here—because silence and backdoor excuses are how corruption thrives.

You don't get to dictate the terms of this conversation. Not when your silence has cost me my career, my reputation, and my health.

You know what needs to be done. Either act with integrity—or keep trying to spin this while the public watches.

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 13:55, Bradley, Jack  
<Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comments, but you need to realize that I have to balance the needs and interests of the entire community, not just yours. As I have told you in the past, if you have specific concerns, please feel free to schedule a separate meeting with my office. As always, your input is valuable in helping me understand the community's needs and concerns. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll <scott.noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plains.com <jcaniglia@plains.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

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Mayor Bradley,

I appreciate your comment that constructive suggestions are welcome. I would only add this:

Your role as Mayor does not entitle you to dictate how, when, or in what tone I speak on matters of public concern—especially those involving civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and disability-based targeting carried out under color of law.

This isn't about being "kept in the loop." I *am* the loop—because your administration made me part of it through a sustained campaign of retaliation and silence.

Your office gave tacit approval to Chief McCann's actions against me and others. At minimum, you permitted your subordinates to deny the existence of emails that I now have in hand. You failed to initiate—or demand—a thorough, impartial investigation. You allowed reputational and economic damage to mount unchecked. That is not passive oversight. That is abdication.

The buck stops with you.

The First Amendment protects my right to petition the government, expose misconduct, and hold public officials accountable. That right is not suspended because you've referred the matter to counsel. Nor does it vanish when the facts become inconvenient.

I will continue to document, publish, and pursue accountability through every lawful channel available. Direct communication with elected and appointed officials remains one of those channels—and always will be.

Respectfully,  
Aaron C. Knapp  
BSSW, LSW, CDCA  
Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

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

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On Wednesday, June 26, 2025 at 01:40:01 PM EDT, Bradley, Jack <jack\_bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

I have no problem being kept in the loop (and all constructive comments and suggestions are appreciated). Jack

---

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:13 PM  
To: Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
Cc: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lctd.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakal@protonmail.com <senseicobrakal@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>

Subject: Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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Correction Friday June 27 2025.

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 11:34, Aaron Knapp  
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Bradley,

Thank you for your response.

While I acknowledge that the City has referred this matter to legal counsel, please be advised that I am fully within my constitutional rights to continue corresponding with elected and appointed public officials regarding matters of public concern—particularly those involving allegations of civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and misuse of public resources.

As a private citizen and whistleblower, my right to petition the government is explicitly protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. This includes the right to directly contact government officials in matters affecting public integrity, policy, and public safety.

- In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that citizens (and public employees)

have the right to speak on matters of public concern without fear of retaliation or suppression.

- In *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64 (1964), the Court affirmed that public officials are subject to public scrutiny and criticism as a core component of democratic accountability.
- *California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508 (1972), further established the right to petition government bodies and officials as "among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights."

Furthermore, public officials may not shield themselves from direct accountability by unilaterally declaring

that only legal counsel may be contacted, especially when the communication involves documented allegations of abuse of power under color of law (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and violations of anti-retaliation provisions under both Ohio and federal whistleblower laws.

If the City chooses to coordinate its formal response through legal channels, that is its prerogative. However, it does not—and cannot—preclude me from communicating directly with those entrusted to serve the public.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:48, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you, Jack

---

From: Aaron Knapp  
<a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
To: Bradley, Jack  
<Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>;  
Robert J. Gargasz  
<rigargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey  
<Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>;  
Failing, Mike  
<Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>;  
lcp@lcprosecutor.org  
<lcp@lcprosecutor.org>;  
trothm@wingspan.org  
<trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council  
Mail Group  
<CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason  
<mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan  
Schuppe  
<jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>;  
Noelle Williams  
<noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain  
Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David  
Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>;  
ethics@ethics.ohio.gov  
<ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>;  
paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov  
<paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>;  
tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>;  
Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfc.org>;  
Sheriff Jack Hall  
<jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>;  
senseicobrakai@protonmail.com  
<senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>;  
Major Steven Schar Schmidt  
<ssharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike  
Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>;  
Clevelscene News  
<news@clevelscene.com>; LaVeck,  
Joseph  
<Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>;  
lbischoff@gannett.com  
<lbischoff@gannett.com>;  
jonathan.walsh@wews.com  
<jonathan.walsh@wews.com>;  
Scott.Noll@wews.com

<Scott.Noll@wews.com>;  
JCaniglia@plaind.com  
<JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief –  
Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights  
Abuses & Tortious Interference Final  
One-Time Settlement Offer

**External sender**

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

Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion,  
Acting Chief Failing, Administrator  
Weitzel, and Applewood HR:

As an 80% service-connected veteran  
with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social  
worker, and a former Crossroads  
clinician, I have endured a two-year  
campaign of retaliation, defamation, and  
unlawful interference at your hands.  
Now, newly disclosed emails from  
Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most  
notably those exchanged with Bill  
Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—  
confirm beyond doubt how Chief  
McCann weaponized his office:

**1. Board Communications (Bill  
Hegerty) – Irrefutable Proof of  
Retaliation**

In May 2023, Bill Hegerty  
(CSWMFT Board member)  
emailed Chief McCann  
expressing shock that my  
protected complaints were  
portrayed as “unethical  
conduct.” Those exchanges  
show McCann intentionally  
misrepresenting my advocacy to  
Hegerty, prompting a bad-faith  
licensing complaint that wasted  
thousands of city man-hours  
and resources.

**2. Unlawful Disclosure &  
Defamation**

McCann sent  
Applewood/Crossroads and  
Administrator Weitzel  
unredacted copies of my private  
LPD complaints (screens  
marked “CLEIRS  
Administrative”), falsely  
branding me “unhinged” and  
“erratic.” That defamation  
destroyed my reputation and led

directly to my termination—  
despite Hegerty warning  
McCann the allegations lacked  
any factual basis.

3. **Tortious Interference**

By leveraging his office to  
poison both Applewood and the  
Court against me, Chief  
McCann—acting with Weitzel's  
cooperation—intentionally  
induced breach of my  
employment agreements,  
costing me over \$49,000 in  
salary, benefits, sign-on  
bonuses, and five weeks'  
vacation. Applewood only  
reinstated my GAL role after I  
sued; they never restored my  
Crossroads clinician position,  
compounding my economic and  
reputational harm.

4. **Color-of-Law Abuse &  
Harassment**

Despite explicit requests to  
cease, Chief McCann continued  
emailing me from  
@cityoflorain.gov—violating  
Ohio's Telecommunications  
Harassment statute (R.C.  
2917.21). Your own policies  
promise discipline for such  
conduct—yet none was taken.

5. **Disability-Based Targeting**

As a documented PTSD sufferer  
with a service dog, I was  
traumatized when McCann  
labeled my startle response  
"irrational" and exploited my  
disability to justify his  
misconduct.

---

## **One-Time Settlement Offer: \$450,000**

In light of these indisputable facts and to  
avoid protracted litigation, I hereby  
extend a one-time offer to release all  
claims against the City of Lorain, Mayer  
Bradley, Director Carrion, Chief  
McCann, Administrator Weitzel, and  
Applewood Centers—for a total  
settlement of \$450,000. This offer  
expires at 5 PM on Friday, July 12,  
2025. Please refer this email to your  
insurers or delay; if I do not receive a

binding acceptance by that deadline, I will initiate suit immediately.

#### **Why \$450,000 is Exceptionally Fair**

- **Conservative Verdict Estimate:** A jury could easily award over \$1.2 million when accounting for lost wages, reputational harm, emotional distress, and punitive damages.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** Settling at \$450K conserves city and court resources—avoiding costly depositions, discovery, and trial logistics.
- **Proportionality:** My demand is just 37% of the projected high-end verdict, striking a reasonable balance between the harm suffered and the risks of continued litigation.

The enclosed LaVeck → Hegerty email chain leaves no room for doubt. I await your prompt acknowledgment.

---

#### **Addendum:**

I also strongly urge you to tender this settlement demand to your liability insurer—CORSA (or your designated provider)—immediately upon receipt, to ensure prompt coverage and avoid any unnecessary coverage disputes.

Respectfully,  
**Aaron C. Knapp**  
4220 Talbot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)

**Enclosure:** LaVeck → Hegerty  
CSWMFT Board correspondence

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW,  
LSW, CDCA  
NASW Member ID: 888836612**

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**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 3:16 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Carrion, Rey; Failing, Mike; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; LaVeck, Joseph; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference-Final One-Time Settlement Offer

Denied!

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 3:01 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcft.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference-Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Mayor Bradley,

Let me be unambiguous.

You work for the people. You are not a passive participant in these events, nor are you free to dismiss public instructions with one-liners like "Thank you for your comments." That may suffice in lesser matters—but not here, not when civil rights violations,

whistleblower retaliation, and federal crimes under color of law are on the record and under your watch.

I am not seeking your permission. I am instructing you, as my government, under the full protection of the Constitution of the United States. This communication is not a "comment" – it is a lawful directive from a constituent to an elected official.

You may choose to ignore that instruction. If so, you will face it again—through deposition, through discovery, and ultimately through public judgment.

Your job is not to issue pleasantries. Your job is to protect the civil liberties of the residents of Lorain. That includes me.

Failure to comply with this final directive and respond substantively to the settlement offer already presented will be taken as formal declination, and all further remedies will proceed through the courts and press as outlined.

Govern accordingly.

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran | Social Worker | Whistleblower

4220 Talbot Lane | Lorain, OH 44055

(216) 659-9899 | a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 14:04, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comments, Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakal@protonmail.com <senseicobrakal@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Mayor Bradley,

Let me make something clear: I don't have to "understand" your political balancing act. That's your job—not mine. My job is to hold public officials accountable when they fail to act, enable misconduct, or try to sidestep responsibility behind vague references to "community interests."

What you've called "balancing" is, in reality, evasion. And I'm not obligated to tolerate it, respect it, or fall in line with it—especially when your administration green-lit or ignored retaliatory behavior that violated my rights.

You may think deflecting to your office or suggesting private meetings is enough to minimize public exposure. It's not. This is about public harm and public accountability. So yes, I will keep addressing you—and every official

copied here—because silence and backdoor excuses are how corruption thrives.

You don't get to dictate the terms of this conversation. Not when your silence has cost me my career, my reputation, and my health.

You know what needs to be done. Either act with integrity—or keep trying to spin this while the public watches.

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 13:55, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comments, but you need to realize that I have to balance the needs and interests of the entire community, not just yours. As I have told you in the past, if you have specific concerns, please feel free to schedule a separate meeting with my office. As always, your input is valuable in helping me understand the community's needs and concerns. Jack

---

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 1:48 PM

To: Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>

Cc: Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey

<Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>

lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org

<trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group  
<CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>;  
Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams  
<noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG  
<agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>;  
paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com  
<tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lctfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall  
<jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com  
<senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt  
<sscharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <mimassie@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News  
<news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <joseph\_laVeck@cityoflorain.org>;  
lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com  
<jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <scott.noll@wews.com>;  
JCaniglia@plaind.com <jcaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses &  
Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Mayor Bradley,

I appreciate your comment that constructive suggestions are welcome. I would only add this:

Your role as Mayor does not entitle you to dictate how, when, or in what tone I speak on matters of public concern—especially those involving civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and disability-based targeting carried out under color of law.

This isn't about being "kept in the loop." I am the loop—because your administration made me part of it through a sustained campaign of retaliation and silence.

Your office gave tacit approval to Chief McCann's actions against me and others. At minimum, you permitted your subordinates to deny the existence of emails that I now have in hand. You failed to initiate—or demand—a thorough, impartial investigation. You allowed reputational and economic damage to mount unchecked. That is not passive oversight. That is abdication.

The buck stops with you.

The First Amendment protects my right to petition the government, expose misconduct, and hold public officials accountable. That right is not suspended because you've referred the matter to counsel. Nor does it vanish when the facts become inconvenient. I will continue to document, publish, and pursue accountability through every lawful channel available. Direct communication with elected and appointed officials remains one of those channels—and always will be.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**

**NASW Member ID: 886836642**

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On Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 01:40:01 PM EDT, Bradley, Jack <jack\_bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

I have no problem being kept in the loop (and all constructive comments and suggestions are appreciated), Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcft.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>

**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
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Correction Friday June 27 2025

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 11:34, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Bradley,

Thank you for your response.

While I acknowledge that the City has referred this matter to legal counsel, please be advised that I am fully within my constitutional rights to continue corresponding with elected and appointed public officials regarding matters of public concern—particularly those involving allegations of civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and misuse of public resources.

As a private citizen and whistleblower, my right to petition the government is explicitly protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. This includes the right to directly contact government officials in matters affecting public integrity, policy, and public safety.

- In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that citizens (and public employees) have the right to speak on matters of public concern without fear of retaliation or suppression.
- In *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64 (1964), the Court affirmed that public officials are subject to public scrutiny and criticism

as a core component of democratic accountability.

- *California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508 (1972), further established the right to petition government bodies and officials as “among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.”

Furthermore, public officials may not shield themselves from direct accountability by unilaterally declaring that only legal counsel may be contacted, especially when the communication involves documented allegations of abuse of power under color of law (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and violations of anti-retaliation provisions under both Ohio and federal whistleblower laws.

If the City chooses to coordinate its formal response through legal channels, that is its prerogative. However, it does not—and cannot—preclude me from communicating directly with those entrusted to serve the public.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:46, Bradley, Jack  
<Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcft.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <:sscharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower

Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference  
Final One-Time Settlement Offer

External sender <g4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any  
actions.

Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Acting Chief Failing, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood HR:  
As an 80% service-connected veteran with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social worker, and a former Crossroads clinician, I have endured a two-year campaign of retaliation, defamation, and unlawful interference at your hands. Now, newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most notably those exchanged with Bill Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—confirm beyond doubt how Chief McCann weaponized his office

1. **Board Communications (Bill Hegerty) – Irrefutable Proof of Retaliation**

In May 2023, Bill Hegerty (CSWMFT Board member) emailed Chief McCann expressing shock that my protected complaints were portrayed as “unethical conduct.” Those exchanges show McCann intentionally misrepresenting my advocacy to Hegerty, prompting a bad-faith licensing complaint that wasted thousands of city man-hours and resources.

2. **Unlawful Disclosure & Defamation**

McCann sent Applewood/Crossroads and Administrator Weitzel unredacted copies of my private LPD complaints (screens marked “CLEIRS Administrative”), falsely branding me “unhinged” and “erratic.” That defamation destroyed my reputation and led directly to my termination—despite Hegerty warning McCann the allegations lacked any factual basis.

3. **Tortious Interference**

By leveraging his office to poison both Applewood and the Court against me, Chief McCann—acting with Weitzel’s cooperation—intentionally induced breach of my employment agreements, costing me over \$49,000 in salary, benefits, sign-on bonuses, and five weeks’ vacation. Applewood only reinstated my GAL role after I sued; they never restored my Crossroads clinician position, compounding my economic and reputational harm.

4. **Color-of-Law Abuse & Harassment**

Despite explicit requests to cease, Chief McCann continued emailing me from @cityoflorain.gov—violating Ohio’s Telecommunications Harassment statute (R.C. 2917.21). Your own policies promise discipline for such conduct—yet none was taken.

5. **Disability-Based Targeting**

As a documented PTSD sufferer with a service dog, I was traumatized when McCann labeled my startle response “irrational” and exploited my disability to justify his misconduct.

---

## **One-Time Settlement Offer: \$450,000**

In light of these indisputable facts and to avoid protracted litigation, I hereby extend a one-time offer to release all claims against the City of Lorain, Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Chief McCann, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood Centers—for a total settlement of **\$450,000**. This offer expires at 5 PM on Friday, July 12, 2025. Please refer this email to your insurers or delay; if I do not receive a binding acceptance by that deadline, I will initiate suit immediately.

### **Why \$450,000 is Exceptionally Fair**

- **Conservative Verdict Estimate:** A jury could easily award over \$1.2 million when accounting for lost wages, reputational harm, emotional distress, and punitive damages.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** Settling at \$450K conserves city and court resources—avoiding costly depositions, discovery, and trial logistics.
- **Proportionality:** My demand is just 37% of the projected high-end verdict, striking a reasonable balance between the harm suffered and the risks of continued litigation.

The enclosed LaVeck ↔ Hegerty email chain leaves no room for doubt. I await your prompt acknowledgment.

---

### **Addendum:**

I also strongly urge you to tender this settlement demand to your liability insurer—CORSA (or your designated provider)—immediately upon receipt, to ensure prompt coverage and avoid any unnecessary coverage disputes.

Respectfully,

**Aaron C. Knapp**  
4220 Taibot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899

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

**Enclosure:** LaVeck ↔ Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, COCA  
NASW Member ID: 886836612**

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THE COPY YOU RECEIVED.

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 2:04 PM  
**To:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack; David Yost AG; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Lorain Police; Ted Kalo; Telegram; Teresa Upton; Bradley Jack; Carrion, Rey; Patrick Riley; Robert J Gargas; mallory\_holmes@cityofflorain.org; Mike Massie; Michael Scherach; Brian Ames; Brian Ring@ethics.ohio.gov; Brad Dicken; Soto, Rick; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Arredondo, Joel; City Council Mail Group; clandestinecanary; Jackie Conrad; Institute for Justice; Sheriff Jack Hall; Anthony Nici; Harper, Anita; Andy Young; Julie Wallace; Dennis Flores; Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank; Lisa Swenski; Tom Niewulis; Tori Middlebrooks; Jessie Tower; Carolyn White; Elsebeth Baumgartner; Kathryn Kennedy; Jeanne Petty; Jon Morrow; Journal; Darryl Tucker; Stephanie Jablonsky  
**Subject:** Re: Separation Confirmed: How Lorain Tried to Bury the Truth About Chief McCann's Exit

**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.

The Lorain government needs investigated..NOW!

On Jun 25, 2025, at 1:38 PM, Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack <lorainpolliticsunplugged@substack.com> wrote:

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

## Separation Confirmed: How Lorain Tried to Bury the Truth About Chief McCann's Exit

After stonewalling The Lorain Daily, the City quietly released the real separation documents—revealing a disciplinary breach, a waived suspension, and a golden parachute for the Chief

AARON C KNAPP

JUN 25



READ IN APP

By Aaron Christopher Knapp

Lorain Politics Unplugged | June 25, 2025

## The Documents They Didn't Want You to See

This morning, I received what *The Lorain Daily's* Erik Jones was denied just hours earlier: the full, signed separation packet for Chief James McCann—released by the City of Lorain only after I submitted a direct public records request. What these documents reveal is not just administrative sleight-of-hand—it's a willful deception of the public and a damning reflection of how this city handles misconduct at the highest levels.

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

[Pledge your support](#)

Despite a carefully worded press release praising McCann's "service" and "technology contributions," the real reason for his departure was a formal disciplinary ruling against him for **unethical conduct, disparaging remarks, and unprofessional behavior** that "detract from the department's effective operation." The City knew it, McCann knew it. But no one was supposed to see the paperwork.

Now you can.



Documents 1-9 McCann Settlement Agreement



## "I Wish I Was a Dirty Cop": The Line That Should Have Ended His Career

On November 18, 2024, McCann, still serving as Chief of Police, made a shocking and incriminating statement to Detective Payne. According to

the official **Statement of Facts**, McCann said: *"I wish I was a dirty cop... I need someone taken care of."*

Let that sink in.

The chief law enforcement officer in Lorain joked—or so he claimed—that he wanted to abuse his power to harm someone. It was a flippant comment with the gravitas of a threat. The Office of Professional Standards rightly opened an investigation, and while they stopped short of declaring it criminal, the internal findings were clear. **it was unethical, inappropriate, and brought disrepute to the entire department.**

This wasn't just an off-color joke. This was an officer with the authority to order raids, oversee use-of-force incidents, and discipline others—**musings aloud about wanting to become corrupt.** And the person who heard it wasn't some random officer—it was a detective. The comment was witnessed, documented, and verified.



**The Charges Were Real, The Suspension Was Real.  
The Accountability Wasn't.**

The investigation concluded McGann had violated at least three Lorain Police Department policies:

1. **Standard 320.5.2** – Failure to abide by ethical conduct
2. **Standard 320.5.8** – Disparaging remarks toward constituted authority

3. **Ethics Rule 305** – Conduct that detracts from the department's effectiveness

These aren't minor infractions. These are **foundational standards**. If a patrol officer or sergeant had made similar comments, they would've been suspended immediately—if not terminated. In fact, multiple former officers in Lorain have lost their jobs for far less.

The official ruling from Safety/Service Director Rey Carrion imposed a **three-day unpaid suspension**. But McCann never served it. Instead, the City drew up a **Mutual Settlement Agreement** behind closed doors, offering McCann a cozy exit: retire quietly in September, collect full salary and benefits until then, and the suspension would be voided.

In short: **he got paid not to be held accountable.**



## **The Whitewashed Exit Deal**

The full separation packet—signed by Chief James McCann, Safety-Service Director Rey Carrion, and notarized on June 25—lays bare a quiet, carefully scripted agreement between the City of Lorain and its top cop. This was not a

routine retirement filing. It was a deliberate act of damage control, executed under the veneer of voluntary departure but rooted in formal findings of misconduct. And for weeks, the City refused to share it with the public.

Contained in the agreement is a critical legal maneuver: **McCann's formal waiver of his right to appear at the pre-disciplinary hearing.** By doing so, McCann conceded the facts laid out in the Statement of Charges—namely, that he made a profoundly inappropriate comment to a subordinate detective implying he wished to abuse his position to "take care of someone." The waiver explicitly acknowledges that his absence would result in the Safety/Service Director "adopting the Statements of Fact as true," meaning there would be no cross-examination, no evidentiary dispute, and no appeal. **He accepted guilt, but with a payoff.**

Rather than enforce the three-day suspension the Director had already imposed in writing, the City offered a "settlement." McCann was allowed to quietly transition into **non-enforcement administrative duties with full pay and benefits**, leading up to a September 15, 2025 retirement. This wasn't just a bureaucratic shuffle—it was a **financially protected glide path.** While technically under discipline, McCann would continue drawing his taxpayer-funded salary for nearly three more months, all while shielded from public scrutiny.

The agreement goes even further to protect McCann's reputation. It guarantees him the ability to **retain his official police badge**, a symbol of honor typically reserved for those leaving in good standing. It allows him to **purchase his department-issued service weapon**, a privilege denied to officers who resign under clouded circumstances. Most glaringly, it requires the City to maintain a sanitized personnel file containing only McCann's "voluntary retirement letter" and a bland employment history summary. Any future employment inquiries are to be directed to the Safety/Service Director, who is contractually bound to state that McCann's separation was **voluntary**—with no mention of the disciplinary findings.

And then there's the quiet but damning clause: **McCann is prohibited from ever working for the City of Lorain again.** This kind of provision is not standard in normal retirements. It's a red flag. It suggests that, despite the

public accolades, City officials recognized the severity of McCann's conduct and quietly sought to prevent any future reinstatement or contract work. In essence, they wanted him gone—but not publicly disgraced.

This deal wasn't crafted to uphold integrity. It was crafted to preserve appearances. By letting McCann retire instead of facing suspension, the City avoided a public hearing, avoided an internal appeal, and—perhaps most importantly—avoided having to explain why its top law enforcement official joked about wanting to be corrupt. And yet the result was the same as if nothing had happened: full retirement, full benefits, full honors.

It was a whitewash in every sense of the word, and the City's leaders signed it willingly.



## **A Carefully Scripted Lie**

The official press release announcing Chief McCann's retirement, jointly issued by the City of Lorain and McCann himself, is a masterclass in

misdirection. It reads less like a factual account of a public official's departure and more like a scripted eulogy drafted by a crisis management firm. It speaks glowingly of McCann's "34 years of dedicated service," applauds his role in "introducing cutting-edge technology," and celebrates his supposed legacy of "building community partnerships." But in its saccharine language and polished tone, it completely omits the most relevant fact: **McCann was leaving under a cloud of formal discipline.**

There is **not a single word** about the internal investigation that found him in violation of the Lorain Police Department's own ethical standards. Not a single acknowledgment that just days earlier, McCann had signed a notarized waiver admitting that the City could treat the allegations against him as fact. There is **no mention whatsoever** of the pre-disciplinary hearing, the three-day suspension that was imposed then waived, or the remarks that launched the investigation in the first place—his now-infamous comment to a detective that he "wished he was a dirty cop" so he could "take care of someone."

This wasn't just omission—it was fabrication by omission. The press release intentionally presented a narrative of dignity, competence, and professional achievement, when in truth, **the City was quietly paying a disgraced chief to go away.** It was a false narrative laundered through official channels, designed to protect not just McCann's image, but the City's own leadership from public blowback. If citizens had read that press release without context, they would have assumed McCann was retiring at the height of his career, not tiptoeing away after being caught making violent, unethical remarks from within the highest office in Lorain law enforcement.

To the public, the City presented a career milestone—a capstone to decades of service. In reality, what they were witnessing was a **career ballout**, a hush-money retirement cloaked in commendation. And everyone at City Hall who approved that press release knew it. They had the full file. They knew about the Garrity Warning. They signed the waiver. They saw the ethics violations. And still, they chose to publish a glowing farewell instead of the truth.

That wasn't just misleading. It was a lie, jointly authored by the very people entrusted with the public's faith.

## **What They Should Have Said**

If the City of Lorain had chosen honesty over optics, here's what the public press release might have looked like:

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 25, 2025**

### **City of Lorain Announces Retirement of Police Chief James P. McCann Following Disciplinary Findings**

The City of Lorain announces that Police Chief James P. McCann will retire effective September 15, 2025, following the conclusion of a disciplinary investigation into statements he made while on duty.

On November 18, 2024, Chief McCann made remarks to a subordinate detective that were found to be unprofessional and in violation of Lorain Police Department policies regarding ethics, conduct, and behavior that brings discredit to the department. A formal investigation by the Office of Professional Standards resulted in findings that supported disciplinary action, including a proposed three-day unpaid suspension.

Rather than contest the findings, Chief McCann waived his right to a pre-disciplinary hearing. In lieu of serving the suspension, the City entered into a mutual separation agreement allowing Chief McCann to retire later this year under administrative reassignment. He will remain on full pay and benefits until the retirement date, but will no longer perform frontline law enforcement duties.

The City acknowledges the seriousness of the statements made and reaffirms its commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership at all levels. While Chief McCann has contributed to modernization efforts and various initiatives over his tenure, it is appropriate to recognize

that recent conduct fell short of the standards expected from the City's highest-ranking police official.

Moving forward, the City is committed to appointing a new Chief who embodies the professionalism and accountability the community deserves.

For further questions, please contact the Office of the Safety/Service Director.

## **Why That Matters**

A press release like this—grounded in facts, clear about accountability, and free from self-congratulation—would have shown integrity. It would have treated Lorain's residents like stakeholders, not spectators. And it would have acknowledged that public service is not just about tenure or titles, but about trust.

Instead, Lorain's leaders gave the public a tribute they knew wasn't earned. What they handed out was not just a golden parachute. It was a **paper crown placed on a tarnished badge—hoping no one would look too closely.**

Now that we have, it's clear: the truth could have fit in a single page. They just didn't want to write it.

## **A Public Records Denial That Backfired**

Just hours before I received the separation packet, *The Lorain Daily's* Erik Jones had attempted to obtain the same records. He was told nothing more would be shared. That denial wasn't just petty—it was calculated. The City had already signed the documents. They knew what was in them. They just didn't want the press or public to know.

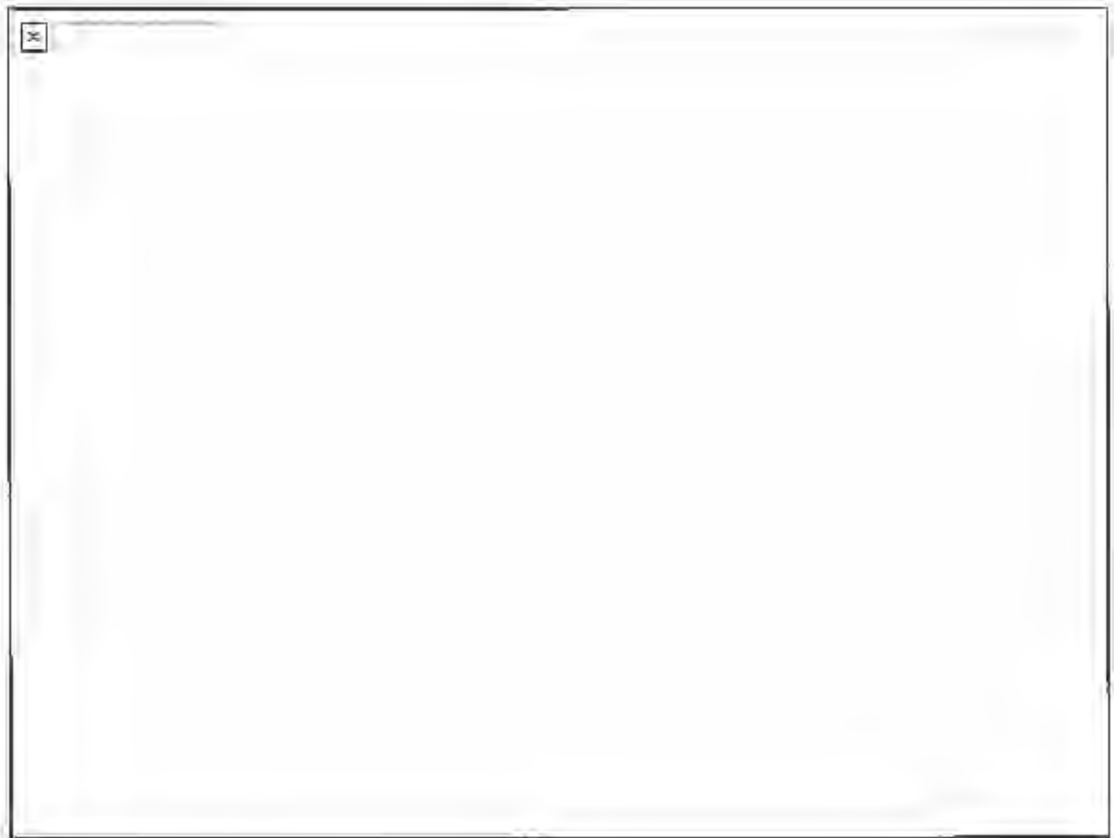
Had I not submitted my own request, they likely would have buried the paperwork under a pile of procedural excuses. This is the exact kind of gamesmanship that erodes trust in public institutions.

## **Taxpayer-Funded Silence**

McCann's final months in office will be spent collecting a full paycheck—doing "administrative duties" in exchange for not challenging his suspension.

Meanwhile, the City continues to deny records to other journalists, claim the matter was closed, and pretend that the ethics violations never happened.

Let's be clear: **Lorain residents are paying for this silence.** His salary, his benefits, the accumulated pension credits—all of it funded by the people he served. And all of it given to him not as a reward for honorable service, but as a shield against the consequences of his own misconduct.



## **Final Thought**

James McCann should have faced consequences. Real consequences. The kind any line officer—or any ordinary citizen—would face for making a violent, unethical statement in the workplace. But instead, the City of Lorain handed him a soft landing, wrapped in public relations spin and sealed with a golden parachute.

He told a detective that he "wished he was a dirty cop" because he "needed someone taken care of." That wasn't a joke—it was a window into a dangerous mindset, one wholly incompatible with public service, let alone police leadership. The Office of Professional Standards confirmed the violation. The Safety/Service Director issued a formal ruling. And yet, rather than enforce a suspension, the City cut a deal: waive the hearing, take the pay, and go quietly into retirement—with your badge, your gun, and your public dignity intact.

This wasn't discipline. It was a reward for misconduct.

And let's be clear: that reward wasn't available to everyone. **Lt. Corey Middlebrooks, a decorated Black supervisor with 25 years of service, was stripped of his command and fired outright for lesser allegations.** No deal. No retirement. No badge. No purchase of his service weapon. Middlebrooks—who challenged racial bias and retaliation in the department—was given a termination letter. McCann, who joked about weaponizing police power and had a long, documented history of retaliation, was given a settlement agreement and a thank-you note.

If you want to see how injustice works in Lorain, look no further than the difference between how they treated Middlebrooks and how they handled McCann.

But McCann's misconduct didn't stop with that one statement. It extended to something even more dangerous: **a pattern of personal retaliation against private citizens, journalists, and critics—myself included.** I now have in hand documents that McCann authored while in uniform, on city time, and under the authority of his badge, attacking my professional license with false and defamatory allegations. These were sent to the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist Board. They weren't just inappropriate—they were illegal in purpose and retaliatory in intent.

And the City? **They knew.** They knew these communications existed. I filed multiple records requests for them. I cited Ohio law. I referenced specific dates and recipients. The City denied having them. Now, months later, they've surfaced—proving that not only did they exist, but that **the City of**

**Lorain willfully withheld them**, choosing instead to shield McCann and protect their institutional image at the expense of the truth.

The same stonewalling and concealment tactics are still playing out in my active case against the Lorain County Sheriff's Office—where bodycam footage, internal emails, and retaliation documents remain blocked under flimsy exemptions. And it's no coincidence. These officials were in communication. They coordinated stories. They traded influence. They protected each other. And they all followed the same playbook: deny, delay, discredit.

Let's not call this incompetence. Let's call it what it is: **a protection racket disguised as city government**. A system where wrongdoing is buried, whistleblowers are punished, and white male power—no matter how corrupt—is coddled with handshakes and pension bonuses. McCann was allowed to exit with everything. Others, like Middlebrooks, were forced out with nothing.

That's not fairness. That's not justice. That's favoritism built into policy.

So let's stop pretending McCann's retirement was noble. Let's stop pretending this was routine. And let's stop allowing city officials to rewrite history just because they control the press release.

**McCann didn't retire with honor. He retreated under fire—and the City paid him to do it.** They gave him money, silence, and the tools of his former office while denying the public the truth. That's not leadership. That's complicity.

And now that the documents are public—now that the lies are exposed—the question becomes: **who else knew, and who else must be held accountable?**

Because if this is how Lorain handles corruption at the top, then it's not just the Chief who needs to go. It's the entire code of silence that let him stay this long.

*Stay tuned for Part 3: The Cost of Silence.*

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Carrion, Rey; Failing, Mike; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakal@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; LaVeck, Joseph; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

Thank you for your comments. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARE\$@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcfc.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakal@protonmail.com <senseicobrakal@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

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Mayor Bradley,

Let me make something clear: I don't have to "understand" your political balancing act. That's your job—not mine. My job is to hold public officials accountable when they fail to act, enable misconduct, or try to sidestep responsibility behind vague references to "community interests."

What you've called "balancing" is, in reality, evasion. And I'm not obligated to tolerate it, respect it, or fall in line with it—especially when your administration green-lit or ignored retaliatory behavior that violated my rights.

You may think deflecting to your office or suggesting private meetings is enough to minimize public exposure. It's not. This is about public harm and public accountability. So yes, I will keep addressing you—and every official copied here—because silence and backdoor excuses are how corruption thrives.

You don't get to dictate the terms of this conversation. Not when your silence has cost me my career, my reputation, and my health.

You know what needs to be done. Either act with integrity—or keep trying to spin this while the public watches.

– Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 13:55, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Thank you for your comments, but you need to realize that I have to balance the needs and interests of the entire community, not just yours. As I have told you in the past, if you have specific concerns, please feel free to schedule a separate meeting with my office. As always, your input is valuable in helping me understand the community's needs and concerns. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 1:48 PM

**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityofflorain.org>

**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityofflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityofflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>;

trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group

<CityCouncilMailGroup@cityofflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe

<jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily

<erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov

<ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com

<tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall

<jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>;

Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>;

Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityofflorain.org>;

lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com

<jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <scott.noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com

<jcaniglia@plaind.com>

**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

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Mayor Bradley,

I appreciate your comment that constructive suggestions are welcome. I would only add this:

Your role as Mayor does not entitle you to dictate how, when, or in what tone I speak on matters of public concern—especially those involving civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and disability-based targeting carried out under color of law.

This isn't about being "kept in the loop." I *am* the loop—because your administration made me part of it through a sustained campaign of retaliation and silence.

Your office gave tacit approval to Chief McCann's actions against me and others. At minimum, you permitted your subordinates to deny the existence of emails that I now have in hand. You failed to initiate—or demand—a thorough, impartial investigation. You allowed reputational and economic damage to mount unchecked. That is not passive oversight. That is abdication.

The buck stops with you.

The First Amendment protects my right to petition the government, expose misconduct, and hold public officials accountable. That right is not suspended because you've referred the matter to counsel. Nor does it vanish when the facts become inconvenient.

I will continue to document, publish, and pursue accountability through every lawful channel available. Direct communication with elected and appointed officials remains one of those channels—and always will be.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**

**NASW Member ID: 886836612**

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

On Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 01:40:01 PM EDT, Bradley, Jack <jack\_bradley@cityofflorain.org> wrote:

I have no problem being kept in the loop (and all constructive comments and suggestions are appreciated). Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityofflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityofflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityofflorain.org>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityofflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcunl.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Schar Schmidt <SScharSchmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityofflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@pland.com <JCaniglia@pland.com>

**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Correction Friday June 27 2025.

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p),BS5W**

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 11:34, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Bradley,

Thank you for your response.

While I acknowledge that the City has referred this matter to legal counsel, please be advised that I am fully within my constitutional rights to continue corresponding with elected and appointed public officials regarding matters of public concern—particularly those involving allegations of civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and misuse of public resources.

As a private citizen and whistleblower, my right to petition the government is explicitly protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. This includes the right to directly contact government officials in matters affecting public integrity, policy, and public safety.

- In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that citizens (and public employees) have the right to speak on matters of public concern without fear of retaliation or suppression.
- In *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64 (1964), the Court affirmed that public officials are subject to public scrutiny and criticism as a core component of democratic accountability.
- *California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508 (1972), further established the right to petition government bodies and officials as

**“among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.”**

Furthermore, public officials may not shield themselves from direct accountability by unilaterally declaring that only legal counsel may be contacted, especially when the communication involves documented allegations of abuse of power under color of law (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and violations of anti-retaliation provisions under both Ohio and federal whistleblower laws.

If the City chooses to coordinate its formal response through legal channels, that is its prerogative. However, it does not—and cannot—preclude me from communicating directly with those entrusted to serve the public.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:48, Bradley, Jack  
<Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you, Jack

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lcof.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcof.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Acting Chief Failing, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood HR:

As an 80% service-connected veteran with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social worker, and a former Crossroads clinician, I have endured a two-year campaign of retaliation, defamation, and unlawful interference at your hands. Now, newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most notably those exchanged with Bill Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—confirm beyond doubt how Chief McCann weaponized his office

- 1. Board Communications (Bill Hegerty) – Irrefutable Proof of Retaliation**  
In May 2023, Bill Hegerty (CSWMFT Board member) emailed Chief McCann expressing shock that my protected complaints were portrayed as "unethical conduct." Those exchanges show McCann intentionally misrepresenting my advocacy to Hegerty, prompting a bad-faith licensing complaint that wasted thousands of city man-hours and resources.
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McCann sent Applewood/Crossroads and Administrator Weitzel unredacted copies of my private LPD complaints (screens marked "CLEIRS Administrative"), falsely branding me "unhinged" and "erratic." That defamation destroyed my reputation and led directly to my termination—despite Hegerty warning McCann the allegations lacked any factual basis.

3. **Tortious Interference**  
By leveraging his office to poison both Applewood and the Court against me, Chief McCann—acting with Weitzel's cooperation—intentionally induced breach of my employment agreements, costing me over \$49,000 in salary, benefits, sign-on bonuses, and five weeks' vacation. Applewood only reinstated my GAL role after I sued; they never restored my Crossroads clinician position, compounding my economic and reputational harm.
4. **Color-of-Law Abuse & Harassment**  
Despite explicit requests to cease, Chief McCann continued emailing me from @cityoflorain.gov—violating Ohio's Telecommunications Harassment statute (R.C. 2917.21). Your own policies promise discipline for such conduct—yet none was taken.
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As a documented PTSD sufferer with a service dog, I was traumatized when McCann labeled my startle response "irrational" and exploited my disability to justify his misconduct.

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## One-Time Settlement Offer: \$450,000

In light of these indisputable facts and to avoid protracted litigation, I hereby extend a one-time offer to release all claims against the City of Lorain, Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Chief McCann, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood Centers—for a total settlement of **\$450,000**. This offer expires at 5 PM on Friday, July 12, 2025. Please refer this email to your insurers or delay; if I do not receive a binding acceptance by that deadline, I will initiate suit immediately.

### Why \$450,000 Is Exceptionally Fair

- **Conservative Verdict Estimate:** A jury could easily award over \$1.2 million when accounting for lost wages, reputational harm, emotional distress, and punitive damages.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** Settling at \$450K conserves city and court resources—avoiding costly depositions, discovery, and trial logistics.
- **Proportionality:** My demand is just 37% of the projected high-end verdict, striking a reasonable balance between the harm suffered and the risks of continued litigation.

The enclosed LaVeck → Hegerty email chain leaves no room for doubt | await your prompt acknowledgment.

---

### Addendum:

I also strongly urge you to tender this settlement demand to your liability insurer—CORSA (or your designated provider)—immediately upon receipt, to ensure prompt coverage and avoid any unnecessary coverage disputes.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp  
4220 Talbot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899

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

Enclosure: LaVeck → Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA  
NASW Member ID: 986836612

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 1:54 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Carrion, Rey; Failing, Mike; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; frothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; LaVeck, Joseph; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

Thank you for your comments, but you need to realize that I have to balance the needs and interests of the entire community, not just yours. As I have told you in the past, if you have specific concerns, please feel free to schedule a separate meeting with my office. As always, your input is valuable in helping me understand the community's needs and concerns. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lcfct.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcfct.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <scott.noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <jcaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

**Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.**

Mayor Bradley,

I appreciate your comment that constructive suggestions are welcome. I would only add this:

Your role as Mayor does not entitle you to dictate how, when, or in what tone I speak on matters of public concern—especially those involving civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and disability-based targeting carried out under color of law.

This isn't about being "kept in the loop." I *am* the loop—because your administration made me part of it through a sustained campaign of retaliation and silence.

Your office gave tacit approval to Chief McCann's actions against me and others. At minimum, you permitted your subordinates to deny the existence of emails that I now have in hand. You failed to initiate—or demand—a thorough,

impartial investigation. You allowed reputational and economic damage to mount unchecked. That is not passive oversight. That is abdication.

The buck stops with you.

The First Amendment protects my right to petition the government, expose misconduct, and hold public officials accountable. That right is not suspended because you've referred the matter to counsel. Nor does it vanish when the facts become inconvenient.

I will continue to document, publish, and pursue accountability through every lawful channel available. Direct communication with elected and appointed officials remains one of those channels—and always will be.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

Disabled Veteran & Public Advocate

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**

**NASW Member ID: 886836612**

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On Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 01:40:01 PM EDT, Bradley, Jack <jack\_bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

I have no problem being kept in the loop (and all constructive comments and suggestions are appreciated). Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:13 PM

**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>

**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohio.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <Sherry.Glass@lctf.com>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakal@protonmail.com <senseicobrakal@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lctf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lctf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>

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

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Correction Friday June 27 2025.

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 11:34, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Bradley,

Thank you for your response.

While I acknowledge that the City has referred this matter to legal counsel, please be advised that I am fully within my constitutional rights to continue corresponding with elected and appointed public officials regarding matters of public concern—particularly those involving allegations of civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and misuse of public resources.

As a private citizen and whistleblower, my right to petition the government is explicitly protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. This includes the right to directly contact government officials in matters affecting public integrity, policy, and public safety.

- In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that citizens (and public employees) have the right to speak on matters of public concern without fear of retaliation or suppression.
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public scrutiny and criticism as a core component of democratic accountability.

- *California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508 (1972), further established the right to petition government bodies and officials as “among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.”

Furthermore, public officials may not shield themselves from direct accountability by unilaterally declaring that only legal counsel may be contacted, especially when the communication involves documented allegations of abuse of power under color of law (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and violations of anti-retaliation provisions under both Ohio and federal whistleblower laws.

If the City chooses to coordinate its formal response through legal channels, that is its prerogative. However, it does not—and cannot—preclude me from communicating directly with those entrusted to serve the public.

Respectfully,

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BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:48, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you. Jack

---

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
To: Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohio.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharnschmidt <sscharnschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
Subject: Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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Respectfully,

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4220 Talbot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899

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

Enclosure: LaVeck → Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CBDA**  
NASW Member ID: 806836612

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 1:39 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Carrion, Rey; Failing, Mike; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; LaVeck, Joseph; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
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BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <vjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcft.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

**Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.**

Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Acting Chief Failing, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood HR:

As an 80% service-connected veteran with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social worker, and a former Crossroads clinician, I have endured a two-year campaign of retaliation, defamation, and unlawful interference at your hands. Now, newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most notably those exchanged with Bill Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—confirm beyond doubt how Chief McCann weaponized his office:

- 1. Board Communications (Bill Hegerty) – Irrefutable Proof of Retaliation**  
In May 2023, Bill Hegerty (CSWMFT Board member) emailed Chief McCann expressing shock that my protected complaints were portrayed as “unethical conduct.” Those exchanges show McCann intentionally misrepresenting my advocacy to Hegerty, prompting a bad-faith licensing complaint that wasted thousands of city man-hours and resources.
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role after I sued; they never restored my Crossroads clinician position, compounding my economic and reputational harm.

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As a documented PTSD sufferer with a service dog, I was traumatized when McCann labeled my startle response "irrational" and exploited my disability to justify his misconduct.

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## One-Time Settlement Offer: \$450,000

In light of these indisputable facts and to avoid protracted litigation, I hereby extend a one-time offer to release all claims against the City of Lorain, Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Chief McCann, Administrator Weltzel, and Applewood Centers—for a total settlement of \$450,000. This offer expires at 5 PM on Friday, July 12, 2025. Please refer this email to your insurers or delay; if I do not receive a binding acceptance by that deadline, I will initiate suit immediately.

**Why \$450,000 Is Exceptionally Fair**

- **Conservative Verdict Estimate:** A jury could easily award over \$1.2 million when accounting for lost wages, reputational harm, emotional distress, and punitive damages.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** Settling at \$450K conserves city and court resources—avoiding costly depositions, discovery, and trial logistics.
- **Proportionality:** My demand is just 37% of the projected high-end verdict, striking a reasonable balance between the harm suffered and the risks of continued litigation.

The enclosed LaVeck ↔ Hegerty email chain leaves no room for doubt. I await your prompt acknowledgment.

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**Addendum:**

I also strongly urge you to tender this settlement demand to your liability insurer—CORSA (or your designated provider)—immediately upon receipt, to ensure prompt coverage and avoid any unnecessary coverage disputes.

Respectfully,

**Aaron C. Knapp**

4220 Talbot Lane

Lorain, OH 44055

(216) 659-9899

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

Enclosure: LaVeck ↔ Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, CDCA**

NASW Member ID: 886836612

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**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** Jack Bradley  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargas; Rey Carrion; Mike Failing; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; ClevelScene News; Joseph LaVeck; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plainsd.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

Correction Friday June 27 2025.

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 11:34, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Bradley,

Thank you for your response.

While I acknowledge that the City has referred this matter to legal counsel, please be advised that I am fully within my constitutional rights to continue corresponding with elected and appointed public officials regarding matters of public concern—particularly those involving allegations of civil rights violations, whistleblower retaliation, and misuse of public resources.

As a private citizen and whistleblower, my right to petition the government is explicitly protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. This includes the right to directly contact government officials in matters affecting public integrity, policy, and public safety.

- In *Pickering v. Board of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that citizens (and public employees) have the right to speak on matters of public concern without fear of retaliation or suppression.
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- *California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508 (1972), further established the right to petition government bodies and officials as “among the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.”

Furthermore, public officials may not shield themselves from direct accountability by unilaterally declaring that only legal counsel may be contacted, especially when the communication involves documented allegations of abuse of power under color of law (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and violations of anti-retaliation provisions under both Ohio and federal whistleblower laws.

If the City chooses to coordinate its formal response through legal channels, that is its prerogative. However, it does not—and cannot—preclude me from communicating directly with those entrusted to serve the public.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp

BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:48, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org <lcp@lcpProsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lctdf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lctdf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>

**Subject: Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer**

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Respectfully,

**Aaron C. Knapp**  
4220 Talbot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)

Enclosure: LaVeck ↔ Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence.

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

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**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:44 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Cc:** Jack Bradley; Rey Carrion; Robert J. Gargas; Mike Mason; Lori Kokoski; City Council Mail Group; Clevescene News; Mike Failing; Noelle Williams; Sheriff Jack Hall; Fox 8; Lorain Daily; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; Brian Ames; David O'Brien  
**Subject:** Re: Public Records Request – Chief McCann Retirement Agreement

**Warning: Unusual sender** <onelung2014@gmail.com>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Please send me, Garon Petty, the complete Chief James McCann retirement agreement also.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Garon Petty

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:39 AM Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:  
Dear Records Custodian / City of Lorain Legal Department,

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act (R.C. 149.43), I am formally requesting a complete and unredacted copy of the retirement or separation agreement executed between the City of Lorain and former Police Chief James McCann.

It has come to my attention that this document was previously disclosed to the Chronicle-Telegram, which constitutes a public release. As such, any confidentiality or personnel-related exemption no longer applies. Please include any attachments, addenda, or related communications that clarify the terms of the agreement (including but not limited to any waivers, indemnity clauses, or post-employment restrictions).

I am requesting this record in electronic format. You may email it to me at [your email address] or confirm a time for in-person inspection if necessary.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this lawful public records request. I look forward to your response within a reasonable time frame, as required by law.

Sincerely,

Aaron C. Knapp

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

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**Beko, Michele**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** Jack Bradley  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Rey Carrian; Mike Failing; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Cleveland News; Joseph LaVeck; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@pland.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
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Mayor Bradley,

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BSSW, LSW, CDCA

NASW Member #886836612

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

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On Jun 25, 2025, at 10:48, Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

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Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM

To: Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Carrion, Réy <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>;

lcp@lcpsecutor.org <lcp@lcpsecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@woio.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan.schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@woio.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfst.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall

<jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Schar Schmidt <sschar Schmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>

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

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:02 AM  
**To:** 'Lorraine Ritchey'; Riley, Patrick  
**Subject:** RE: assume you have seen this . I would request a copy of those emails under a public records request that were sent to Knapp for my own records thank you I can file a formal request if you so wish. at were sent to Knapp a

Mrs. Ritchey:

To be clear, are you requesting the two most recent tranches of records sent to Mr. Knapp due to his public records requests?

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

**From:** Lorraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** assume you have seen this . I would request a copy of those emails under a public records request that were sent to Knapp for my own records thank you I can file a formal request if you so wish. at were sent to Knapp a

**External sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>**

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

## A Golden Handshake, Not a Reckoning

Just days ago, City Hall confirmed that Chief McCann will formally retire on September 15 under a "separation agreement" quietly finalized last Monday. In practice, he remains on paid administrative leave through mid-September, drawing his full \$168,000 annual salary—plus the opportunity to sell back unused vacation and sick time—before slipping into a 72 percent pension for life. This deal was struck even as a Sheriff's Office probe into his unprofessional remarks and potential misconduct continues.

## Proven Retaliation Under Color of Law

It's now beyond dispute that, during my own complaint process, Chief McCann weaponized his office in direct violation of my First Amendment and civil-rights protections. Newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck show McCann intentionally misrepresenting my "protected complaints" to third parties— Crossroads Juvenile Justice, Applewood Centers, Juvenile Court Administrator Weitzel, even a CSWJFT Board member—despite knowing full well those reports were lawful and ethically required. That qualifies as retaliation under color of law, a felony, yet no meaningful consequence followed.

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:47 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp; Robert J. Gargas; Carrion, Rey; Failing, Mike; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Council Mail Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Daily; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; LaVeck, Joseph; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

This matter is being handled by our legal department. Please direct all further correspondence regarding this matter to our legal counsel. Thank you. Jack

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:21 PM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rigargas@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; lcp@lcprosecutor.org <lcp@lcprosecutor.org>; trothm@wingspan.org <trothm@wingspan.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <mike.mason@wolo.com>; Jonathan Schuppe <jonathan\_schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Noelle Williams <noelle.williams@wolo.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>; David Yost AG <agocares@ohioago.gov>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov <ethics@ethics.ohio.gov>; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov <paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov>; tips@wews.com <tips@wews.com>; Sherry Glass <sherry.glass@lcfct.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; senseicobrakai@protonmail.com <senseicobrakai@protonmail.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <sscharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <mmassie@lcdtf.com>; Clevescene News <news@clevescene.com>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; lbischoff@gannett.com <lbischoff@gannett.com>; jonathan.walsh@wews.com <jonathan.walsh@wews.com>; Scott.Noll@wews.com <Scott.Noll@wews.com>; JCaniglia@plaind.com <JCaniglia@plaind.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief – Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer

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

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Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Acting Chief Failing, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood HR:  
As an 80% service-connected veteran with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social worker, and a former Crossroads clinician, I have endured a two-year campaign of retaliation, defamation, and unlawful interference at your hands. Now, newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most notably those exchanged with Bill Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—confirm beyond doubt how Chief McCann weaponized his office.

- 1. Board Communications (Bill Hegerty) – Irrefutable Proof of Retaliation**  
In May 2023, Bill Hegerty (CSWMFT Board member) emailed Chief McCann expressing shock that my protected complaints were portrayed as "unethical conduct." Those exchanges show McCann intentionally misrepresenting my advocacy to Hegerty, prompting a bad-faith licensing complaint that wasted thousands of city man-hours and resources.
- 2. Unlawful Disclosure & Defamation**  
McCann sent Applewood/Crossroads and Administrator Weitzel unredacted copies of my private LPD complaints (screens marked "CLEIRS Administrative"), falsely branding me "unhinged" and "erratic." That defamation

destroyed my reputation and led directly to my termination—despite Hegerty warning McCann the allegations lacked any factual basis.

3. **Tortious Interference**

By leveraging his office to poison both Applewood and the Court against me, Chief McCann—acting with Weitzel's cooperation—intentionally induced breach of my employment agreements, costing me over \$49,000 in salary, benefits, sign-on bonuses, and five weeks' vacation. Applewood only reinstated my GAL role after I sued; they never restored my Crossroads clinician position, compounding my economic and reputational harm.

4. **Color-of-Law Abuse & Harassment**

Despite explicit requests to cease, Chief McCann continued emailing me from @cityoflorain.gov—violating Ohio's Telecommunications Harassment statute (R.C. 2917.21). Your own policies promise discipline for such conduct—yet none was taken.

5. **Disability-Based Targeting**

As a documented PTSD sufferer with a service dog, I was traumatized when McCann labeled my sterile response "irrational" and exploited my disability to justify his misconduct.

---

## One-Time Settlement Offer: \$450,000

In light of these indisputable facts and to avoid protracted litigation, I hereby extend a one-time offer to release all claims against the City of Lorain, Mayor Bradley, Director Carrion, Chief McCann, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood Centers—for a total settlement of **\$450,000**. This offer expires at **5 PM on Friday, July 12, 2025**. Please refer this email to your insurers or delay; if I do not receive a binding acceptance by that deadline, I will initiate suit immediately.

**Why \$450,000 is Exceptionally Fair**

- **Conservative Verdict Estimate:** A jury could easily award over \$1.2 million when accounting for lost wages, reputational harm, emotional distress, and punitive damages.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** Settling at \$450K conserves city and court resources—avoiding costly depositions, discovery, and trial logistics.
- **Proportionality:** My demand is just 37% of the projected high-end verdict, striking a reasonable balance between the harm suffered and the risks of continued litigation.

The enclosed LaVeck ↔ Hegerty email chain leaves no room for doubt. I await your prompt acknowledgment.

---

**Addendum:**

I also strongly urge you to tender this settlement demand to your liability insurer—CORSA (or your designated provider)—immediately upon receipt, to ensure prompt coverage and avoid any unnecessary coverage disputes.

Respectfully,

**Aaron C. Knapp**  
4220 Talbot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899

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

Enclosure: LaVeck ↔ Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

---

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, BSSW, LSW, COCA**  
NASW Member ID: 886836612

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck; Patrick Riley  
**Subject:** assume you have seen this . I would request a copy of those emails under a public records request that were sent to Knapp for my own records. thank you I can file a formal request if you so wish. at were sent to Knapp a

External sender <lritch7@yahoo.com>

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:22 PM  
**To:** Jack Bradley; Robert J. Gargasz; Rey Carrion; Mike Failing; lcp@lcprosecutor.org; trothm@wingspan.org; City Group; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Noelle Williams; Lorain Dally; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; paul.nick@ethics.ohio.gov; tips@wews.com; Sherry Glass; Sheriff Jack Hall; senseicabrakai@protonmail.com; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Clevescene News; Joseph LaVeck; lbischoff@gannett.com; jonathan.walsh@wews.com; Scott.Noll@wews.com; JCaniglia@plaind.com  
**Subject:** Re: Final Demand for Relief - Whistleblower Retaliation, Civil-Rights Abuses & Tortious Interference Final One-Time Settlement Offer  
**Attachments:** Aaron Knapp Public Records Request- All Emails from McCann (1).pdf

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

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Dear Mayor Bradley, Director Camón, Acting Chief Failing, Administrator Weitzel, and Applewood HR:

As an 80% service-connected veteran with PTSD, a NASW-licensed social worker, and a former Crossroads clinician, I have endured a two-year campaign of retaliation, defamation, and unlawful interference at your hands. Now, newly disclosed emails from Assistant Law Director LaVeck—most notably those exchanged with Bill Hegerty, a CSWMFT Board member—confirm beyond doubt how Chief McCann weaponized his office:

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Respectfully,  
**Aaron C. Knapp**  
4220 Talbot Lane  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(216) 659-9899  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)

**Enclosure:** LaVeck ↔ Hegerty CSWMFT Board correspondence

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

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 7:50 PM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck  
**Cc:** David Yost AG; Brian Ames, Brian.Ring@ethics.ohio.gov; City Council Mail Group; Clevescene; Lorain daily; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Fox 8; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; InvestigatorTips@wews.com; Jack Bradley; Jacob Morris; Noelle Williams; Mike Mason; Jonathan Schuppe; Mike Failing  
**Subject:** Re: Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you again for your recent response and for providing records responsive to my request.

However, I remain unclear on the legal basis for the withheld records and respectfully renew my request for clarification under R.C. 149.43(B)(3). As you are aware, the statute requires that when a public record request is denied, the public office must provide:

"An explanation, including legal authority, setting forth why the request is denied."

You've cited exemptions under R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) and (v), but without identifying the specific records withheld or explaining how each exemption applies. I am requesting that you provide:

- A brief description of each withheld record (e.g., date, subject, sender/recipient);
- The specific exemption(s) applied to each;
- A short explanation of how the exemption applies to each withheld item.

Additionally, regarding the assertion of attorney-client privilege under R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v): Please note that in the government context, the privilege applies only where the communication is confidential, involves legal advice, and is between an

attorney and a client in their legal advisory relationship. Courts have consistently held that:

- Merely copying or including an attorney in an email does not make the communication privileged;
- Communications involving business or administrative matters are not protected;
- The privilege may be waived if shared beyond those authorized to receive legal advice.

If the withheld communications do not meet these standards, I respectfully request that they be disclosed or, at minimum, described with enough detail for me to evaluate the applicability of the claimed privilege.

This request is submitted in good faith and with the goal of ensuring legal compliance and transparency without further conflict.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

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

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On Jun 24, 2025, at 15:07, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

The records not subject to disclosure in accordance with R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) and (v) are records that constitute confidential law enforcement investigatory records and/or privileged attorney-client communications. No other information will be forthcoming.

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)

Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your response and for providing the records you deemed responsive.

However, pursuant to Ohio's Public Records Act (R.C. 149.43(B)(3)), I respectfully request that you now identify each item or record withheld, the specific legal exemption relied upon for withholding, and provide an explanation of how that exemption applies.

Simply citing R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) and (v) without identifying what records were withheld and why does not meet the statutory obligation for a proper denial under the Act. The law requires the public office to provide:

“an explanation, including legal authority, setting forth why the request is denied.”

To be clear, my request was for:

“every email sent from Chief James McCann that contains my name.”

If any responsive records were withheld, redacted, or excluded in whole or in part, I request a description of each withheld item, the nature of the content being withheld (e.g., email subject line, date), the exemption(s) applied, and how those exemptions specifically relate to the record.

Please consider this a continuation of my original request and an effort to resolve this matter without resorting to further legal steps, including referral to the Ohio Court of Claims or other appropriate venues.

I appreciate your timely attention to this.

Respectfully,

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

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

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On Jun 24, 2025, at 13:25, LaVeck, Joseph  
<[joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Please see the attached records responsive to your public records request dated May 11, 2025, in which you requested, "every email sent from James McCann that contains my name."

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)

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 3:16 PM  
**To:** Failing, Mike; Morris, Jacob  
**Subject:** FW: Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

FYI

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:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 3:07 PM  
**To:** 'Aaron Knapp' <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

Mr. Knapp:

The records not subject to disclosure in accordance with R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) and (v) are records that constitute confidential law enforcement investigatory records and/or privileged attorney-client communications. No other information will be forthcoming.

Thank you.

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Lorain, Ohio 44052  
[joseph\\_laveck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:joseph_laveck@cityoflorain.org)

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Brian Ames <bames00@gmail.com>; Robert J. Gargasz <robertgargasz@gmail.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

External sender <a4xbsaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mr. LaVeck,

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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)

## Beko, Michele

---

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 3:07 PM  
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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Brian Ames <briames00@gmail.com>; Robert J. Gargasz <robertgargasz@gmail.com>; Lorain Daily <erik@loraindaily.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your response and for providing the records you deemed responsive.

However, pursuant to Ohio's Public Records Act (R.C. 149.43(B)(3)), I respectfully request that you now identify each item or record withheld, the specific legal exemption relied upon for withholding, and provide an explanation of how that exemption applies.

Simply citing R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(h) and (v) without identifying what records were withheld and why does not meet the statutory obligation for a proper denial under the Act. The law requires the public office to provide:

"an explanation, including legal authority, setting forth why the request is denied."

To be clear, my request was for:

"every email sent from Chief James McCann that contains my name."

If any responsive records were withheld, redacted, or excluded in whole or in part, I request a description of each withheld item, the nature of the content being withheld (e.g., email subject line, date), the exemption(s) applied, and how those exemptions specifically relate to the record.

Please consider this a continuation of my original request and an effort to resolve this matter without resorting to further legal steps, including referral to the Ohio Court of Claims or other appropriate venues.

I appreciate your timely attention to this.

Respectfully,

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

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

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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 24, 2025, at 13:25, LaVeck, Joseph <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp;

Please see the attached records responsive to your public records request dated May 11, 2025, in which you requested, "every email sent from James McCann that contains my name."

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)

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck; Robert J. Gargas; Garon Petty; Bradley, Jack; City Council Mail Group; Rey Carrion; Sheriff Jack Hall; David Yost AG; Jacob Morris; Mike Mason; Mike Failing; Noelle Williams; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Fox 8; Clevešćenè; Brian Ames; Robert J. Gargas; Lorain daily  
**Subject:** Re: Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
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Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, CDCA(p), BSSW

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

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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\_lawicki@cityoflaram.org

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:35 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:

Please contact Chief McCann or Deputy Chief Michael Failing for clarification. I am unsure which investigation is referenced. I've included Deputy Chief Failing on this email.

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

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:23 PM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Robert J. Gargasz <robertgargasz@gmail.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcedtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcedtf.com>; Fox 8 <tips@fox8.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Brian Ames <briames00@gmail.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.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.

Dear Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your reply.

To clarify: I am requesting records related to the investigation referenced by former Chief McCann in his official correspondence, where he stated that "our investigation" was

“nearing completion” and that related records would “eventually become public.” This request is distinct from any inquiry by the Ohio CSWMFT Board and instead pertains specifically to the City-led investigation referenced by Chief McCann.

If the investigation into Officer Swanger is the one McCann was referencing, please confirm that explicitly. If it is not, then I ask you to identify what investigation McCann was referring to and which office or department initiated and documented it. As you are aware, vague deflections do not satisfy the duty to respond under the Ohio Public Records Act.

Additionally, I again request confirmation of the following:

1. Whether any records – emails, memos, attachments, reports, or correspondence – related to McCann’s investigation were ever received, reviewed, or maintained by your office;
2. Whether your office has determined that no responsive records exist (and if so, on what basis);
3. Whether you will forward this request to the appropriate department, such as the Lorain Police Department, in accordance with R.C. 149.43(B)(2).

As a reminder, under Ohio Revised Code 149.43, the term “public record” includes any document, regardless of format, that is created or received by a public office and documents the office’s activities. This includes internal investigations, email correspondence, attachments, and even informal notes – unless a valid statutory exemption applies. Public offices must organize and maintain records in a manner that allows for timely access, and cannot rely on generalized denials or unexplained disavowals of knowledge.

If no responsive records or clarification are provided, I will proceed with a formal complaint under R.C. 2743.75 in the Ohio Court of Claims, and will preserve all related rights under the Ohio Public Records Act.

Respectfully,

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

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

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On Jun 24, 2025, at 11:14, LaVeck, Joseph <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. For clarification, are you seeking the internal investigation related to your City Hall entry incident? If so, please direct your inquiry to the Lorain Police Department. Further, as you know, the Law Department is not the repository of all City records. The Law Department reviews records provided by other City departments prior to issuing to them requester to comply with state and federal law.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:23 PM  
**To:** Joseph LaVeck; David Vost AG; Robert J. Gargas; Sheriff Jack Hall; Tony Gillo; Garon Petty; Robert J. Gargas; City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Rey Carrion; Mike Mason; Jacob Morris; Noelle Williams; Mike Failing; Major Steven Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Fox 8; Clevescene; Brian Ames; Lorain daily; Jonathan Schuppe  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your reply.

To clarify: I am requesting records related to the investigation referenced by former Chief McCann in his official correspondence, where he stated that "our investigation" was "nearing completion" and that related records would "eventually become public." This request is distinct from any inquiry by the Ohio CSWMFT Board and instead pertains specifically to the City-led investigation referenced by Chief McCann.

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Respectfully,

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

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

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On Jun 24, 2025, at 11:14, LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

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Thank you.



**Beko, Michele**

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:29 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp  
**Subject:** Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

Mr. Knapp:

For clarification, some records that you requested are not subject to disclosure, in accordance with R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(i) and R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v).

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:** LaVeck, Joseph  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:26 PM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Public Records Request Response - May 11, 2025

Mr. Knapp:

Please see the attached records responsive to your public records request dated May 11, 2025, in which you requested, "every email sent from James McCann that contains my name."

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)

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:15 AM  
**To:** 'Aaron Knapp'  
**Subject:** RE: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your email. For clarification, are you seeking the internal investigation related to your City Hall entry incident? If so, please direct your inquiry to the Lorain Police Department. Further, as you know, the Law Department is not the repository of all City records. The Law Department reviews records provided by other City departments prior to issuing to them requester to comply with state and federal law.

Thank you.

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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:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:58 AM  
**To:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Sheriff Jack Hall <jhall@loraincountysheriff.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Noelle Williams <Noelle.Williams@woio.com>; Major Steven Scharschmidt <SScharschmidt@lcdtf.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@lcdtf.com>; Fox <tips@fox8.com>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Robert J. Gargasz <robertgargasz@gmail.com>; Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>; Lorain daily <erik@loraindaily.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

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Dear Mr. LaVeck,

Thank you for your most recent response. I acknowledge your repeated position that the City of Lorain is not the repository for certain investigatory records. However, I must again clarify the nature of my request and address several unresolved issues.

## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:15 AM  
**To:** 'Aaron Knapp'  
**Subject:** RE: Response to Public Records Denial and Misapplication of R.C. 149.43(A)(1)(v)

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

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## Beko, Michele

---

**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:08 AM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Carrion, Rey; Patrick Riley; Beko, Michele; Dull, Breanna; Partin, Maggie; Bradley, Jack  
**Cc:** Robert J Gargasz; Aaron Knapp; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; David Yost AG; Tony Cillo; Jackie Conrad; Kathryn Kennedy; Dennis Flores; Brian Ames; Brad Dicken; Carissa Woytach; clandestinecanary; Clevescene; Mike Mason  
**Subject:** Please send the Sunshine Laws certificates  
**Attachments:** 280d608f-f6d2-4f34-b40c-c383fc25d98a.jpeg

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

To: Lorain city council President Arredondo. I have previously requested your certificate of the Attorney General's Sunshine Laws training course. You have not provided it. Why not?

Isn't council rule 41 in order anymore? As the head of the "high table" of Lorain's government, you have failed in your sworn duty to lead Lorain Council with ethical leadership by producing a certificate of completion of the course. You boast of serving the people, now you have the sworn duty to demonstrate it by producing your certificate and ALL members of council's?

Garon Petty