



LORAIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR
J.D. TOMLINSON

225 Court Street, 3rd Floor, Elyria, Ohio 44035
P: 440-329-5389 • F: 440-329-5430 • E: lcpr@lcprosecutor.org

February 6, 2024

Captain Robert Vasant
Lorain County Sheriff Department
rvasant@loraincountysheriff.com

Dear Captain Vasant,

I have learned that the prosecutor's office has a conflict, or an apparent conflict, with Aaron Knapp.

On November 3, 2023, Aaron Knapp visited our office and asked to speak with the prosecutor. When Mr. Knapp was advised that the prosecutor was out of the office, he asked to speak with a judge. When he was advised that the judge's offices were upstairs, he became belligerent, loud and he began to frighten some victim/witnesses who were in the lobby waiting for appointments.

Because Mr. Knapp would not calm down, he was asked to leave the lobby by two of our investigators. When he refused, a deputy was contacted. The deputy responded and Mr. Knapp was removed without further incident.

Subsequently, Mr. Knapp became involved in an issue with the judges in the Domestic Relations/Juvenile Division of the common pleas court. Our office was called upon to advise the judges on the same issues that brought Mr. Knapp to our office. Therefore, we are conflicted.

I am sorry I could not be of more help. I would think that this would be a matter for the Lorain City Law Director to review.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "James M. Burge".

James M. Burge
Chief of Staff



CITY OF LORAIN
Department of Public Safety/Service

Rey Carrion
Director Public Safety/Service

Rick Soto
Chief of Staff

Jack W. Bradley
Mayor

February 19, 2024

Mr. Aaron Knapp
4220 Talbot Lane
Lorain, Ohio 44055

Re: Various Complaints Against LPD

Dear Mr. Knapp,

I am writing to let you know the outcome of the City's administrative investigation into the various complaints you have submitted to the City of Lorain in connection with the Lorain Police Department. The complaints and associated emails received by the City of Lorain can be best connected to the following dates: 9/6/22, 3/1/23, 4/2/23, 4/10/23, 5/8/23, 5/25/23, 6/1/23, 6/13/23, 6/21/23, 8/3/23, and 11/5/23 - please refer to attached timeline prepared by Lori Kokoski, City of Lorain Human Resources Director.

Ms. Kokoski has reviewed all information and documents gathered in the administrative investigation, which included with an interview with you via Zoom on 12/13/2023 at 8:00am. Since January 2, 2024, I have reviewed all documents plus obtained additional material from the Lorain County Sheriff's Office. The Lorain Police Department, on multiple occasions, has responded to your requests in writing. During my portion of the investigation, I contacted Major Richard Bosley of the Lorain County Sheriff's Department over similar complaints filed by you. The Sheriff's Department did not see anything in the complaints that rose to the level of employee misconduct or prosecution. The matter was forwarded to Lorain County Prosecutor J.D. Tomlinson for further review. A letter from Mr. James M. Burge, Chief of Staff for Prosecutor Tomlinson, pointed to a conflict between his office and you due to your unacceptable behavior on 11/3/2023. In the letter from Mr. Burge, he wrote the following:

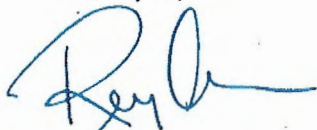
"On November 3, 2023, Aaron Knapp visited our office and asked to speak with the prosecutor. When Mr. Knapp was advised that the prosecutor was out of the office, he asked to speak with the judge. When he was advised that the judge's offices were upstairs, he became belligerent,

loud and he began to frighten some victim/witnesses who were in the lobby waiting for appointments.

Because Mr. Knapp would not calm down, he was asked to leave the lobby by two of our investigators. When he refused, a deputy was contacted. The deputy responded and Mr. Knapp was removed without further incident."

As the City of Lorain's Safety Service Director, I have reviewed all the evidence obtained and have concluded that your allegations are unsubstantiated. The case is now closed. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Law Director Pat Riley at 440-204-2250.

Thank you,



Rey Carrion, Safety Service Director
City of Lorain
200 West Erie Avenue, 7th Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052
(440) 204-2011

CC: Pat Riley, City of Lorain Law Director
Jack Bradley, Mayor of Lorain
Lori Kokoski, City of Lorain Human Resources Director
Rick Soto, City of Lorain Chief of Staff
James McCann, City of Lorain Chief of Police



The City of Lorain, Ohio

Department of Human Resources

200 West Erie Avenue, 7th Floor City Hall
Lorain, OH 44052 (440) 204-2054 Fax (440) 204-2542

Aaron Knapp Timeline/Prepared 2/8/24

2021

This was the first interaction with Lorain Police Department. It is my understanding that Mr. Knapp attended a "Rocking on the River" concert and attempted to bring his service-dog into the event. He was told by an LPD officer working the event that the dog was not allowed. Mr. Knapp was unhappy with how he was treated. He felt that he was treated rudely. He stated, "I'm trying to improve my community not be a problem".

2022

9/6/2022 - Mr. Knapp filed a **Citizen Complaint Form**. He stated he had over 8 interactions with LPD officers and was never spoken to in an appropriate or respectful manner. This complaint stemmed from an incident involving his child who walked to the park with the neighbor's six-year-old child. The six-year-old walked home and didn't tell his daughter so she called 911 to report the six-year-old missing. Mr. Knapp's daughter called him to alert him as to what was going on. Mr. Knapp saw the six year old and told the 911 dispatcher that the child was found. He was told that they had to see for themselves that the child was at home and no longer missing. He called to complain to dispatch that he is a mandated reporter and a social worker and his word is usually good enough but in this case it was not. He felt that the officers and dispatchers were rude.

2023

3/1/2023 - Mr. Knapp filed a **Citizen Complaint Form** complaining that the LPD eliminated the comments section on their Face Book page. He threatened to file a civil lawsuit to correct the matter. He also filed a complaint with the US Attorney's Office. On 4/2/23 Mr. Knapp officially withdraws his complaint regarding the Face Book page.

4/2/2023 - Mr. Knapp filed a **Citizen Complaint Form** because an LPD officer asked him for his ID when he was sitting in the parking lot of a Massage Parlor that was under surveillance for Human Trafficking. He refused to provide his ID since he did not commit a crime. He was told he the officer witnessed the lady in the business yelling at him before Knapp returned to his car. The officer then ran his plates to ID him. He wanted officer Sedivy reprimanded for how he spoke to Mr. Knapp. He stated he was going to use his 5th Amendment right to not speak to officers in all future encounters. He felt that law enforcement is harassing him everywhere he goes. On 4/2/2023 Mr. Knapp requested the body cam footage from the encounter. He withdrew his complaint on 4/11/23.

4/10/23 - Mr. Knapp claims in an email that someone from the Police Department threatened his employment. McCann responded that if someone from the LPD called Mr. Knapp's place of employment they were not authorized to do so.

5/8/2023 - Mr. Knapp filed a **Citizen Complain Form** regarding the release of the investigation on West 27th Street. He complained that the officer spoke disrespectfully to the citizen. He also complained that the release juvenile court records included dates of birth, attendance records and photos of the juveniles.

5/25/2023 – Mr. Knapp received a letter from the State board that holds his license that they had received a complaint against him. In a June 21, 2023 email Mr. Knapp stated that the State Board said it was the Lorain Police that made the complaint. July 20, 2023 Mr. Knapp received a letter from the board indicating they did not substantiate the allegations and the case was closed.

6/1/2023 - Mr. Knapp came to Lorain City Hall and refused to comply with the Auxiliary Officers when they asked him to put his belongings into the basket to go through the metal detector. He was argumentative and disruptive with officers. Another officer arrived and stepped between the Auxiliary officer and Mr. Knapp. This officer placed his hand on Mr. Knapp's shoulder to provide space between the Auxiliary officer and Mr. Knapp. Mr. Knapp left and was told that if he came back and was disorderly he would be subject to either a summons or arrest for his behavior. Mr. Knapp continued to argue with the officer and left. He was then told by a Lieutenant that Mr. Knapp is required to make an appointment with anyone above the 2nd floor. He demanded to speak with a Sergeant. He was informed he was speaking to a Lieutenant. Mr. Knapp wanted this Lieutenant charged with a crime for "putting his hands on him". He asked for the body cam footage of the incident to file his civil rights assault claim against Lt. Swanger.

6/13/2023 - Mr. Knapp called police to his house because his neighbor's dog was in his yard. He also called the Lorain County Dog Warden. By the time the police arrived the neighbor had already picked up the dog.

6/21/2023 - Mr. Knapp sent an email to the Chief asking him to stop communicating with him via email. He wanted all correspondence to be through regular mail.

8/3/2023 - Mr. Knapp filed a **Citizen Complaint Form** for being retaliated against. He believes that he was fired from his job with Crossroads Juvenile Justice Program on 7/14/23 due to his previous complaints. He also complained that he has asked the Chief not to email him and he continues to do so. He considers the email communication harassment which is unwanted and illegal. He stated he has filed a complaint with the DOJ for the civil rights violations and has also retained legal counsel. He wants to press charges to the fullest extent of the law.

Date unknown – Mr. Knapp submitted a five page document that he typed to the city of Lorain indicating how he feels the city should maintain the parks. He made numerous recommendations from clean up of trash and graffiti to lawn care. He wants the police and pit crew to ticket people in the parks for littering and graffiti. He said the police say they are too busy and usually speak down to the citizens calling in. He went on to talk about the Juvenile documents being put on-line and the “jay-walking” incident.

11/5/2023 - Mr. Knapp submitted a 16-page document he typed detailing the events he feels makes him a victim. He wants criminal charges against Chief McCann for acts of harassment and for releasing information to Mr. Knapp’s employer (Contract holder). He also wants to bring charges against Tim Wietzel from the courts for receiving emails from McCann that continued McCann’s harassment. He also forwarded them to Tim Green who stated Mr. Knapp could no longer volunteer as a Guardian Ad Litem.

I had an interview via zoom with Mr. Knapp on 12/13/2023 at 8:00 a.m. I scheduled three one-hour sessions with Mr. Knapp but he felt he was able to discuss everything in the first session.

22:30



Jim McCann



Jim McCann

My Face Book page & all comments are my personal opinion & don't represent any organization's opinion

Sent you a friend request



Respond



Message



Followed by 2 people



See Jim's About Info

Friends

Posts



Photos



Home



Friends



Watch



Dating



Notifications



Menu



About

Following

[See All](#)



Long Island Audit Inc.
New York, New York



Lorain County Sheriff's Office



Lorain County Safe Harbor / Genesis House

Groups

[See All](#)



Employment Opportunities in Lorain County
20,502 Members
A place where local, or neighboring businesses, &/or group members can place/submit Employ...



The M113 Interest Group
23,704 Members



Lorain county places rent only
9,386 Members
A place for Landlords to post only.....

Followers

[See All](#)



Jim McCann



Tracy Parker
Van Buren ISD



Mary J Hildreth



Home



Friends



Watch



Dating



Notifications



Menu

19:24



NoStress Jay

Active now



I just personally want to Thank you. Although you are not choosing sides in this matter you are stating facts. When I had the meeting with the he showed us the press release video. I told him right to his face that if he released that video he would get more backlash than respect and he assured me that they wouldn't. When it comes to social media WE THE PEOPLE some how discover we have a voice. Our video has over 10 million views via youtube twitter Facebook tik tok these are platforms were they have no choice but to listen. I respect what you are doing. You see, is there racism in this world yes. Bias against police yes pro police and pro defund police yes. But when you read these comments (and trust me I've read a lot I mean atleast 10k personally) and I can honestly say that racism pro police pro defund the police white black state to state c ↓ y to country I truly believe ou.



Aa



19:25



NoStress Jay

Active now



Bias against police yes pro police and pro defund police yes. But when you read these comments (and trust me I've read a lot I mean atleast 10k personally) and I can honestly say that racism pro police pro defund the police white black state to state country to country I truly believe our CONSTITUTION 100% overrides everything I believe that no matter what side your on when it comes to our rights WE THE PEOPLE stand up together we fight together we stand up together. I've seen a lot of racist people side with us and I do believe it's because they believe more in the constitution and our rights then they do race. So again I've been watching you from day one and I will continue with no bias towards you you are doing the right thing and a hell of a good job. Your not going unnoticed that's for sure



I appreciate the response and I only post the way I do publicly



Aa



19:34



Ryan



48
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]'s mom just called me and stated [Redacted] was being difficult about not having internet and wanted me to call you. So I did.

It's already starting and it's only Friday.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



RE: Officer Complaint

From: Gelenius, Kyle (kyle_gelenius@cityoflorain.org)
To: a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 at 12:57 PM EDT

Mr. Knapp,

The Lorain Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is in receipt of your complaint (submitted on 4-2-23) and then your request to withdraw the complaint. It is been documented in our systems as IA-23-20 (inquiry). **Disposition: Complaint withdrawn at the request of complainant.** We consider the matter closed.

Regards,

Sgt. Kyle Gelenius, M.S.
Internal Affairs Investigator | Reconstructionist
Office of Professional Standards
P: 440 204 2107 | E: Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org



Warning: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use, distribution or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication. Permission to forward or distribute anything from this communication to any non-law enforcement contacts must be sought thru the originator/originating agency of the information contained herein.

From: Aaron Knapp [mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 12:41 PM
To: Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Officer Complaint

In Hindsight I wish to officially withdraw this complaint. I just want to be left alone.

Can we make that happen (unless I commit a crime obviously)?

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

NASW Member ID: 886836612

Mr. Knapp:

We are working with legal to review all our options concerning our social media accounts. I have also asked the Lorain County Prosecutor's office to review the entire incident at 126 W. 27th St., because in my view, this provides an external review of our actions. Once we receive that review and our Administrative Investigation is completed, it has always been our position to either restore commenting or delete our social media altogether. Social media has proven to be very time consuming and very difficult to manage. I believe our limited resources are better committed elsewhere. I have not made a final decision either way at this time.

I believe I have been one of the most transparent Police Chiefs in Lorain County and I have ALWAYS welcomed criticism from our citizens in Lorain, as they sometimes provide the best feedback to improve our services. Unfortunately, there was too much misinformation being posted about the 27th St. incident, which caused our social media to be hijacked by people from out of state and this caused the management of these accounts to become impossible.

LPD cannot react to an incident on social media until we properly investigate that incident or we would be accused of being reckless. As Chief, I am well-aware that a government agency operating a government social media page is subjugated to legal and constitutional constraints with regards to page management. This is not, nor will it ever be an issue for me. What is at issue is that the public is under no obligation to post honest and informed content. Again, this is not an issue for me; however, harm to the reputation and, in extreme cases physical well-being, of Lorain Police and City of Lorain employees, as well as to the organizations themselves can and has resulted from the misinformation and inaccurate posts on these social media pages. I have personally been the recipient of threats against myself, my family, and my property. Though I am confident in my abilities to protect myself and my family, I am not ok with the LPD social media accounts being used to convey these communications, or to spread the misinformation via public comment that serves as a basis for these threats. To be clear, I am willing and ready to stand in front a Federal Judge to state my case.

Many people, to include you, made up your mind about the 27th St incident after only seeing a portion of one video and not allowing LPD to respond with the totality of all events leading up to the specific incident. This doesn't seem impartial, at least in my opinion. Again, the public is free to form their own opinions, regardless of accuracy or partiality. When misinformation or lack of

information creates harm, I cannot stand by idly while the social media accounts that LPD manages are used to spread outright lies by way of comments and attachments from uninformed people. You claim to be an educated social worker, but one would think with your claim of being educated, you would have the ability and the “want” to get all the facts before you make assumptions or even a decision regarding what was right and wrong.

At this time, we have not been able to find any case law that specifically addresses the issue concerning our social media account and the actions we took to calm things down during our administrative investigation. There is, however, specific case law that does address deleting an individual's comments and or deleting or blocking an individual. If you have specific case law that deals with LPD's social media management decisions, I would be happy to review it. Additionally, courts have stated as has the ACLU, that off topic comments can be removed from a post. In other words, if there is a post about a basketball game, a comment that talks about a football game can be deleted. This is of course very time consuming.

Finally, Marcy Kaptur is NOT our Congressional Representative. The whole of Lorain County is within the 5th Congressional District and she represents the 9th district. Also, FOIA applies to records created by federal agencies and does not cover records held by state and local government agencies. In the spirit of cooperation and per your improper FOIA request, all communications between myself and the Law Department fall under attorney client privilege and you are not entitled to that information. It is my understanding that your improper FOIA request for information has been satisfied through our Records Department.

Semper Paratus!

Chief Jim McCann

Lorain Police Department
100 W. Erie Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Office: 440-204-2103
Fax: 440-204-2519

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

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

On Apr 10, 2023, at 22:38, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I sent this on 03/17/2023 (see attached complaint).

In your response you requested I submit case law to back up my claims, which I did, and thought I would get an Official response back. Yes I did file a complaint with the US Attorneys Office (after I recieved no response to the attached complaint on the 16th of March). I am pretty sure they sent your department the same email they sent me advising I'd have to take action in Court in order to initiate an actual civil rights complaint.

After speaking with the Mayor at his office (where I had decided I was going to back down and not go to the lawsuit stage) I was spoken to at work and told that they had been notified of the Facebook issue between myself and the Lorain Police. Maybe it was the Mayor or his office, I am not sure, maybe it was coincidence that 2 hours after my employer was disclosed someone called? I cannot say for sure but after meeting with the mayor you stopped following me on Facebook and removed your "friend request" so I can only assume that my employer was disclosed to you when you were told that following me was a bad look?

Maybe the random stop that was conducted as I sat in a parking lot the day after wasn't connected either, where I was asked to ID without having committed a crime and my License Plate was ran (to circumvent my ID refusal), but I suppose if all the back and forth up to that point had been civil I'd have no cause to believe that it was someone retaliating against me. This is why we always 100 percent act polite when we interact with the public in our official duties. If I had been treated with respect from the start none of this looks retaliatory.

Either way I don't really care at this point, I removed my posts about the "Hid'nth incident" and was hoping you might have completed the previous "investigation into the matter" and would reopen the comments on all posts or shut the page down as you had stated in your email. In the end attached is the original form I filed on the 16th of March that I was referring to. I figured I'd get a response on Lorain Police Letter Head (as opposed to our emails) and perhaps an answer to the various pieces of case law I provided?

I don't understand why this is so hard? You must love the Constitution and our Country if you were in the Coast Guard as well as a Police Officer? Why don't you see the danger this type of government action poses?

It just looks bad and it makes it very hard to defend your actions to the public in any forum.

I am a dog with a bone when it comes to the Constitution and I respect it. I am only asking you do WHAT IS RIGHT in this matter and not force me to go file a Civil Rights Lawsuit for 401.00 dollars, to fix it. As a matter of principal I will go and pay the filing fee of 400 dollars and then ask for 1 dollar in damages to get this corrected but I don't want to. Hence why I was asking one more time for an OFFICIAL response to my initial query on 3-16-2023 along with the added specific case law I provided (at your request in your response) that you stated if I had specific case law you would review it (I also believe you and the department deserve the opportunity to respond to my official complaint outside of OUR email chain as I really don't think your email should be the departments "official response".

I truly believe with ALL MY HEART and with case law to back me up you or your department or the lawyers in this matter are INCORRECT and I am willing to go to court to prove it.

SO I did file an Official Complaint initially and that was what I was hoping for an Official response on soon? This was why I sent an email to the "complaint email" as opposed to back to your email, but as you were the one to respond, here is my response.

Make it a wonderful day!

Updated at 18:11



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

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

On Monday, April 10, 2023 at 03:28:31 PM EDT, McCann, James - Chief <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

If someone called your place of employment in their official capacity from the Lorain Police Department, they were not authorized to make any such phone call or notification. If you have proof of this accusation and a name of the employee, please forward that to me and it will be investigated. If it can be determined that a member of the police department in their official capacity called your employer, I will address it.

You filed your complaint with the US Attorney's Office, not with the Lorain Police Department. The matter is in their hands.

Chief Jim McCann
Lorain Police Department
100 W. Erie Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Office: 440-204-2103
Fax: 440-204-2519

5/25/23, 6:28 PM

Yahoo Mail - Re: Update

From: Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 7:56 AM
To: McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: FW: Update

From: Aaron Knapp [mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 7:50 AM
To: Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Fwd: Update

I'm just curious if this "email" is the police department's "Official Response" on the First amendment complaint I made? I was going to let the matter go after speaking to the mayor but since someone threatened my employment from your department and followed up with harassment while I was parked randomly checking my email where an officer demanded ID (and ran my plate when I refused) I'd really like an "official" response from the department as opposed to the snarky emails your chief sent me. If you want this to be the department's official response (chiefs email) please respond accordingly as I need some form of OFFICIAL record stating you are leaving the comments turned off moving forward so I can proceed with the 1983 lawsuit.

I really wanted to let this go but after being inappropriately stopped and harassed by your department since making the complaint and having my freedom of speech "chilled" by departmental actions and those of your chief I feel this is now the only options I have. So again consider this official notice of intent to file and please advise if an "official" response is in route or if I use the Chiefs snarky email as my official response.

I had you pull the complaint on the officer I did not ask the first amendment one be pulled. And as you continue to post on the page in violation of the constitution and have failed to complete your "investigation" in a timely matter I would ask you give an appropriate public response as opposed to continuing to not respond. I provided you with the case law your chief requested so I'm curious why I can get the same courtesy. I wrote a 13 page document with Case law cited, per your request, I would think I would be entitled to a response for the free work I did advising the city on the matter. Again I'm not an attorney but I do read the law. Thank you and make it a wonderful day!

(I apologize to the mayor as I stated my last email was the "last" but since we've been CC him in on all this I figured I'd cc him again.)

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

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Date: March 21, 2023 at 20:35:18 EDT
To: "Bradley, Jack" <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>, "McCann, James - Chief" <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur <oh09mk.outreach@mail.house.gov>, "Morris, Jacob" <Jacob_Morris@cityoflorain.org>
Subject: Re: Update

Please see my attached signed response to your email.

insiste Firmiter!

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

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

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 01:01:34 PM EDT, McCann, James - Chief <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

We are working with legal to review all our options concerning our social media accounts. I have also asked the Lorain County Prosecutor's office to review the entire incident at 126 W. 27th St., because in my view, this provides an external review of our actions. Once we receive that review and our Administrative Investigation is completed, it has always been our position to either restore commenting or delete our social media altogether. Social media has proven to be very time consuming and very difficult to manage. I believe our limited resources are better committed elsewhere. I have not made a final decision either way at this time.

I believe I have been one of the most transparent Police Chiefs in Lorain County and I have ALWAYS welcomed criticism from our citizens in Lorain, as they sometimes provide the best feedback to improve our

about:blank

5/7

Exhibit 10

services. Unfortunately, there was too much misinformation being posted about the 27th St. incident, which caused our social media to be hijacked by people from out of state and this caused the management of these accounts to become impossible.

LPD cannot react to an incident on social media until we properly investigate that incident or we would be accused of being reckless. As Chief, I am well-aware that a government agency operating a government social media page is subjugated to legal and constitutional constraints with regards to page management. This is not, nor will it ever be an issue for me. What is at issue is that the public is under no obligation to post honest and informed content. Again, this is not an issue for me; however, harm to the reputation and, in extreme cases physical well-being, of Lorain Police and City of Lorain employees, as well as to the organizations themselves can and has resulted from the misinformation and inaccurate posts on these social media pages. I have personally been the recipient of threats against myself, my family, and my property. Though I am confident in my abilities to protect myself and my family, I am not ok with the LPD social media accounts being used to convey these communications, or to spread the misinformation via public comment that serves as a basis for these threats. To be clear, I am willing and ready to stand in front a Federal Judge to state my case.

Many people, to include you, made up your mind about the 27th St incident after only seeing a portion of one video and not allowing LPD to respond with the totality of all events leading up to the specific incident. This doesn't seem impartial, at least in my opinion. Again, the public is free to form their own opinions, regardless of accuracy or partiality. When misinformation or lack of information creates harm, I cannot stand by idly while the social media accounts that LPD manages are used to spread outright lies by way of comments and attachments from uninformed people. You claim to be an educated social worker, but one would think with your claim of being educated, you would have the ability and the "want" to get all the facts before you make assumptions or even a decision regarding what was right and wrong.

At this time, we have not been able to find any case law that specifically addresses the issue concerning our social media account and the actions we took to calm things down during our administrative investigation. There is, however, specific case law that does address deleting an individual's comments and or deleting or blocking an individual. If you have specific case law that deals with LPD's social media management decisions, I would be happy to review it. Additionally, courts have stated as has the ACLU, that off topic comments can be removed from a post. In other words, if there is a post about a basketball game, a comment that talks about a football game can be deleted. This is of course very time consuming.

Finally, Marcy Kaptur is NOT our Congressional Representative. The whole of Lorain County is within the 5th Congressional District and she represents the 9th district. Also, FOIA applies to records created by federal agencies and does not cover records held by state and local government agencies. In the spirit of cooperation and per your improper FOIA request, all communications between myself and the Law Department fall under attorney client privilege and you are not entitled to that information. It is my understanding that your improper FOIA request for information has been satisfied through our Records Department.

Semper Paratus!

Chief Jim McCann

Lorain Police Department
100 W. Erie Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Office: 440-204-2103
Fax: 440-204-2519

From: Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:30 AM
To: Bradley, Jack <Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>
Cc: McCann, James - Chief <Jim_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur <ch09mk.outreach@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Update

I've had 0 response from the chief, I've filed a complaint, but Lorain Police continues to keep comments on their Facebook OFF, in violation of the First Amendment. I have begun the process of drafting my filing for opening a civil lawsuit to FORCE them into compliance. I've reached out to local news stations and a story should be coming out soon.
Make it a wonderful day!

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

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

Re: Public records request

From: Aaron Knapp (a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)
To: jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org
Cc: jack_bradley@cityoflorain.org; aj_mathewson@cityoflorain.org
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12:31 PM EDT

I just asked whom I would serve. Usually there is an individual whom you would serve and I found out who that was this morning. I recognize there are consequences to frivolous law suits, I could be named a vexatious litigant by the State and face repercussions. I could be held liable for any "legal costs" that the city uses to defend such a law suit, if it was in fact deemed to be brought under frivolous in the eyes of the law.
I as a citizen would also love to see you do the right thing and reopen the Facebook comments.

I am also going to state that again I would prefer you follow the proper procedures set in place for my complaint dated May 8th and respond via US Mail. Please dont waste any extra money registering it just a simply response via US Mail with the reasons you believe you had the right to release Juvenile Court Records and FERPA protected School Online for the Public to consume would be fine. I 100% believe you had and HAVE every right to see those records and utilize them in your investigation, which you did, I dont believe the PUBLIC should have access to the records and simply redacting the Juveniles information serves this purpose and still allows you to utilize the report to sell your narrative.

For the RECORD I dont want to sue anyone, and if I choose to file the Lawsuit it would be for 1 dollar, I am not trying to make money or cost the tax payers (me) any money. I am merely trying to point out the violation and get you to do the right thing. I gave you a clear cut way this could be considered government speech and you ignored it. The fact you left some of the page open for comment is evidenced in that.
I also feel like your attempting to use intimidation tactics (the following me on Facebook and attempting to befriend) and now "strongly suggesting" I seek legal counsel in a matter of the First Amendment, and responding directly to the complaint I filed this morning through email stating you wont even "investigate" it is just kind suspicious. This is just my opinion but it is how I see this interaction.

No-one has bothered to actually reach out or come to any solution on this matter. You could draft up a social media policy that you put out to the public explaining your new plans, you could communicate with the public about why you shut the comments off (no explanation to date), you could actually shut down ALL comments so you dont look like hypocrites (you only shut down comments from the Cleveland thin blue line badge forward. All you have to do is be nice to people. Every email you have ever sent me has been (in my opinion) rude and condescending and if this is how you speak to the public it kind of make things clear on why your officers cannot seem to be polite on the regular. It takes nothing to address a citizens concerns without all this extra back and forth. If you claim to be transparent then put a Statement out explaining to the people how Facebook is hard and you cant manage the comments you shut it down but plan to use the original open forum as a Government speech page. And you did state in a previous email you would either re-open comments or shut the page off completely when the investigation was complete, but you didn't do either of those things, so that's why I am confused and wanted your responses to be sent via mail because email doesnt seem to be working for you.

On the matter of the May 8th complaint about documentation being released online I would prefer an actual mailed response (as stated above) within the 30 days you state will be followed on the complaint form if that's possible. As the Juvenile isn't my case, my child or my purview I wouldn't be the one addressing that issue civilly as I have no reason I was only trying to give the City a heads-up so you could redact it and not give the Hildrith family more to complain about. As you've ignored me doing it the quiet way I filed an actual internal complaint form. Regardless I wont address anything publicly as its been made absolutely clear that it would be career suicide. I just dont understand why everything has to be so difficult? Why every interaction as to be like this? If you are the Public Face of the department why cany these interactions go less negative. Even if I came in hot its your responsibility to de-escalate the situation and I dont really see that happening.

For example you could have stated in todays email:

"Mr. Knapp we appreciate your time and the fact that you are spending it expressing concerns about the Lorain Police Department and its Policies and Procedures. As servants of the public we recognize the importance of the publics opinion of our Law Enforcement Officers and we value your opinion. If there is anything that I as the Chief of Police can

do to assist you I would be happy to do so. I recognize you are not satisfied with our investigation into the Facebook matter and would state I am unable to provide any Legal Advice on this possible open litigation. I would state that our Law Department would be the most likely individuals you would need to contact on the matter. Lastly I know you didn't inquire about the May 8th complaint you filed this morning but I wanted to let you know per Department Policy we will review your complaint and send you a response via US Mail, per our policy, within 30 days. I apologize you have had a less than pleasant experience dealing with our Department and I hope that we as public servants will make a better impression on you in our future interactions. Deepest sincerities, Chief James McCann.

Lastly You are correct I wasn't asking for a public record and I apologize if my request sounded like I was requesting any legal advice as I was not. I was only responding to the chain of emails as there are 3 people in it I assumed would either need to be served but most defiantly would have one individual whom would accept service, such as the Law Director, Mr. Soto, but I acquired that information after I sent the email. Either way I appreciate the timely response. and you also make it a wonderful day!

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

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

On Monday, May 8, 2023 at 11:34:16 AM EDT, McCann, James - Chief <jim_mccann@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Knapp:

First, I will first address your email from May 7, 2023 at 0800 hours:

I feel the need to help you understand what a Public Record actually is: ***According to the Ohio Revised Code a "Public record" means any document regardless of physical form including an electronic record, created or received by or coming under the jurisdiction of any public office, which serves to document the activities of the office.***

You have not asked for any public records in your email, you have asked for legal advice which we do not give. Your questions should be directed to your attorney.

Second, I will address the complaint you filed dated May 8, 2023:

There is no violation of law and we are within our rights to release the information. The complaint will not be investigated.

It is your right to file a law suit (s), but I would strongly suggest you speak to your attorney and ask him to explain the consequences of filing frivolous law suits and the potential repercussions that can come from them.


Make it a Great Day!!

<  **Lorain Police Department** ...
May 11 · 🌐

court case Davison v. Randall ruled that Government pages are public, and will be in violation of the 4th Amendment if they censor critics on their pages. Good luck. Sic Semper Tyrannis.


1w Like Reply 3 



 Top fan

Aaron Knapp

It really needs to be acknowledged. Regardless of how you feel about the previous actions of the department that they did Re-open the Facebook comments and they are now in compliance with the Constitution. Since we reward good behavior I honestly believe we should acknowledge this and say good job! I know many people are upset about previous issues but as for the content of the above post it is also Law that comments that are not subject matter specific can be removed. Fair is fair. That doesn't mean you can't criticize them but be realistic. And while it may be free speech to curse certain phrases on a public forum is really bad form, just saying. Regardless I want to acknowledge that the comments are reopen and say good job.

 You are commenting as a top fan!

[Manage badge](#)

Write a comment...



-  Home
-  Friends
-  Video
-  Dating
-  Notifications
-  Menu

- Do you want to have sex, but are trapped and afraid to leave?
- Have you been in sexual acts with someone in exchange for money or gifts?
- Were you tricked into selling sex thinking you would be doing something different?
- Are you under the age of 18 and is someone pressuring you to sell sex?
- Do you have a debt to someone that you can't pay off?
- Has anyone threatened to hurt you, your family, or friend if you refused to sell sex?
- Is anyone physically or sexually abusing you?
- Has anyone taken sexual photos of you to post online?
- Does anyone take all or part of the money that you earn?
- Is someone holding your passport or identification cards for you?

To whom it may concern,

1. Yes, I am currently practicing as a Social Worker with Applewood Centers as a Therapist with Juvenile Justice in the Crossroads Diversion program where I see juveniles who are court remanded to treatment by the Lorain County Domestic Court.
2. My supervisor is Michelle Sims Director of Juvenile Justice.
3. I "carry a card to hand out" [see Exhibit 15] and if I had come in contact with a Human Trafficking Victim I would give the card to the victim, yes. I generally don't come in contact with Human Trafficking victims but it is a question (exploitation) on the Cans assessment. I also do not have the "videos" as I withdrew the complaint and withdrew the request for the bodycam footage. If the Police wish to provide that is fine but my dashcam only stores videos for a short period and my body cam only showed me driving away so that wasn't saved.
4. I have had the disclaimer on my email for legal reasons. I use my "personal" email for many purposes. I've used that email as a Per Se Litigant in my child's custody case and as such send and receive confidential documents from that email so I utilize it often as a catch all. I utilize it in my capacity as a GAL for the county of Lorain and I do send myself Professional documents and training information to that email so it is my "everything" email. It should be noted prior to my employment at my current position this email was the email I utilized as my "advocacy email address" and was listed as my professional email on my Personal Business Cards that I had made for advocacy. So, I feel it is my "professional email" for MACRO level advocacy purposes. And as such MACRO Level advocacy, personal or professional, requires no actual supervision or specific clinical licensure other than my BSSW. I have my Licensure on my "personal email" as I believe I am mandated to the legal ethical standard in all my duties, both personal and professional, as both can affect my licensure status. SO as such I place my Licensure (**not my employer**) on my

personal email as it is **MY LICENSURE** and I am ultimately responsible for its good standing. I also feel it holds me accountable.

The Pre-Ambles of the Code of Ethics for Social Workers reads:

“The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession’s dual focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living. Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. “Clients” is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation, administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals’ needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession’s history, are the foundation of social work’s unique purpose and perspective:

- *service*
- *social justice*
- *dignity and worth of the person*