

Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 8, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Anthony Nici; Angel Arroyo; Breanna Dull; Joseph LaVeck; Patrick Riley; Tony Cillo; Mike Failing; Sheriff Jack Hall; Mary Springowski  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargasz; Mike Mason; Garon Petty; Lorain Daily; Cleveland Scene; Noelle Williams; Jack Bradley; Fox 8; Rey Carrion; Brian Arnes; Jacob Morris; Mike Massie; State of Ohio  
**Subject:** Submission for Council Record and Agenda – Request for Oversight  
**Attachments:** LETTER TO THE RECORD.pdf; FORMAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM AND INVESTIGATION.pdf

External sender <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Clerk Dull,

Please accept the attached documents for inclusion in the official record of the Lorain City Council and for placement on the next available council agenda:

1. **Letter to the Record** – to be read aloud in full and entered into the minutes.
2. **Formal Request for Agenda Item and Investigation** – seeking council oversight, evidence preservation, and referral for prosecutorial review.

These filings address ongoing retaliation and misuse of public office by Councilwoman Mary Springowski, including the unlawful forwarding of my private email to Tia Hilton without a records request, and her subsequent circulation of a September 8, 2025 email falsely characterizing my protected speech as a “threat.”

I request acknowledgment of receipt, confirmation that the Letter to the Record will be entered into the minutes, and confirmation that the Formal Request will be docketed for the next council meeting.

For transparency, I have copied all relevant parties, including Councilwoman Springowski, Councilman Arroyo, Asst. Law Director LaVeck, Law Director Riley, and the Sheriff’s Office (Legal Affairs).

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp  
LSW, BSSW  
4220 Talbot Ln  
Lorain, OH 44055  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)  
Editor, *Lorain Politics Unplugged*

## **Failing, Mike**

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**From:** Springowski, Mary  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 6, 2025 2:02 PM  
**To:** Riley, Patrick; LaVeck, Joseph; Failing, Mike; Hall, Loraine Ritchey; lorainmary; Mary Springowski  
**Subject:** Fw: A video by Aaron Knapp.

As you can see by his own video, he now plans to confront me at the 17.03 mark.

## **Get Outlook for iOS**

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 6, 2025 1:31:09 PM  
**To:** Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; City Council Mail Group  
Dicken <BDicken@chronicle.com>; Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov <Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov>; Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronimo@fflorain.bank>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@cityoflorain.org>; Mike\_Falling@cityoflorain.org; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori\_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Kyle\_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org; Elsebeth Baumgartner <baumgartner@cityoflorain.org>; a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** A video by Aaron Knapp.

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



**Reel by Aaron Knapp**  
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Riley, and the Sheriff's Office (Legal Affairs).

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Knapp  
LSW, BSSW  
4220 Talbot Ln  
Lorain, OH 44055  
[a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com)  
*Editor, Lorain Politics Unplugged!*

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

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# LETTER TO THE RECORD

To Be Entered into the Minutes of Lorain City Council

Date: September 8th, 2025

**From:**

Aaron C. Knapp, LSW, BSSW  
4220 Talbot Ln  
Lorain, Ohio 44055  
Email: [a4xbeavernian@yahoo.com](mailto:a4xbeavernian@yahoo.com)

**To:**

Lorain City Council  
Attn: Breanna Dull, Clerk of Council  
200 West Erie Avenue  
Lorain, OH 44052

Re: Response to September 6, 2025 Circulated Email Request for Council Action

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Councilwoman Springowski, Councilman Arroyo, Law Director LaVeck, Prosecutor Riley, members of the Lorain County Sheriff's Office, and Clerk Dull,

On September 6, 2025, Councilwoman Springowski circulated an email alleging that in my video I "plan to confront her in public." That message was forwarded to the Law Director, the Prosecutor's Office, the Sheriff's Office, and others. Because the email was distributed widely, I place this response in the public record and address each recipient directly.

As a constituent, my rights are guaranteed by R.C. 121.22, the Ohio Open Meetings Act, which ensures that the public may attend, observe, and participate in council proceedings, and by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which protects the right to petition government and engage in political speech. Attending meetings and addressing my representatives is not a threat; it is the essence of representative government.

Nothing in my video was threatening. I have never spoken to Councilwoman Springowski at a council meeting. To mischaracterize my video as a threat is to weaponize my speech against me. This is not an isolated incident. Councilwoman Springowski participated in retaliatory tactics directed at me in the prior Hilton matter, where she forwarded my personal email directly to Tia Hilton outside of any public records request and without lawful redaction, despite Hilton having an active Civil Protection Order against me. That disclosure was improper and dangerous.

For the record, the video that Councilwoman Springowski now cites as proof of a "threat" was made in response to that misconduct. My statement that I would "confront" her was not a threat of violence or any unlawful act. It was a declaration that I intended to hold her publicly accountable through lawful civic means. The attempt to twist that statement into a criminal accusation is nothing more than an effort to criminalize protected speech. Courts have repeatedly held that such retaliation is unlawful. See *Norwell v. Cincinnati*, 414 U.S. 14 (1973); *City of Houston v. Hill*, 482 U.S. 451 (1987).

The current circulation of my video to prosecutorial and law enforcement offices follows the same retaliatory playbook. I now state for the record that these coordinated efforts constitute harassment and retaliation. Councilwoman Springowski is falsely reporting to law enforcement that I am threatening her, and enough is enough. Such false accusations not only chill my constitutional rights but also amount to defamation, as they falsely impute criminal conduct to me in communications with third parties.

Retaliation by public officials is unlawful. Under Ohio law, a public servant who, under color of office, knowingly deprives a person of rights protected by the Constitution or laws of Ohio may be guilty of a crime (see R.C. 2921.45, Interference with Civil Rights). In addition to criminal exposure, such conduct may give rise to civil liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and Ohio tort law, including defamation. Because the conduct at issue here has already occurred, I demand that all relevant communications, records, and metadata be preserved immediately, that the Clerk of Council and Law Director notify the appropriate prosecutorial authority to review these actions, and that Council open a formal oversight inquiry without delay. Failure to preserve evidence or to refer this matter for review will itself be noted in any future legal or administrative filing.

Councilman Arroyo, as my Ward representative, I remind you that I first asked you to represent me and take action when Councilwoman Springowski improperly forwarded my private email to Hillon without a records request and without redaction. You did not respond. I now renew that request in light of this new misconduct. You have a statutory duty under R.C. 731.05 to act as legislator for the City of Lorain and under R.C. 731.10 to exercise oversight of municipal officers and ensure that the business of council is conducted lawfully and openly. This duty is not ceremonial. It requires you to protect the public's right to attend, observe, and speak at council meetings under R.C. 121.22, and to intervene when other public officials attempt to chill or suppress those rights.

I now renew my demand that you place this matter on the council agenda for formal discussion and oversight. The forwarding of my video to law enforcement and prosecutors under the pretense that it constitutes a threat is not only a misuse of public office and resources but also a potential violation of R.C. 2921.45 (Interference with Civil Rights).

When a councilmember recasts peaceful civic engagement as a criminal threat and circulates that narrative to law enforcement, it undermines the very statutory guarantees you are duty-bound to uphold. The United States Supreme Court has made clear that such tactics violate the Constitution. In *Norwell v. City of Cincinnati*, 414 U.S. 14 (1973), the Court held that a citizen may not be punished merely for "non-provocatively voicing his objection" to government action.

In *City of Houston v. Hill*, 482 U.S. 451 (1987), the Court struck down an ordinance criminalizing verbal challenges to police, emphasizing that the First Amendment protects “a significant amount of verbal criticism and challenge directed at police officers.” In *Nieves v. Bartlett*, 587 U.S. \_\_\_ (2019), the Court reaffirmed that retaliation against lawful expressive conduct—even when officials claim to perceive it as hostile—is impermissible.

Ohio courts have likewise recognized that the Open Meetings Act must be liberally construed in favor of openness and participation. In *State ex rel. White v. Cleveland*, 125 Ohio St.3d 526 (2010), the Ohio Supreme Court stressed that transparency and public participation are fundamental obligations of government. In *State ex rel. Fairfield Leader v. Ricketts*, 56 Ohio St.2d 97 (1978), the Court held that public officials may not conduct business in a manner that deters or excludes citizens. These rulings reinforce that the law presumes in favor of citizen participation—not suppression.


Your failure to investigate or respond compounds the problem. As my Ward representative, you are obligated to ensure that public resources are not weaponized against constituents and that council business is not conducted in a retaliatory or exclusionary manner. Allowing false accusations of threats to stand unchallenged violates both constitutional precedent and statutory duty under R.C. 731.05, R.C. 731.10, and R.C. 121.22.

I will continue to attend and participate in council meetings peacefully, lawfully, and within my constitutional rights. **Continued attempts to classify or prosecute my protected speech as criminal conduct will be treated as retaliatory actions. Such conduct will be documented and may give rise to claims under both Ohio and federal law.**

Let the record reflect that I expressly reserve all rights under R.C. 149.43, the Ohio Public Records Act, and under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the federal civil rights statute, to pursue remedies if my speech and participation are further mischaracterized or if public officials, acting under color of law, retaliate against me for exercising my rights.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron C. Knapp  
LSW, BSSW  
Editor, *Lorain Politics Unplugged*

X  Aaron C. Knapp

**CC for Record:**  
Councilwoman Mary Springowski  
Councilman Angel Arroyo  
Clerk of Council Breanna Dull  
Law Director Joseph LaVéck  
Prosecutor Patrick Riley  
Lorain County Sheriff's Office (Legal Affairs, Tony Nici)

**Legal Citations for Record:**

R.C. 121.22; R.C. 731.05; R.C. 731.10; R.C. 2921.45; R.C. 149.43; U.S. Const. Amend. I; 42 U.S.C. § 1983; *Norwell v. Cincinnati*, 414 U.S. 14 (1973); *City of Houston v. Hill*, 482 U.S. 451 (1987); *Nieves v. Bartlett*, 587 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2019); *State ex rel. White v. Cleveland*, 125 Ohio St.3d 526 (2010); *State ex rel. Fairfield Leuder v. Ricketts*, 56 Ohio St.2d 97 (1978)

**Falbo, Carlie**

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**From:** Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:41 PM  
**To:** Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org  
**Subject:** RE: Counsel Letter  
**Attachments:** Counsel Letter.pdf

Mary Springowski  
Lorain City Council at Large  
440-219-8747

\*Please do not use this email for personal or political correspondence

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Springowski, Mary" <Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Date:** 5/17/23 6:35 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Dull, Breanna" <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>, "Partin, Maggie" <Maggie\_Partin@cityoflorain.org>, City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, "Lahetta, Eric" <Eric\_Lahetta@cityoflorain.org>, "Garcia, Lori" <lori\_garcia@cityoflorain.org>, "Washington, Sanford" <Sanford\_Washington@cityoflorain.org>, "Bradley, Jack" <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>, cwoytach@chroniclet.com, hchapin@morningjournal.com  
**Subject:** FW: Counsel Letter

Mary Springowski  
Lorain City Council at Large  
440-219-8747

\*Please do not use this email for personal or political correspondence

----- Original message -----

**From:** Mary Springowski via Adobe Acrobat <message@adobe.com>  
**Date:** 5/17/23 6:32 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Springowski, Mary" <Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Counsel Letter



Mary Springowski (springowski@gmail.com) has shared **Counsel Letter.pdf**.

You can also comment on it.

[Open](#)

**SENT BY** Mary Springowski (springowski@gmail.com)

**SHARED ON** 17-May-2023 03:32 PM PDT

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To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that there are issues revolving around our parks which I dearly love as a citizen of Lorain and Lorain County. It's my understanding that currently the city is having issues maintaining its parks. I have suggested "online" that the city hire an outside agency to maintain our city parks. While I applaud the efforts of the council and the Mayor to add new parks like Fairless Park I feel it has come at the expense of maintaining our current parks. While I have watched in dismay as the city has bickered over pools and splash pads all while seemingly ignoring basic maintenance of the properties. While I understand that things do happen in life I also know that the city would hold, and does, citizens accountable for "blighted yards" and graffiti on properties and requires the homeowners to clean it. In rare instances they also will hire outside contractors to do the work and then bill the homeowner. It is my suggestion the city do this very thing and hire outside contractors (through a legal bidding process) to maintain the lawn care, trash and recycling, weed abatement etc. of Lorain City Parks.

Now I know it's been said that it's the "people" of Lorain who trash the parks so we should be the ones to fix it. We organize volunteers to maintain the parks as well as have individuals (like myself and a nice lady off Fairless) who pick up trash and debris in the area. And while I recognize that will still be necessary if we hired a company that was dedicated to the upkeep of our City Parks then I feel like that would alleviate a lot of the issues we see with the parks looking poor. Also by maintaining the land and including graffiti abatement services in the contract, we clean up our parks and make our property values go up. I understand the city has workers that do other mowing and maintenance of city property and they can continue to do so without violation of the Union contracts hopefully. The city would only be assigning park care and graffiti abatement to the contractors.

While we can't expect the Lorain Police to catch all minor criminals I would point out that graffiti is a misdemeanor in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree 509.15 GRAFFITI. And littering is a crime under Section 3767.32 Littering. The Ohio Revised Code prohibits littering, regardless of whether or not it was intentional. Numerous laws prohibit littering and illegal dumping. Littering is a serious offense, punishable by fines of up to \$500 and 60 days in jail. I bet if the police had special units that patrolled our parks and streets, like the PIT Crew perhaps, who could ticket people for littering and graffiti we could reduce these crimes from occurring. A reasonable person would assume that if we have time to stop kids for "jaywalking" then we have time to stop them for Graffiti and littering (the latter carries a hefty fine). I believe if we went about enforcing these minor laws then maybe the citizenry would be emboldened to see something and say something. But as it stands now if we complain on Facebook we are wrong and just complaining, if we call the police they are too busy to respond to minor stuff and usually speak down to the citizens who are calling in (pull on the audio files of people calling in and review them if I am wrong so be it, but I am not), City Council can only do so much but when it's always suggested for citizens to come to the meetings they are always at the same date and time. And some of us cannot come at that time due to work issues. Perhaps you create a meeting every other month on the morning or early afternoon that those who cannot make the later one could come attend?

In California we had two Officers, one a Sargent, who was assigned to the different "beats" or Wards as you call them who were assigned to do Foot Patrols in those areas (or Bikes) and have them interact with the public. They usually worked in areas with businesses, malls, public amenities (Boardwalk) and parks. These Foot Patrols were called "Frank Units" and their main job was community engagement and policing. I also see Elyria recently dedicated two officers to traffic enforcement and have involved the citizens in directing them to the "hot spots". In Lorain we have officers stopping for Jaywalking and who, more often than not, have 0 people skills. I respect our Officers and believe they do a hard job but they are representatives of the city and cannot just speak to people in a harsh or negative

manner. The mere fact that tax payer dollars had to be wasted on a drawn out investigation that lead to D charges filed and was posted online on a tax payer funded website is just beyond me. The Lorain Police posted Juvenile Court Documents that are supposed to be sealed by law and while the Police have access to them they do not allow for dissemination to the public. To date those documents are still online. So when I hear things like the police don't have enough manpower or can't enforce all laws but I see them enforcing Jay Walking Tickets that lead to Special Investigations I feel like I am being told one thing but seeing another. Politeness and Kindness go along way and I feel like our Standard Operating Procedure has become being hostile and placing blame on everyone else:

As I've stated On "Facebook" I see the following issues:

1. More Trashcans that are "Secured" in the parks.
2. Someone to empty those cans weekly.
3. Contracted Lawn care and Maintained for All City Parks.
4. Graffiti and Litter enforcement patrols in conjunction with the already conducted jaywalking enforcement.
5. Fix and maintain the Baseball Diamond and the Basketball courts at Homewood Park.
6. Weed abatement in all city parks but especially in the play area of Homewood Park.
7. A community Recreation Center and programs to go with it. We can't even figure out this pool fiasco so I have no hope on this one but it would be amazing.
8. Spend some of these ARPA Funds we keep trying to give away on meaningful projects that improve our civic properties.
9. Road Improvements everywhere. We have some areas (near the high school) that look amazing and we maintain a few main areas but we have potholes ALL OVER the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward on roads leading out towards Days Dam and in front of Southwood Middle School, and it can't

Just be on the citizens to report these issues and the city needs to put effort into restoring our infrastructure.

10. Expand your thought process to encompass ALL of Lorain not just Broadway.
11. Repair Sidewalks and add bike lanes. Re-paint crosswalks (if were enforcing Jay walking). If we can build a parking area for Fairless and again leave other areas in front of the school a pothole mess what's the point?
12. Bring in Art in the Park and other child friendly activities to enrich our new park experience at parks like Fairless.
13. Understand that poverty and crime contribute to these factors and that by providing more community resources as well as enforcement of existing laws we can slowly address the issues facing the city. Yes we may have to paint over stuff a few times, repair stuff, and even rebuild it, but eventually it will stand tall. We do these things because it's the right thing to do and it's what good people do. We don't deny people amenities based on the poor choices of some.
14. A Citizen lead and run Police Oversight Committee would be nice as it seems Lorain Police never finds any wrong doing when it investigates itself.
15. Classes and regular retraining for ALL City employees on how to properly address people on the phone who call for service. This goes for the water, sewage, police, and any agency run by the city to better improve relationships between the city and the citizens.
16. Kudos on the Lorain Listens but we should start to expand on that. I'm not sure on how that looks but it's something to look into. It's a great start.
17. Look into partnering with Probation and the Corrections department to allow inmates and probationers who have community service to work off that debt working in the parks and doing maintenance.

I don't have all the answers but a great many just start with listening and providing avenues for the public to address their concerns. The instance that the citizens come to the meetings it's nice but in the end you cannot serve a community unless you go and meet them where they are at. There are programs that are available that we could promote more, But in the end let's do as the App says and just "Listen".



Aaron C Knapp LSW,

Citizen Lorain Ohio

**Falbo, Carlie**

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**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:44 PM  
**To:** Tony Cillo; Sheriff Jack Hall  
**Subject:** Fw: Mary and Tony Now on Youtube

Get Outlook for iOS

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**From:** Justice4LorainCounty@proton.me <Justice4LorainCounty@proton.me>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:40:19 PM  
**To:** Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** garonpetty@roadrunner.com <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>; Dull, Breanna <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle\_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>; Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>; Moon, JoAnne <joanne\_moon@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; rgargas@gmail.com <rjgargas@gmail.com>; a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Terri <Terri\_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Rick <Rick\_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori\_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Lopez, Alonna <Alonna\_Lopez@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita <Anita\_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Tremaine, Pam <Pam\_Tremaine@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bames00@gmail.com>; Jeanne Petty <jeanne\_810@yahoo.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; dtucker@morningjournal.com <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Elsebeth Baumgartner <baumgartner.elsebeth@yahoo.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Peggy Gallek <peggy.gallek@fox8.com>; Ed Gallek <ed.gallek@fox8.com>; Dan Gilles <Dgillescle@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera <lriviera25594@gmail.com>; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Mary and Tony Now on Youtube

**Warning: Unusual sender** <justice4loraincounty@proton.me>

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

By the powers vested in the Ohio Constitution, I request that Article V, Section 6 be upheld and motion that an independent probate judge allow for a full mental evaluation and competency hearing, including chemical dependency and drug/tox screens, that be conducted upon the following city council members, as they have defrauded the citizens of Lorain city and have no intelligence or have the mental capacity to hold public office. They are Tony Dimacchia and Mary Springowski.

They have been lying to the residents and to the citizens of the city of Lorain and even been lying to themselves, and even lying to each other. Now is the time, the time is now. They try to silence and discredit anyone against them and cry foul when they don't get their way. They should both resign.

Just my opinion I could be wrong







# Article V, Section 6 | persons

Ohio Constitution /  
Article V Elective Franchi

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

*Effective: September 1, 1851*

On Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 17:54, <Justice4LorainCounty@proton.me> wrote:

This is exactly one of the reasons why Chief Mike Failing will flourish as Lorain Police Chief, and restore public trust in LPD.. He is the right man for the job. Congratulations Chief! Already out of the gate and restoring the faith in transparency!

On another note based on emails posted to facebook, regarding Mary Springowski, the question is why is she forwarding and/or CC'ing non-governmental employees to "potential issues" regarding anything having to do with safety or security or "escalating" issues? I saw she cc'ed her private email and someone names lorrain ritchie..

So now everyone needs to know that now she has done this, it opens up her private personal email account to the matter of public records and she must provide them under the law. As soon as a government office uses their personal accounts for government relations even as simple as forwarding or cc an email to it, or sending a text from your personal phone during an official media, the ohio court of claims 2019 case ruled that they are subject to public records laws if one can prove it, well her own email sent today proves just that. so request away and use this case as a precedent..

On a third note, Mary Springowski should resign from office.

On Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 11:18, Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org> wrote:

Mr. Petty..

Attached are your records request as it pertains to the Lorain Police Department..

Sincerely,

Chief Micheel Failing

From: Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 3:18 PM  
To: Dull, Breanna <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle\_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Failing, Mike <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Springowski, Mary

<Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>; Arroyo, Angel <Angel\_Arroyo@cityoflorain.org>; Moon, JoAnne <joanne\_moon@cityoflorain.org>; Comer, David <DComer@CityofLorain.org>  
Cc: City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Terri <Terri\_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Soto, Rick <Rick\_Soto@cityoflorain.org>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori\_Kokoski@cityoflorain.org>; Lopez, Alonna <Alonna\_Lopez@cityoflorain.org>; Harper, Anita <Anita\_Harper@cityoflorain.org>; Tremaine, Pam <Pam\_Tremaine@cityoflorain.org>; Brian Ames <bames00@gmail.com>; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Jeanne Petty <jeanne\_810@yahoo.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chronicle.com>; Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>; Elsebeth Baumgartner <baumgartner.elsebeth@yahoo.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Peggy Gallek <peggy.gallek@fox8.com>; Ed Gallek <ed.gallek@fox8.com>; Sensai Cobra <Justice4LorainCounty@proton.me>; Dan Gilles <Dgillesde@gmail.com>; Linda Rivera <nriviera25594@gmail.com>; Dennis Flores <dennisforlorain@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Mary and Tony Now on Youtube

**External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>**

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

Hello Clerk Dull and Lorain Police records,

I am asking by 149.43 ORC, what did Mary Springowski get out of her purse put in her mouth and give to Tony DiMacchia

during the September 2, 2025 city council meeting.

The city council meeting on demand video records them taking items into their mouths from Springowski's purse at the 56:07

minute mark of the city video. Also at the 1:43:48 mark Council members Moon and Arroyo are whispering outside the

hearing of the public (121.22 ORC violation). I want their conversation sent to me and added to the minutes.

Plus the audio recording Mrs Springowski says she has from a disturbance on Kansas ave. She mentions sending an email to Chief Failing, beginning at the 1:43:14 mark

until the 1:44:00 mark made public. I want all email exchanges with Springowski and Failing from August 30, 2025 until the present. Plus the call log of Springowski's city phone for the time period of January 1, 2025 until the present. Also all CAD numbers and police reports of any police involvement with any incidents on Kansas Ave on August 30, 2025 as stated by Mrs Springowski.

You ASAP response will be appreciated.

Thank you,

Garon Petty



Mary Springowski Passing  
something to Tony DiMaccis

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

## Falbo, Carlie

---

**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 12:17 PM  
**To:** lritch7@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Fw: DiMacchia wants action against me for trespassing in the "private" area?

### [Get Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:07:41 AM  
**To:** Dimacchia, Tony <tony\_dimacchia@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <Joel\_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Dull, Breanna <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Zaleski, Don <Don\_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mike Mason <Mike.Mason@woio.com>; Mike Massie <MMASSIE@LCDTF.COM>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cll@gmail.com>; Jack Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Brian Ames <bames00@gmail.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@chicago.gov>; Jonathan Schuppe@nbcuni.com <Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com>; Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronimo@case.edu>; clandestinecanary <clandestinecanary@proton.me>; Clevescene <news@clevescene.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>  
**Subject:** DiMacchia wants action against me for trespassing in the "private" area?

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Perhaps Mr. DiMacchia and ex Chief McCann needs to learn council rule 4 f about entrance into his "private area" as he calls council chambers?

That only applies while a legal meeting is in session.

Joel Arredondo needs refreshed also from his answers to Lt. Morris in his police interview July 3, 2024, page 8 & 9 of his police transcript interview?

LORAIN MUNICIPAL COURT  
100 WEST ERIE AVE  
LORAIN, OH 44051  
(440) 294-2380

Case No. 2024CR002378

STATE OF OHIO

Plaintiff

v.

JOURNAL ENTRY &  
ORDER TO APPEAR

GARON FRANKLIN FETTY

Defendant

Case	Charge Description	Level
1	CRIMINAL TRESPASS - KNOWING	Misdemeanor
2	DISORDERLY CONDUCT - RECKLESSLY MAKE UNREASONABLE NOISE OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE	Misdemeanor

DEFENDANT ENTERS PLEA OF NOT GUILTY TO ALL CHARGES ON THE ABOVE CAPTIONED CASE NUMBER AND THE PLEA IS ACCEPTED.  
THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED CASE HAS BEEN SET FOR PRE-TRIAL ON October 21, 2024 AT 1000 AM IN COURTROOM 3 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES KIMBLE.

Placed:

Attorney for Defendant:  
ROBERT JOHN GARGALE

Officer:

LORAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date of Offense 09/16/2024

Defendant:

GARON FRANKLIN FETTY  
128 FARMINGTON  
LORAIN, OH 44051

Other Comments:

09/19/2024  
Date

  
MARK MIRON  
Judge of the Lorain Municipal Court

-----Original Message-----

From: Dimacchia, Tony <tony\_dimacchia@cityoflorain.org>

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 8:51 PM

To: City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; McCana, James - Chief <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel\_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>

Subject: Public behavior this evening

All,

What transpired this evening was **ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE**. This evening a member of the public, Garron Petty, entered the private area of council chambers. An area which is clearly posted for the public not to enter. And he, in an intimidating and threatening manner, yelled at our Clerk Breanna Dull. Not only did he trespass but he engaged in threatening behavior to the one person that always has our backs when it comes to Council's business and the city business as a whole. She should never have to be escorted out or put in a position of having the feeling of fear of any one person specially someone who is prohibited from being in that area. He was as far back as to being behind where Mayor Bradly sits and no one stepped up to tell him to get out or that his behavior was inappropriate and will not be tolerated. I am disgusted at the incident and lack of control and respect for our chamber. I want to publicly apologize to Bre for not stepping up and diffusing the situation in a timely manner.

Moving forward I am requesting that no member of the public be allowed in that area unless they have been invited and have city business, i.e accepting a resolution. I also want action taken against Mr. Petty for his intimidation of Bre and for him trespassing in the private area. I realize that some of my colleagues will immediately forward this email to him but I truly hope that those folks that will be including him in this email also realize that they are condoning his behavior and that he has disrespected our Clerk and Council Chamber.

Again my apologies to Bre for the unfortunate situation and I will do better next time.

Seko, Michele

**From:** McCann, James - Chief  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2024 8:52 PM  
**To:** Failing, Mike; Mathewson, AJ; Morris, Jacob  
**Cc:** Carrion, Rey; Bradley, Jack; Riley, Patrick  
**Subject:** Council meeting

**Captain Miller:**

There was an incident tonite at the council meeting where Garron Patty went beyond the partition and covered the Council Clerk Briana Duff and began yelling at her.

5 You are directed to assign someone, you can use LT Morris if it will help, to conduct a criminal investigation into the events that transpired. It is possible it is on video. This will begin first thing tomorrow morning when she arrives at work.

**Captain Mathewson / Lt. Morris:**

You are directed to have the Community Unit rotate through each Monday to provide an officer presence for council meetings and committee meetings from here forward. There will also be a rotation of a captain and a chief. Between this four of us we will have two officers working each meeting with full gear. No exceptions.

**Make it happen.**

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

## MISCELLANEOUS RULES

### **RULE 40 - Violations of Council Rules**

If any member, in speaking or otherwise, violates any of these rules, the President shall, or any member may call him to order. The question of order shall be decided immediately and without debate.

### **RULE 41- Other Rules/Council Chamber**

Except as provided herein, the most current version of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of Council. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to comprehend and enforce such rules together with the rules herein set forth. No person, other than members of Lorain City Council, staff or other city official shall enter the designated area beyond the bar of the chamber assigned to the Elected Officials after commencement of the meeting. A space shall be designated in the Council Chamber as "Reserved for the Media" and shall be used only by the media in attendance for that purpose.<sup>2</sup> Members of Council shall attend the following training sessions prior to the end of their term and submit the certificate of completion to the Clerk for retention purposes. Ohio Attorney General Sunshine Law Training, BRIT/PERC training module(s) Sensitivity Basics -(two sessions) and Diversity -(one session.)

**Falbo, Carlie**

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**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 1, 2024 6:18 AM  
**To:** lorainmary  
**Subject:** Fw: Subpoena  
**Attachments:** image0.jpeg; image1.png; image2.jpeg

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 30, 2024 2:45:15 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Jack M. Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Giovanna Bremke <gbremke@bremkelaw.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cillo@gmail.com>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Jackie Conrad <butanist62@hotmail.com>; David O'Brien <dobrien@chroniclet.com>  
**Cc:** Kalo, Ted <Ted\_Kalo@cityoflorain.org>; David Yost AG <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Subpoena

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

To serve someone a civil subpoena in Ohio, you can personally deliver a copy of the subpoena to them, leave it at their usual place of residence with an adult, or mail it via certified or express mail, return receipt requested; the person serving the subpoena must be at least 18 years old and not a party to the case; proof of service must be filed with the court.

This is absolutely unacceptable. What kind of dog and pony show are you running?

Serve me properly and I'll consider myself served. You people at Lorain Law and the clerk's office really just do what you want, huh?

I'll be seeking an attorney as you people can't seem to follow the laws of Ohio when it comes to subpoenas. Also did you think to inform opposing counsel as required by law?

This feel like harassment. Why didn't Lorain Police interview me? Why didn't you call or ask me to speak to you before issuing an illegal subpoena? I'm going to records request the probable cause affidavits you gave for this warrant as well.

I'll be seeking an attorney as I am not a party to this matter and you have now involved me.

You sent me all the evidence up front (you still have not provided that evidence to the opposing counsel). I gave the thumb drive that was given to me by LPD Lt Morris to opposing counsel (I never understood why I received CLEIRS during an investigation).

You have involved me, a media agency/agent in your attempt to persecute a citizen for "trespassing " in a city"public" building and I will not participate in this farce.

I'm claiming Media protection under the 5th and 1st Amendment on all videos I may or may not have. I'm also requesting you serve me LEGALLY and not with a 69 c postage stamp..that's just insulting and disrespectful.

So serve me properly so I can get an attorney and refuse you properly.

Ps: any further communication in this matter should be directed to me certified US mail as required by law. Stop trying to break the rules, you're supposed to know the law, act like it for a change.



**YOU ARE  
MUNICIPAL**  
Lorain on the  
testify as a witn

**PLEASE REP  
CITY HALL,**

If you have any  
number are list

**WITNESS my  
November, 20**

8200 Haggerty  
Belleville MI, 48

RECA  
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STATE OF C

**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 Nov 30, 2024, at 13:49, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

So let me understand this. I'm being subpoenaed for something I was not present for? And I'm being subpoenaed to provide a "video" that you claim I have. Merely asking for all video I have on it about 7/1/24 is very vague. Why do you believe I have this video?

What format do I have it on?

What would it show?

My answer is "I plead the 5th" and claim journalistic protection.

Don't you have videos in city hall and the lobby showing all of that?

What proof do you have that I have this video in my possession?

Also I'll be getting an attorney and from here on out pleading the 5th moving forward.

If a journalist received an illegally recorded conversation and was not involved in the illegal conduct, the First Amendment likely protects the publication of such material, to the extent it is a matter of public concern and truthful. See *Bartnicki v. Vopper*, 532 U.S. 514 (2001). For more information,

A growing consensus of courts have recognized a constitutional right to record government officials engaged in their duties in a public place. This First Amendment right to record generally encompasses both video and audio recording.

**Section 2739.12 | Newspaper reporters not required to reveal source of information.**

No person engaged in the work of, or connected with, or employed by any newspaper or any press association for the purpose of gathering, procuring, compiling, editing, disseminating, or publishing news shall be required to disclose the source of any information procured or obtained by such person in the course of his employment, in any legal proceeding, trial, or investigation before any court, grand jury, petit jury, or any officer thereof, before the presiding officer of any tribunal, or his agent, or before any commission, department, division, or bureau of this state, or before any county or municipal body, officer or committee thereof.

**Section 2739.12 | Newspaper reporters not required to reveal source of information.**

<image0.jpeg>

**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.

**Falbo, Carlie**

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**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary.Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 4:25 PM  
**To:** Loraine Ritchey  
**Subject:** Fw: Documentation Regarding Unemployment Claim Filed by Councilwoman Mary Springowski

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**From:** Koziura, Joseph <Joe\_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 3:52:28 PM  
**To:** Springowski, Mary <Mary.Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Documentation Regarding Unemployment Claim Filed by Councilwoman Mary Springowski

**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 11:22 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Kempton <rek5767@aol.com>  
**Cc:** Office Robert J Gargasz Co LPA <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Documentation Regarding Unemployment Claim Filed by Councilwoman Mary Springowski

**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.

[Download Attachment](#)  
available until Jun 29, 2025

Message received thank you.

Did you report this to law enforcement or prosecutors?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2025, at 10:36 AM, Rebecca Kempton <rek5767@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Gargasz,

It's my understanding that you are gathering information regarding possible illegal or unethical actions involving Councilwoman At-Large Mary Springowski. In light of that, I wanted to share the attached documentation for your review. While this incident occurred some time ago and may now fall outside the statute of limitations, I believe it still serves as a relevant character reference, particularly in the context of a broader pattern.

This document outlines how Ms. Springowski, while actively serving as a paid member of Lorain City Council, filed for unemployment through ODJFS claiming she was laid off by the City. The City of Lorain formally disputed the claim, stating she was not laid off and was not eligible for unemployment as an elected official. Despite this, her claim was approved and she received benefits — effectively collecting both unemployment and her council pay simultaneously. The City was forced to contest the filing in official documentation.

The Director of Human Resources, Lori Kokoski, explained in an internal email that council members are elected officials, not employees, and therefore not eligible for unemployment. Mayor Jack Bradley agreed with her assessment and explicitly stated he did not support Ms. Springowski's claim.

I received this packet a little over two years ago and shared it with multiple media outlets, including Garron and Aaron Knapp. While both acknowledged the issue seemed questionable, none pursued it. One television station told me the story was shelved because it was "too close to the election" and considered too minor despite its implications.

While I'm not a legal expert, I believe this incident is relevant, especially given Ms. Springowski's continued insistence that she did nothing wrong — even after being informed by the City that she was ineligible for unemployment. Her response shows a troubling unwillingness to accept accountability.

Please review the attached material and use it as you see fit. I would prefer that my name not be associated with this unless absolutely necessary, simply to avoid unnecessary complications for my sister. That said, if disclosure becomes essential, I understand.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kempton

P.S. The attached packet includes internal city emails from Human Resources Director Lori Kokoski explaining that elected officials are not eligible for unemployment benefits. It also contains a formal response from Mayor Jack Bradley confirming the city did not support Ms. Springowski's claim, as well as documentation showing she continued to receive Council pay during the time she collected unemployment. The city's formal objection to the claim and supporting records are also included.

[Click to Download](#)

Springowski - 1 of 1  
0 bytes

Thanks  
Rebecca  
Sent from my iPhone

**Falbo, Carlie**

---

**From:** Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:41 PM  
**To:** Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Attachments:** Counsel Letter.pdf

Mary Springowski  
Lorain City Council at Large  
440-219-8747

\*Please do not use this email for personal or political correspondence

----- Original message -----

**From:** "McCann, James - Chief" <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>  
**Date:** 5/17/23 6:38 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Springowski, Mary" <Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:**

It's asking for a password

Chief Jim McCann  
Lorain Police Department

Sent from my iPhone.

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that there are issues revolving around our parks which I dearly love as a citizen of Lorain and Lorain County. It's my understanding that currently the city is having issues maintaining its parks. I have suggested "online" that the city hire an outside agency to maintain our city parks. While I applaud the efforts of the council and the Mayor to add new parks like Fairless Park I feel it has come at the expense of maintaining our current parks. While I have watched in dismay as the city has bickered over pools and splash pads all while seemingly ignoring basic maintenance of the properties. While I understand that things do happen in life I also know that the city would hold, and does, citizens accountable for "blighted yards" and graffiti on properties and requires the homeowners to clean it. In rare instances they also will hire outside contractors to do the work and then bill the homeowner. It is my suggestion the city do this very thing and hire outside contractors (through a legal bidding process) to maintain the lawn care, trash and recycling, weed abatement etc. of Lorain City Parks.

Now I know it's been said that it's the "people" of Lorain who trash the parks so we should be the ones to fix it. We organize volunteers to maintain the parks as well as have individuals (like myself and a nice lady off Fairless) who pick up trash and debris in the area. And while I recognize that will still be necessary if we hired a company that was dedicated to the upkeep of our City Parks then I feel like that would alleviate a lot of the issues we see with the parks looking poor. Also by maintaining the land and including graffiti abatement services in the contract, we clean up our parks and make our property values go up. I understand the city has workers that do other mowing and maintenance of city property and they can continue to do so without violation of the Union contracts hopefully. The city would only be assigning park care and graffiti abatement to the contractors.

While we can't expect the Lorain Police to catch all minor criminals I would point out that graffiti is a misdemeanor in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree 509.15 GRAFFITI. And littering is a crime under Section 3767.32 | Littering. The Ohio Revised Code prohibits littering, regardless of whether or not it was intentional. Numerous laws prohibit littering and illegal dumping. Littering is a serious offense, punishable by fines of up to \$500 and 60 days in jail. I bet if the police had special units that patrolled our parks and streets, like the PIT Crew perhaps, who could ticket people for littering and graffiti we could reduce these crimes from occurring. A reasonable person would assume that if we have time to stop kids for "jaywalking" then we have time to stop them for Graffiti and littering (the latter carries a hefty fine). I believe if we went about enforcing these minor laws then maybe the citizenry would be emboldened to see something and say something. But as it stands now if we complain on Facebook we are wrong and just complaining, if we call the police they are too busy to respond to minor stuff and usually speak down to the citizens who are calling in (pull on the audio files of people calling in and review them if I am wrong so be it, but I am not), City Council can only do so much but when it's always suggested for citizens to come to the meetings they are always at the same date and time. And some of us cannot come at that time due to work issues. Perhaps you create a meeting every other month on the morning or early afternoon that those who cannot make the later one could come attend?

In California we had two Officers, one a Sargent, who was assigned to the different "beats" or Wards as you call them who were assigned to do Foot Patrols in those areas (or Bikes) and have them interact with the public. They usually worked in areas with businesses, malls, public amenities (Boardwalk) and parks. These Foot Patrols were called "Frank Units" and their main job was community engagement and policing. I also see Elyria recently dedicated two officers to traffic enforcement and have involved the citizens in directing them to the "hot spots". In Lorain we have officers stopping for Jaywalking and who, more often than not, have 0 people skills. I respect our Officers and believe they do a hard job but they are representatives of the city and cannot just speak to people in a harsh or negative

manner. The mere fact that tax payer dollars had to be wasted on a drawn out investigation that lead to D charges filed and was posted online on a tax payer funded website is just beyond me. The Lorain Police posted Juvenile Court Documents that are supposed to be sealed by law and while the Police have access to them they do not allow for dissemination to the public. To date those documents are still online. So when I hear things like the police don't have enough manpower or can't enforce all laws but I see them enforcing Jay Walking Tickets that lead to Special Investigations I feel like I am being told one thing but seeing another. Politeness and Kindness go along way and I feel like our Standard Operating Procedure has become being hostile and placing blame on everyone else.

As I've stated On "Facebook" I see the following issues:

1. More Trashcans that are "Secured" in the parks
2. Someone to empty those cans weekly.
3. Contracted Lawn care and Maintained for All City Parks
4. Graffiti and Litter enforcement patrols in conjunction with the already conducted jaywalking enforcement.
5. Fix and maintain the Baseball Diamond and the Basketball courts at Homewood Park.
6. Weed abatement in all city parks but especially in the play area of Homewood Park.
7. A community Recreation Center and programs to go with it. We can't even figure out this pool fiasco so I have no hope on this one but it would be amazing.
8. Spend some of these ARPA Funds we keep trying to give away on meaningful projects that improve our civic properties.
9. Road Improvements everywhere. We have some areas (near the high school) that look amazing and we maintain a few main areas but we have potholes ALL OVER the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward on roads leading out towards Days Dam and in front of Southwood Middle School), and it can't

just be on the citizens to report these issues and the city needs to put effort into restoring our infrastructure.

10. Expand your thought process to encompass ALL of Lorain not just Broadway.
11. Repair Sidewalks and add bike lanes. Re-paint crosswalks (if were enforcing Jay walking). If we can build a parking area for Fairless and again leave other areas in from of the school a pothole mess what's the point?
12. Bring in Art in the Park and other child friendly activities to enrich our new park experience at parks like Fairless.
13. Understand that poverty and crime contribute to these factors and that by providing more community resources as well as enforcement of existing laws we can slowly address the issues facing the city. Yes we may have to paint over stuff a few times, repair stuff, and even rebuild it, but eventually it will stand tall. We do these things because it's the right thing to do and it's what good people do. We don't deny people amenities based on the poor choices of some.
14. A Citizen lead and run Police Oversight Committee would be nice as it seems Lorain Police never finds any wrong doing when it investigates itself.
15. Classes and regular retraining for ALL City employees on how to properly address people on the phone who call for service. This goes for the water, sewage, police, and any agency run by the city to better improve relationships between the city and the citizens.
16. Kudos on the Lorain Listens but we should start to expand on that. I'm not sure on how that looks but it's something to look into. It's a great start.
17. Look into partnering with Probation and the Corrections department to allow inmates and probationers who have community service to work off that debt working in the parks and doing maintenance.

I don't have all the answers but a great many just start with listening and providing avenues for the public to address their concerns. The instance that the citizens come to the meetings it's nice but in the end you cannot serve a community unless you go and meet them where they are at. There are programs that are available that we could promote more. But in the end let's do as the App says and just "Listen"



Aaron E. Knapp LSW,

Citizen Lorain Ohio