

## Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary.Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2024 10:15 AM  
**To:** Lorraine Ritchey  
**Subject:** Fw: Police Chief Fired for financial improprieties?

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2024 6:58:48 AM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Koziura, Joseph <Joe\_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Joel.arredondo47@gmail.com <Joel.arredondo47@gmail.com>; Pritchard, Joseph <Joseph\_Pritchard@cityoflorain.org>; Santiago, Mallory <mallory\_holmes@cityoflorain.org>; marco parrilla <parrillamarco@yahoo.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Sheriff Stammitti <prs@loraincountysheriff.com>; Capt. Robert Vansant <rvansant@loraincountysheriff.com>; Giovanna Bremke <gbremke@bremkelaw.com>; Gelenius, Kyle <Kyle\_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Julie Wallace <JWallace@chronicle.com>; Brad Dicken <bdicken@chronicle.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Police Chief Fired for financial improprieties?

The police chief of Lorain is an intimidating creature who has failed to answer Aaron Knapp's questions about himself nor the accusations made anonymously that he falsified his payroll records essentially thieving money from this City of Lorain, Ohio.

Wasn't this why he sought prosecution of the female officer under his command as she was engaging other officers while on duty for sex?

Police officers while on duty are not legally, ethically, nor morally permitted to have sexual escapades and relations while on duty and put on their time cards that they get paid for it. Such conduct would be stealing from the taxpayers and citizens (from your employer, the political subdivision you work for, and in the law, besides being a thief of taxpayers money, you would be a "faithless servant" who could then lose all monetary compensation otherwise taken during this faithless period.

Isn't getting paid for time police officers were copulating with each other the same as stealing taxpayers money by defrauding the city?

If someone has falsified payroll records, then haven't they been copulating the treasury of the city? Isn't that a crime?

Why will no one investigate this? Can someone investigate this? Will anyone even ask that this be investigated?

The advice provided about the No cost stay at the Nord Center might prove useful for those having improperly depleted the city's treasury by submitting false payroll information to receive unearned compensation.

What do you think? Can we have some discussion on all these matters by city council?

Are there any anti-corruption public servants on Lorain City Council?

Speak up and let us know?

The police chief is threatening the disbarment of Attorneys! Take heed law department he may have his sites on you!

What does he have over you that you allow him to apparently control you?

His "Make it happen" orders cannot include fabrication of false evidence nor false payroll records.

WHO is running Lorain, Ohio?

Gargasz, Robert J.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McCann, James - Chief" <jjm\_mccann@cityoflorain.org>  
**Date:** October 4, 2024 at 6:02:44 AM EDT  
**To:** "Robert J. Gargasz" <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, "Bradley, Jack" <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>, "Carrion, Rey" <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>, "Riley, Patrick" <patrick\_riley@cityoflorain.org>, Sheriff Stammitti <prs@loraincountysheriff.com>, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>, Ed Manion <Ed.Manion@lcprosecutor.org>, Jack Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>, "Morris, Jacob" <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>, "Gelenius, Kyle" <Kyle\_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>, Peter Tower <revpetergtower@yahoo.com>, Lorain Secretary <Lorainnaacp@gmail.com>, "LaVeck, Joseph" <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>, "Zaleski, Don" <don\_zaleski@cityoflorain.org>, "Resar, Kenneth" <kenneth\_resar@cityoflorain.org>, "Pritchard, Joseph" <Joseph\_Pritchard@cityoflorain.org>, "Santiago, Mallory" <mallory\_holmes@cityoflorain.org>, JD Tomlinson <JDTomlinson2020@gmail.com>, "Koziura, Joseph" <Joe\_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>, "Arredondo, Joel" <Joel\_Arredondo@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Police Chief Fired for financial improprieties?



Attorney Disbarred Due to "Inexplicable Incompetence" - JDJournal

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

On Oct 4, 2024, at 5:18 AM, Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Date:** October 3, 2024 at 10:16:36 PM EDT  
**To:** Robert J Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>, Jack Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>, Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>, VEK6173@aol.com, rebecca kempton <REK5767@aol.com>, Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.com>, Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, mark campolo <vicchrismic4486@gmail.com>, Dan Gilles <Dgillescle@gmail.com>, Brian Ames <bmames00@gmail.com>, Giovanna Bremke <GBREMKE@bremkelaw.com>, Lindsay Carr <Lindsay.Carr@ohioago.gov>, jeanne Petty <jeanne\_810@yahoo.com>, Jessie Tower <Tower.jessie@sbcglobal.net>, ajt1049@gmail.com, Natalio Rodriguez <natalio@centurytel.net>, Sylvia Duvall <duvall\_sylvia@yahoo.com>  
**Subject: Police Chief Fired for financial improprieties?**



Florida mayor fires police chief in the midst of investigation of high-ranking police officials  
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

<maxresdefault.jpeg>

Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 31, 2025 3:21 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Bradley, Jack; Patrick Riley; mallory\_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Mike Failing; Arredondo, Joel; Springowski, Mary; Dan Nutt; Dimacchia, Tony; Dull, Breanna; Zaleski, Don; Sheriff Jack Hall; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Monica D. Pluta; Major Scharschmidt; Mike Massie; Tony Cillo; Carrion, Rey; Lorain Police  
**Cc:** Robert J Gargasz; Aaron Knapp; Mike Brosky@fflorain.bank; Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; Craig Snodgrass; VEK6173@aol.com; rebecca kempton; Nasallo Rodriguez; Sylvia Duvall; Brad Dicker; Carissa Woytach; LorainDaily; Noelle Williams; Michael Scherach; Michelle Nicks; Institute for Justice; InvestigatorTips@wews.com; Mike Mason; Mike Witte; Jonathan.Schuppe@nbcuni.com; Walsh, Jonathan; Clevescene; clandestinecanary; Elsiebeth Baumgartner; Jackie Conrad; Dennis Flores; Denise Wilms; Rewakcp@rewaklaw.com; Kathryn Kennedy  
**Subject:** Fwd: The Dispensary Audit: Lorain Deputies Called on a Man with a Camera

External sender <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Government officials, Please read the Constitution.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<lorainpoliticsunplugged@substack.com>  
**Subject:** The Dispensary Audit: Lorain Deputies Called on a Man with a Camera  
**Date:** August 31, 2025 at 2:54:58 PM EDT  
**To:** garonpetty@roadrunner.com  
**Reply-To:** Aaron C Knapp from Aaron's Substack  
<reply+2unmlp&5j0f6l&&eac57924d5b6aa910c1707b1c5aa5aac5d3d30085545734845992fb05e633550@mg1.substack.com>

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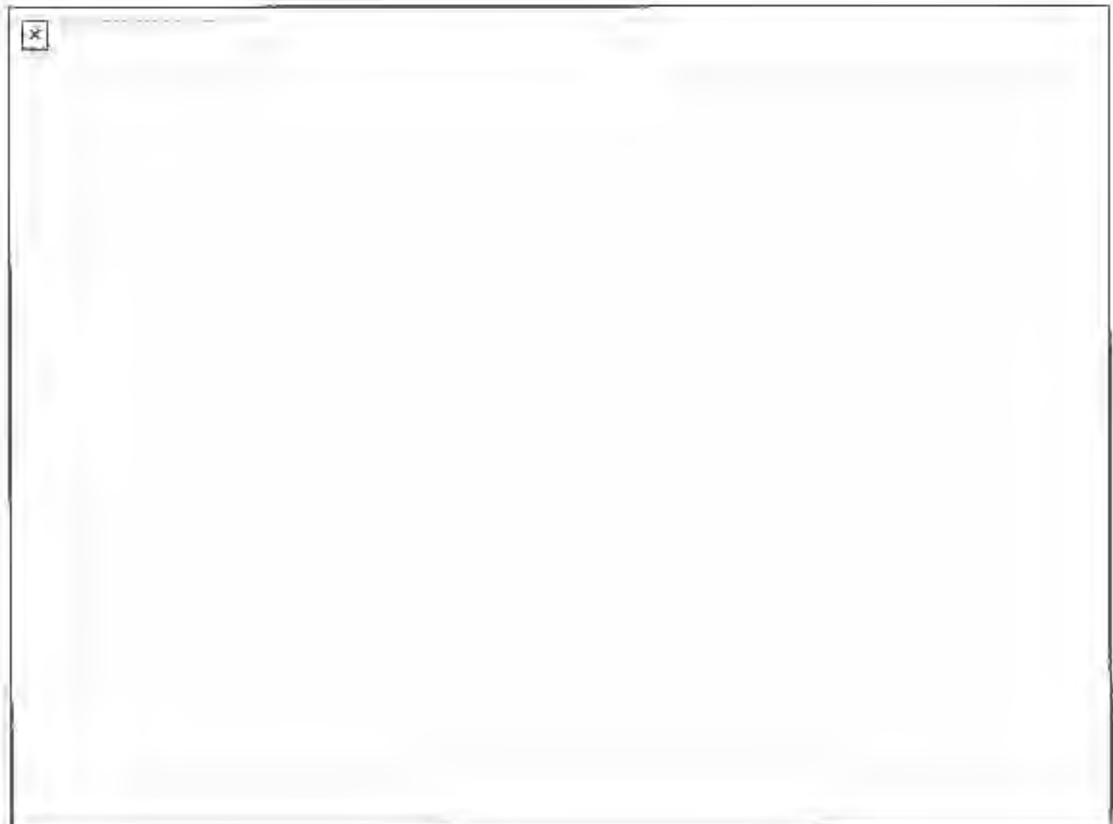
## The Dispensary Audit: Lorain Deputies Called on a Man with a Camera

A "KLUTCH" audit turns tense



READ IN APP 

**By Aaron C. Knapp — Social Worker, Republican, and Editor of Lorain Politics Unplugged**



## Introduction

On August 31, 2025, a First Amendment auditor set up outside Clutch Cannabis, a dispensary in Lorain, Ohio. His purpose was straightforward: test the right to record in public, document official reactions, and see if local law enforcement would respect the Constitution. What happened next turned a quiet afternoon into a showcase of overreaction, poor judgment, and constitutional confusion.

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

**Pledge your support**

*"A man with a camera should not trigger lights and sirens. Yet in Lorain, it did."*

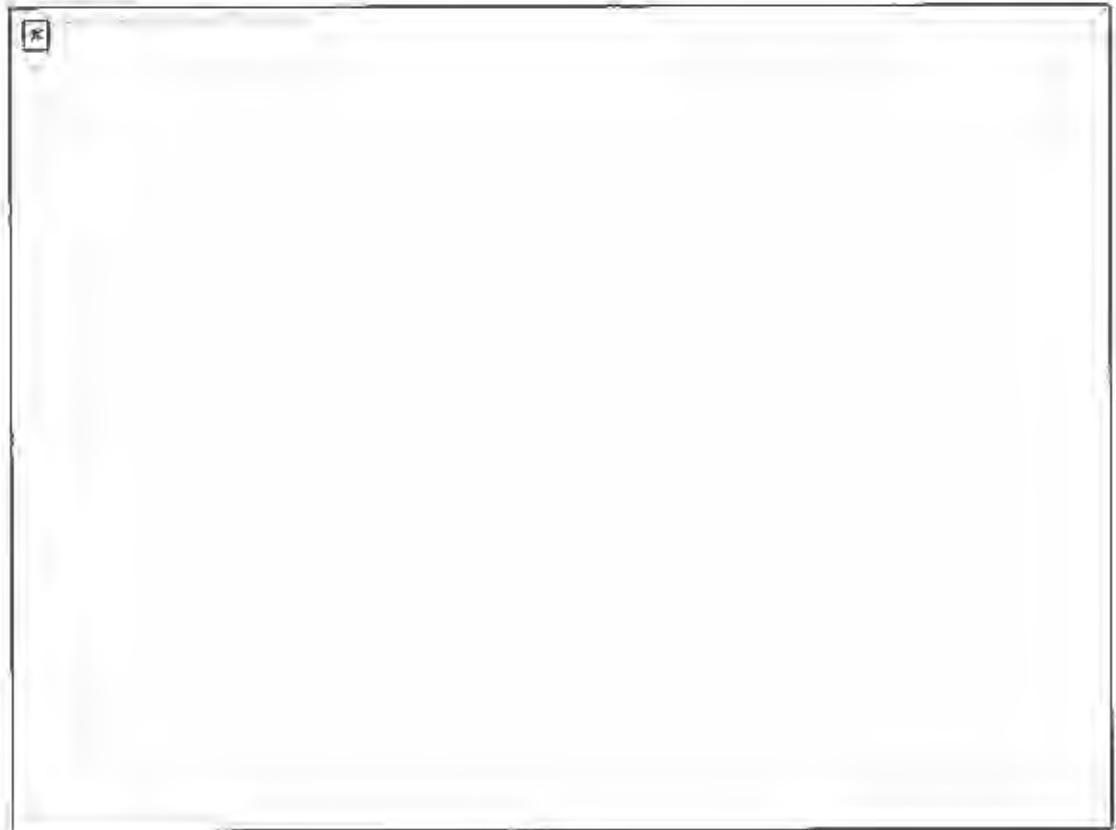
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## The Encounter Begins

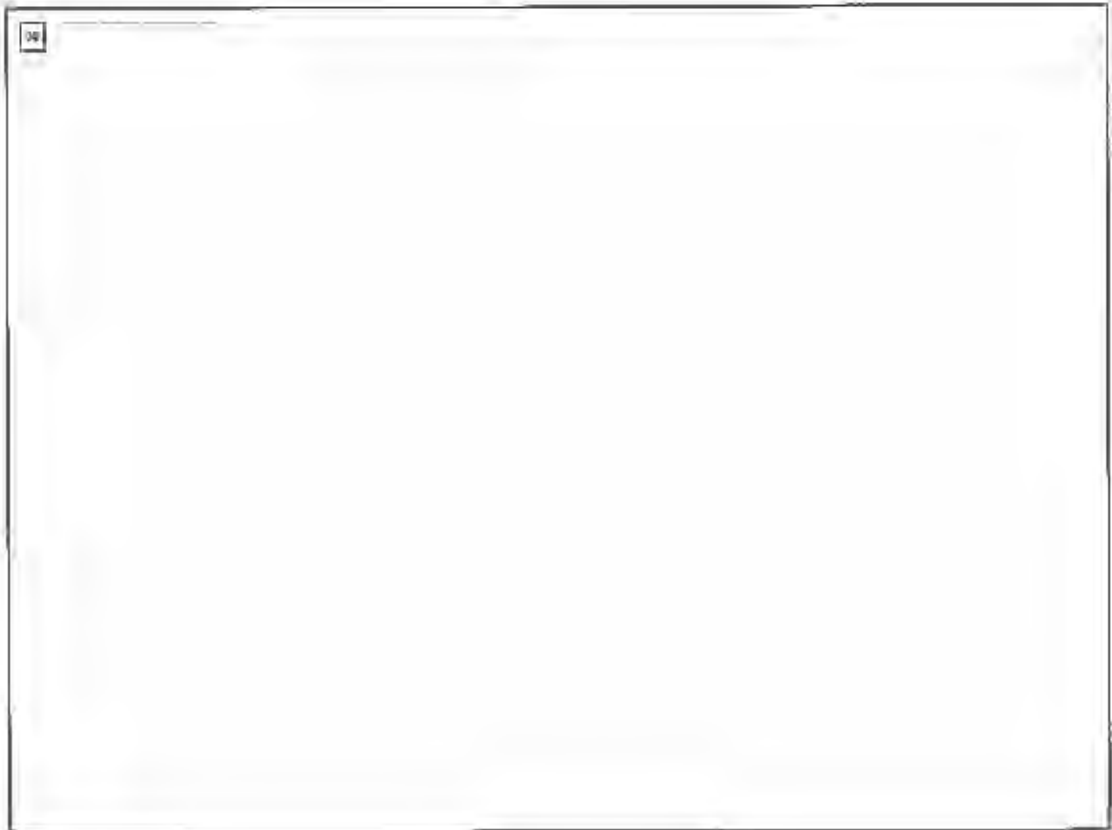
The auditor described the scene in familiar terms, telling his viewers that he was in Lorain to "stress test the First Amendment right to record in public." He set up near the dispensary's roadside entrance and began filming the building, the traffic, and the drive-thru window.

A dispensary employee came outside almost immediately. The exchange was tense but polite. The worker asked why the man was recording, and when told it did not matter, he responded that he did not consent to being filmed. The auditor pointed out the contradiction: if he did not want to be on camera, why did he walk into it voluntarily? The employee concluded by saying he had called the Sheriff's Office.



## **Enter the Sheriff**

Minutes later, a Lorain County Sheriff's deputy came roaring onto the scene with lights and sirens blaring. The response was wildly disproportionate to the situation: a lone citizen with a camera standing on a roadside. The deputy's high-speed approach nearly caused an accident as he tried to maneuver into the lot, underscoring how quickly a non-event can become a public safety hazard when law enforcement escalates unnecessarily.



Instead of calmly assessing the situation, the deputy jumped straight to confrontation. His first words were not a question about whether anyone needed help, but an accusation: he claimed the Sheriff's Office had received a call that the auditor was *inside* the dispensary causing a disturbance. That was false.

When the auditor tried to clarify this, the deputy cut him off with hostility. "Don't be a smartass," he snapped. In that single moment, the dynamic shifted. Rather than verifying facts, the deputy made it clear he was treating the citizen not as someone to be served or protected, but as a problem to be managed.

*"Don't be a smartass." That was the deputy's opening line — not a fact-check, not de-escalation, but contempt.*

That tone mattered. Police are trained to de-escalate. The role of law enforcement is to separate fact from rumor, not to double down on misinformation. By arriving recklessly, repeating an unverified claim, and then dismissing the citizen's attempt to correct the record, the deputy demonstrated how fragile the boundary is between lawful policing and retaliatory policing.

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## The "Trespass" Warning

Even though the auditor had never entered the dispensary, deputies announced that he was trespassed from the property. They warned that if he entered at any point, he would be arrested for trespassing.

This was the moment where misinformation hardened into unconstitutional enforcement. The false claim that the auditor had been "inside causing a disturbance" bled directly into a legal threat that had no basis in fact or law.

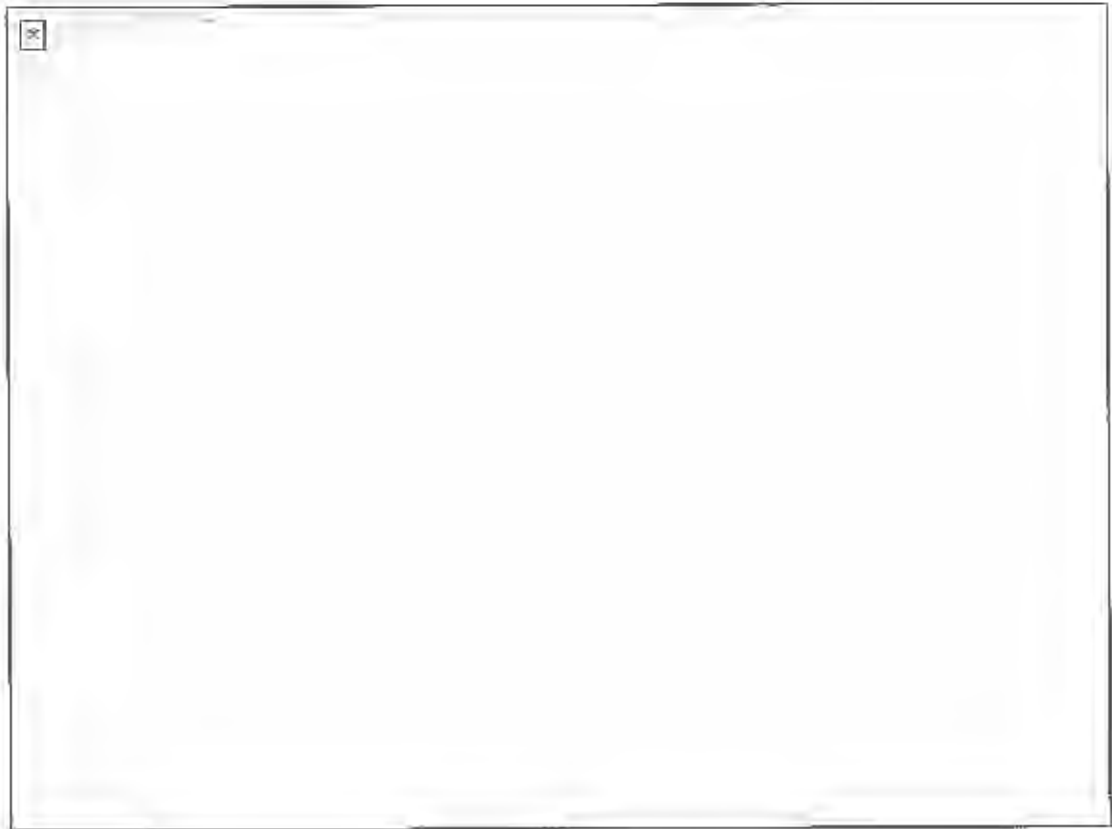
Under **Ohio Revised Code 2911.21 (Criminal Trespass)**, a person commits trespass only when they knowingly enter or remain on the land or premises of another without privilege to do so. The statute requires actual entry or a refusal to leave after being notified.

*"The statute requires actual entry or refusal to leave. It does not authorize officers to preemptively ban someone from property they have never set foot on."*

What deputies did here was not simply a misunderstanding. It blurred the line between private rights and state enforcement. A business has the right to ask someone to leave once they are on its property, but law enforcement cannot weaponize that preference into a standing threat backed by the force of arrest.

*"By inventing a trespass that had not occurred, deputies turned a private preference into a state-backed restriction on free speech."*

The effect was chilling. The message was clear: the simple act of recording in public could lead to arrest, not because the law allowed it, but because officers decided to assert authority where none existed.



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## **Public Support vs. Official Hostility**

While the deputies delivered warnings and insults, members of the public reacted very differently. Drivers slowed down to voice their support. One passerby shouted from his car that he hoped it was a constitutional audit and later confirmed he was already subscribed to the auditor's channel. Another rolled down his window to compliment the work, saying, "Keep it up."

The most striking moment came at the end of the audit, when a man named Adam actually stopped, got out, and posed with the auditor for the video's

closing. Together, they signed off in unison, reminding viewers to “like, subscribe, and turn on notifications.”

*“While deputies threatened arrest, ordinary citizens stopped to say: Keep it up.”*

That one supporter’s decision to literally stand in the frame demonstrated how far public sentiment has shifted. The people are no longer afraid of the camera. Increasingly, they are afraid of what happens when government tries to shut it off.

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## The First Amendment Standard

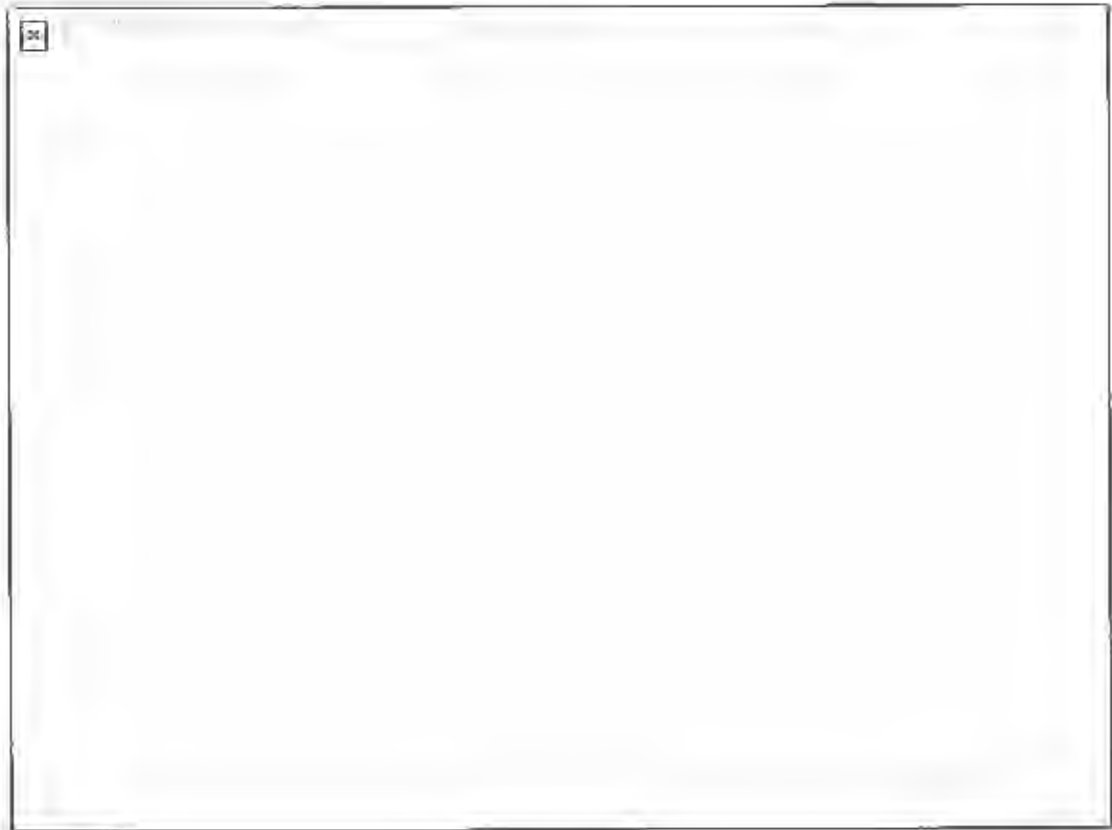
This is not a legal gray area. Federal courts have repeatedly affirmed the right to record in public spaces. In **Glik v. Cunniffe (1st Cir. 2011)**, the court declared that the right to film public officials in public places is “unambiguous” and “well established.” In **Smith v. City of Cumming (11th Cir. 2000)**, the court recognized a “First Amendment right . . . to photograph or videotape police conduct.”

Ohio law reinforces the same principle. Under **Ohio Revised Code 2921.31 (Obstructing Official Business)** and **2917.11 (Disorderly Conduct)**, officers cannot lawfully claim obstruction or disorderly conduct simply because a citizen is filming from a lawful vantage point. Both statutes require conduct that actually hampers operations or creates a risk of harm.

*“Filming from a public sidewalk is not obstruction. It is a right — recognized by courts and protected by law.”*

Likewise, the **Ohio Constitution, Article I, Section 11** explicitly guarantees free speech and press rights. Courts in Ohio have consistently read this as protecting the act of recording public officials, especially when it occurs on property traditionally open to the public such as streets and sidewalks.

The auditor in Lorain was standing on a roadside, outside the dispensary. He was not blocking traffic, he was not disturbing the peace, and he was not trespassing under **ORC 2911.21**. The deputy's suggestion that he was causing a disturbance was unsupported, and the trespass warning was constitutionally and statutorily questionable.



## **Professionalism on Display**

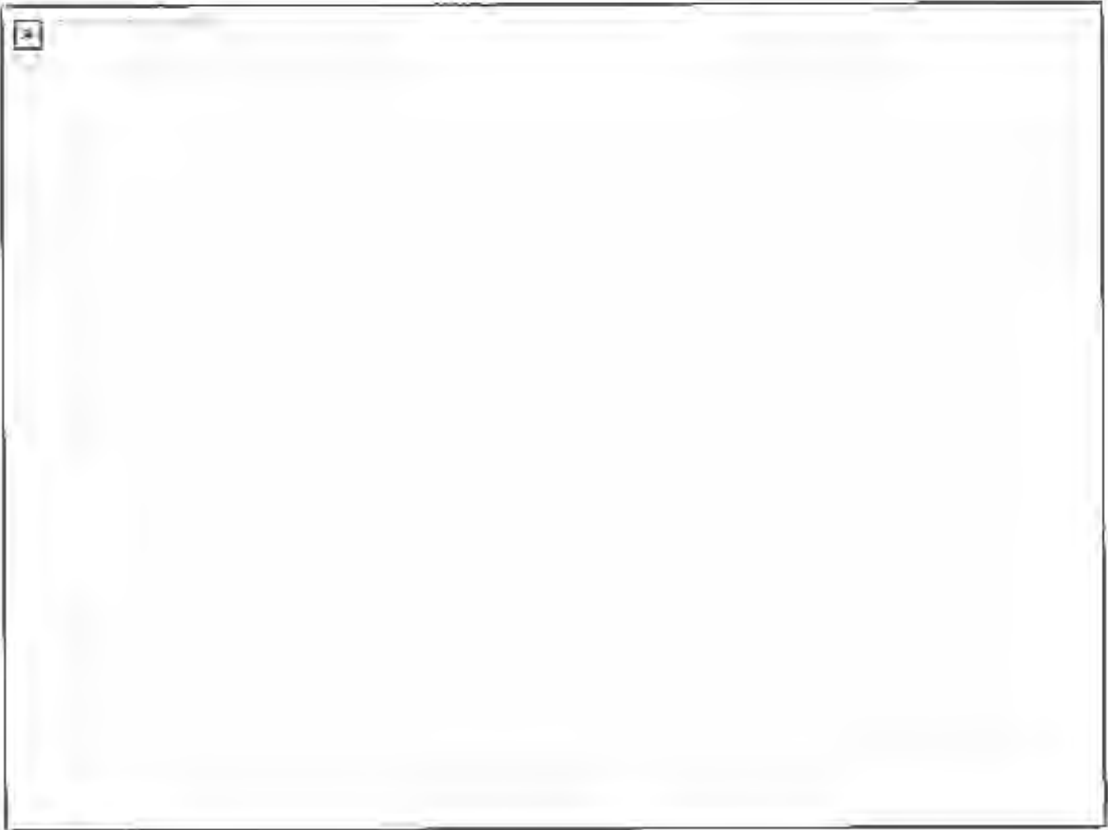
Rather than de-escalating, deputies fueled the conflict. The first officer parked haphazardly in the middle of the road, blocking traffic and creating a safety hazard for other drivers. His lights and sirens, already unnecessary for a non-crime, nearly caused an accident on approach. Instead of resolving the issue quietly, his very arrival put the public at risk.

From there, the professionalism unraveled further. The deputy mocked the citizen with "don't be a smartass" and escalated the encounter into a power struggle. He then threatened the auditor with trespass charges despite the lack of any actual entry onto private property — a claim not supported by **Ohio Revised Code 2911.21**. The auditor, for his part, responded with mockery of his own, pointing out the officer's illegal U-turns and clumsy driving.

*"Instead of ignoring a man with a camera, they created the very scene he came to document."*

Professional law enforcement agencies typically train their officers to follow clear standards in encounters with the public. De-escalation, impartiality, and respect are not optional; they are codified in departmental policy manuals and state training requirements. I am sure the Lorain County Sheriff's Department has written policies that emphasize courtesy, restraint, and lawful enforcement. Yet on this day, those policies were nowhere in sight.

*"Policy says de-escalate. Practice said intimidate."*



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## Broader Implications

This incident is about more than one deputy at one dispensary. It reflects a pattern in Lorain County, where officials too often treat cameras and questions as threats. The Constitution protects public recording, yet some deputies react as if the law does not apply to them.

The Sheriff's Office, like every law enforcement agency, has policies that emphasize professionalism, de-escalation, and adherence to the law. But what happened at Clutch Cannabis showed the opposite. The deputy not only arrived recklessly and issued an unlawful trespass warning — he then lingered, sitting in his cruiser and watching the auditor as if waiting for him to make a mistake. When the auditor finally walked back toward his vehicle, the deputy followed.

*"A deputy followed a citizen who had committed no crime. That is not law enforcement. That is intimidation."*

The entire episode demonstrated what happens when written policy and on-the-ground practice diverge. On paper, deputies are supposed to act with restraint, courtesy, and constitutional awareness. In reality, the auditor was treated as a suspect without ever committing an offense. He was followed, shadowed, and threatened with charges that did not apply.

This mirrors the same mindset currently operating inside Lorain City Hall. Officials there have imposed sign-in protocols requiring visitors to declare their purpose before entering a public building. On paper, those rules are justified as "security measures." In practice, they function as unconstitutional barriers to open government, conditioning access on official approval.

*"Just as deputies cannot invent a trespass, City Hall cannot demand to know why you are there before you are let in."*

The parallels are clear. Whether it is a deputy parked on a roadside or a clerk at the entrance of City Hall, the message is the same: constitutional rights will be tolerated only if government decides to allow them. And that is precisely backwards. Rights are not privileges granted by officials. They are inherent, and they exist whether deputies or city administrators like them or not.

A man with a camera is not a danger to public safety. A citizen entering City Hall without announcing their purpose is not a criminal. Both are exercises of fundamental rights. When law enforcement or city officials escalate those acts into confrontations or barriers, the real disturbance comes from the badge and the bureaucracy, not the public.

## **Final Thought**

The audit ended without violence or arrest, but it left an impression. The auditor walked away with footage showing deputies turning a non-crime into a

confrontation. Citizens watching online will see officers who mocked the Constitution rather than upheld it.

The real lesson is clear. The **First Amendment of the U.S.**

**Constitution** protects the right to record in public, and the **Ohio Constitution, Article I, Section 11** provides the same guarantee. Nothing in **ORC 2911.21 (Criminal Trespass)**, **ORC 2917.11 (Disorderly Conduct)**, or **ORC 2921.31 (Obstructing Official Business)** criminalizes simply holding a camera in a public space. By inventing a "trespass" that had not occurred, deputies blurred the line between lawful enforcement and unconstitutional retaliation.

The same problem exists inside Lorain City Hall. Current protocols require visitors to sign in and state the reason for their visit before being admitted. That practice is more than a minor inconvenience — it is a barrier to open government and a form of prior restraint.

*"The First Amendment does not need permission slips from deputies or disclosure forms at City Hall. It needs respect."*

On this day in Lorain, and in the halls of its government, that respect was in short supply — and the record now shows it.

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**By Aaron C. Knapp**

Licensed Social Worker (LSW), Republican Candidate for Lorain's 6th Ward,  
and Editor of *Lorain Politics Unplugged*

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*Legal Disclaimer: This article is intended for informational and journalistic purposes only. It is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. While references are made to the U.S. Constitution, the Ohio Constitution, and the Ohio Revised Code, readers should consult qualified legal counsel for advice about specific situations or potential claims. The opinions*

*expressed are those of the author in his capacity as a journalist and candidate for public office.*

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**Falbo, Carlie**

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**From:** Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 11:38 AM  
**To:** Arredondo, Joel; Springowski, Mary; Dimacchia, Tony; Ted Kalo; Jacob Morris; Lorain Police; Patrick Riley; Rey Carrio; City Council Mail Group; Comer, David; Harper, Anita; Dull, Breanna; Maggie Partin; mailory\_holmes@cityofflorain.org  
**Cc:** Robert J Gargas; Sensai Cobra; Aaron Knapp; David Yost AG; ethics@ethics.ohio.gov; lcp@lcpProsecutor.org; Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov; Sheriff Jack Hall; Mike Massie; Major Scharschmidt; Andrew Geronimo, JD; Brad Dicken; Mike Mason; Mike.Brusky@fflorain.bank; Dennis Flores, Noelle Williams; Carissa Woytach; Lindsay Carr; NortheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov; LorainDaily; Tony Cillo; Fox 8; Institute for Justice; InvestigatorTips@wews.com; longislandaudit@gmail.com; Brian Ames; Denise Wilms; Darryl Tucker; clandestinecanary; LorainNAACP@gmail.com; Linda Rivera; mark campo; Andy Young; Julie Wallace; Peggy Gallek; Ed Gallek; Jeff Graham  
**Subject:** Re: Council meeting statements from minutes and meeting on demand. September 16, 2024 and Sept. 15, 2025

**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.



September 17, 2025 past council meetings and meeting on demand videos  
youtube.com

On Sep 18, 2025, at 11:36 AM, Garon Petty <garonpetty@roadrunner.com> wrote:

City Council, Lorain Police records and Council Clerks. Please watch and respond to my requests.

Is the city Auditor in possession of sworn oaths and city contracts?

Thank you,  
Garon Petty

<548459436\_1168223335210690\_7029668670046824548\_n.jpeg>

Reel by Garon Petty  
facebook.com

**Falbo, Carlie**

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**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:25 AM  
**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. Gargas; Mike Mason; Garon Petty; Lorain Daily; Cleveland Scene; Noelle Williams; Jack Bradley; Fox; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; Jacob Morris; Mike Massie; of Ohio State  
**Subject:** Re: Submission for Council Record and Agenda – Request for Oversight

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to confirm whether my previous correspondence has been received. As a constituent, I expect acknowledgment of communication sent to my elected officials.

I understand the volume of messages received may be high, but it is unacceptable for public servants to ignore their constituents — especially when the matters raised are serious and time-sensitive.

This is a formal request for confirmation that my email is on record. I would also like to know when I can expect a response.

I trust that those who represent me will act with transparency, accountability, and respect for the people who put them in office.

Sincerely,

**Aaron Christopher Knapp, LSW, 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 Sep 8, 2025, at 13:42, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

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 6, 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*

<Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer (1)\_Page\_3.jpg>

<Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer (1)\_Page\_4.jpg>

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: 886836812**

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<LETTER TO THE RECORD.pdf>

<FORMAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM AND INVESTIGATION.pdf>

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<Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer (1)\_Page\_4.jpg>

## Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2024 10:07 AM  
**To:** Robert J. Gargasz; City Council Mail Group; Kozitura, Joseph; Bradley, Jack; Carrion, Rey; Riley, Patrick; Sheriff Stammitti; McCann, James - Chief; Morris, Jacob; Ed Manion; Capt Robert Vansant; Arredondo, Joel; Tony Cillo; Zaleski, Don; Michael Scherach; Jeanne Petty; Garon Petty; Darryl Tucker; Carissa Woytach, Lorain Secretary; Julie Wallace; Jean Anderson; Peter Tower; Andy Young  
**Cc:** Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty  
**Subject:** Re: Is some going to respond to Mr. Knapp's question and disclosures? Is it true? A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION. Why have Lorain Politicians not investigated this?

It is my understanding, per the ordinance that Chief McCann is a salaried employee and would therefore not be obliged to track hours as would an hourly employee. Before spurious accusations are tossed about capriciously, maybe it would be behoove people to know what the process is and to do a little research first. Just my thoughts since council was asked this question.

## Get Outlook for iOS

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2024 1:24:46 AM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Kozitura, Joseph <Joe\_Kozitura@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; Sheriff Stammitti <sprs@loraincountysheriff.com>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; Ed Manion <Ed.Manion@lcprosecutor.org>; Capt Robert Vansant <rvansant@loraincountysheriff.com>; Arredondo, Joel <joel\_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>; Zaleski, Don <Don\_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Jeanne Petty <jeanne\_B10@yahoo.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Lorain Secretary <Lorainnaacp@gmail.com>; Julie Wallace <JWallace@chroniclet.com>; Jean Anderson <jeansladybug@netscape.net>; Peter Tower <revpetergtower@yahoo.com>; Andy Young <AYoung@chroniclet.com>  
**Cc:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Is some going to respond to Mr. Knapp's question and disclosures? Is it true? A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION. Why have Lorain Politicians not investigated this?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Robert J. Gargasz" <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Date:** October 15, 2024 at 9:11:28 AM EDT  
**To:** Joe K Auditor <Joe\_Kozitura@cityoflorain.org>, Jack Bradley <jack\_bradley@cityoflorain.org>, Rey Carrion <rey\_carrion@cityoflorain.org>, Patrick Riley <patrick\_riley@cityoflorain.org>, City Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>, Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>, JD Tomlinson <JDTomlinson2020@gmail.com>

Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>, Sheriff Stammitti <prs@loraincountysheriff.com>, Ed Manion <Ed.Manion@lcprosecutor.org>, Jacob Morris <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>, Chief McCann <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>, Capt Robert Vansant <rvansant@loraincountysheriff.com>, Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>, Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>, Don Zaleski <don\_zaleski@cityoflorain.org>, Joseph LaVeck <joseph\_laveck@cityoflorain.org>, Kenneth Resar <kenneth\_resar@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** mallory\_holmes@cityoflorain.org, Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>, Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>, Julie Wallace <JWallace@chroniclet.com>, Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>, Breanna Dull <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>, Joel Arredondo <joel\_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>, Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org, "Jack M. Hall" <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>, Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>, Jeanne Petty <jeanne\_810@yahoo.com>, Jean Anderson <jeansladybug@netscape.net>, Ethlyn <ethlynrae@aol.com>, "kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill" <kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org>, Jeff Baxter <jabaxter@oh.rr.com>, Jim Dowdell <jwdowdell@frontier.com>, Dan Petticord <dan.petticord@lcprosecutor.org>

**Subject: Is some going to respond to Mr. Knapp's question and disclosures? Is it true? A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION. Why have Lorain Politicians not Investigated this?**

On Friday, October 4, 2024 at 06:59:01 AM EDT, Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com> wrote:

The police chief of Lorain is an intimidating creature who has failed to answer Aaron Knapp's questions about himself nor the accusations made anonymously that he falsified his payroll records essentially thieving money from this City of Lorain, Ohio.

Wasn't this why he sought prosecution of the female officer under his command as she was engaging other officers while on duty for sex?

Police officers while on duty are not legally, ethically, nor morally permitted to have sexual escapades and relations while on duty and put on their time cards that they get paid for it. Such conduct would be stealing from the taxpayers and citizens (from your employer, the political subdivision you work for, and in the law, besides being a thief of taxpayers money, you would be a "faithless servant" who could then lose all monetary compensation otherwise taken during this faithless period.

Isn't getting paid for time police officers were copulating with each other the same as stealing taxpayers money by defrauding the city?

If someone has falsified payroll records, then haven't they been copulating the treasury of the city? Isn't that a crime?

Why will no one investigate this? Can someone investigate this? Will anyone even ask that this be investigated?

The advice provided about the No cost stay at the Nord Center might prove useful for those having improperly depleted the city's treasury by submitting false payroll information to receive unearned compensation.

What do you think? Can we have some discussion on all these matters by city council?

Are there any anti-corruption public servants on Lorain City Council?

Speak up and let us know?

The police chief is threatening the disbarment of Attorneys! Take heed law department: he may have his sites on you!

What does he have over you that you allow him to apparently control you?

His "Make it happen" orders cannot include fabrication of false evidence nor false payroll records.

WHO is running Lorain, Ohio?

Gargas, Robert J.

Sent from my iPhone

## Falbo, Carlie

---

**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:38 AM  
**To:** Beko, Michele  
**Subject:** Re: this all came back to me

Thanks!

Get Outlook for iOS

---

**From:** Beko, Michele <Michele\_Beko@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:36:33 AM  
**To:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** RE: this all came back to me

We did receive Mary - thank you!

Michele

*Michele T. Beko*  
*Administrative Asst/Office Manager*  
*Lorain Law Director's Office*  
*200 West Erie Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*  
*Lorain, OH 44052*  
*440.204.2250*  
*Michele\_beko@cityoflorain.org*

**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:35 AM  
**To:** Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; tony.cillo@lcprosecutor.org; Zaleski, Don <Don\_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Brad Dieken <bdieken@chroniclet.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; Heather Chapin <hchapin@morningjournal.com>; Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: this all came back to me

Mrs. Ritchey asked me to forward this to you all due to her concerns for my safety as she feels things are escalating.

---

**From:** lorainmary <lorainmary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:24 AM  
**To:** Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** FW: this all came back to me

**Warning: Unusual sender** <[lorainmary@gmail.com](mailto:lorainmary@gmail.com)>

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

sent from my Verizon Samsung (Galaxy) smartphone

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

From: Loraine Ritchey <[lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com)>

Date: 2/6/25 9:51 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Lorainmary <[lorainmary@gmail.com](mailto:lorainmary@gmail.com)>

Subject: this all came back to me

in the city of Lorain Email group Maybe you can share it with them ;)

Loraine Ritchey

From: [lritch7@yahoo.com](mailto:lritch7@yahoo.com)

To: Riley, Patrick, McCann, James - Chief, Morris, Jacob, Tony Cillo, Zaleski, Don and 18 more...

Cc: Marty Gallagher, Brad Dicken, Carissa Woytach, Darryl Tucker, Heather Chapin and 2 more...

Re: Lor Ritch

Thu, Feb 6 at 9:42 AM

As you may or not be aware I have been concerned as this verbal slugging off by (Attorney) Bob Gargasz ( **under the guise of "personal opinion"** is escalating and very concerning.

**These emails and there are more than one ...and posts on social media by Bob Gargasz and Garon Petty for years, not weeks not months has been most worrying to me for more than two years .**

ALL OF YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED WITH OFFICER PALMER AND DIXIE THE DOG when those posts reached out to a community who believed the erroneous information, the life threats by strangers, conspiracy theorists , the socially challenged . The LPD and the officer faces death threats and terrible verbal retribution .. All because a fake name George Patton ( aka Aaron Knapp) put up erroneous information on Lorain, Ohio, ... See LPD Police Investigation and also Part one of my own thoughts [Lorain, Oh - A DOG Succumbs As Does REASON / CIVILITY | OH Her Again!](#)

I have reached out to the Law Dept on more than one occasion, Chief McCann and the Prosecutor at the time J.D. Tomlinson. I did so in order have a documented paper trail of my concerns I still have concerns

I realize that Council At Large Springowski is a public figure and therefore open to criticism ... this is in my view **targeted harassment with "lawyer speak"** .

"

The Democratic party was too clever to see you are the local equivalent of Kamala Harris. Shame on those local hooded politicians (democrats founded the KKK)! Are you going to begin your political meetings in crack houses now with passed out scantily dressed Lady in Black lying around in a drug induced stupor?

Democrats the ship is singing a losing tune. Abandon that boat and come over to the Party of Lincoln. Free yourselves from that Godless, woke, corrupt, poisonous, treasonous cult and party of war and fear mongering.

The Republican Party invites you to begin anew, repent and change. Support the Republic, its Constitution and The Bill of Rights! Are you a Patriot?

Will you condemn those amongst you who represent an evil to America, Lorain County, and especially the People of Lorain, Ohio (The International City)?

Mr. Wysocki, thank you for protecting our school children while on a field trip. invaded by so many dangerous and violent gangs, rapists, robbers, thieves all are criminals illegal aliens.

In my OPINION Gargasz lumps all his enemies and enemies of the nation in one email .... including the Red headed devil ( his main target. ) in with who the Marxist Anarchists and communists to be machined gunned down at stacked like cord wood on the steps of city hall  
Lorraine Ritchey

From:lritch7@yahoo.com

To:James - Chief McCann

Cc:Patrick Riley

Bcc:Lor Ritchey,Mary Springowski

Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 2:12 PM

Dear Chief McCann,

As I have made you aware I am very concerned as to the seemingly escalating rhetoric by Mr. Petty with regard to Mrs. Springowski. His latest tirade on the forums re the data breach is very worrying to me. As you are aware I was very involved with the data breach situation and have taken insults and innuendo galore. I wrote a 23 page report on the whole situation. People have only a limited amount of information and half truths and sound bites are being bandied about at the cost of reputations of perfectly innocent people. .

Having been on the forums this morning trying to clarify what really happened. I understand that not only did Mr. Petty reach out to the Mayor , Law Director etc but to you with regard to Mrs. Springowski and his conclusions of criminal intent . This was fueled , **IN MY OPINION by a chastising statement made by Mayor Bradley with regard to Mrs. Springowski , the IRS etc. Should you require a copy of that exchange I have the minutes and also the information being put out on the forum. the City council meeting November 2022. My concern is for the welfare of my friend .**

Therefore, please find a public records request to your Dept. with regard to any correspondence electronic or otherwise, and please make note of my concerns with this persons actions.



**Robert Gargas: 'Marxist anarchists' and 'communists' should be shot, 's...**

Robert Gargas, The Republican (retrieved by Google)  
Gargas, Robert (retrieved by Google)

So if any of you can't hold bullying accountable for a member of City of Lorain Government then PLEASE tell me who can!!!!

Thank you Loraine Ritchey

## Falbo, Carlie

---

**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:29 AM  
**To:** Robert J. Gargasz; Koziura, Joseph; Carrion, Rey; Riley, Patrick; City Council Mail Group; Tony Cillo; JD Tomlinson; Michael Scherach; Sheriff Stammitti; Ed Manion; Morris, Jacob; McCann, James - Chief; Capt Robert Vansant; Aaron Knapp; Garon Petty; Zaleski, Don; LaVeck, Joseph; Resar, Kenneth  
**Cc:** Santiago, Mallory; Darryl Tucker; Brad Dicken; Julie Wallace; Carissa Woytach; Dull, Breanna; Arredondo, Joel; Springowski, Mary; Jack M. Hall; Kathryn Kennedy; Jeanne Petty; Jean Anderson; Ethlyn; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill; Jeff Baxter; Jim Dowdell; Dan Petticord  
**Subject:** Re: Is some going to respond to Mr. Knapp's question and disclosures? Is it true? A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION. Why have Lorain Politicians not investigated this?

We take all allegations seriously and this matter is no different.

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:11:17 AM  
**To:** Koziura, Joseph <Joe\_Koziura@cityoflorain.org>; Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>; Riley, Patrick <Patrick\_Riley@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cillo@gmail.com>; JD Tomlinson <JDTomlinson2020@gmail.com>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@centurytel.net>; Sheriff Stammitti <prs@loraincountysheriff.com>; Ed Manion <Ed.Manion@lcprosecutor.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityoflorain.org>; McCann, James - Chief <Jim\_McCann@cityoflorain.org>; Capt Robert Vansant <rvarsant@loraincountysheriff.com>; Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Zaleski, Don <Don\_Zaleski@cityoflorain.org>; LaVeck, Joseph <Joseph\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org>; Resar, Kenneth <Kenneth\_Resar@cityoflorain.org>  
**Cc:** Santiago, Mallory <mallory\_holmes@cityoflorain.org>; Darryl Tucker <dtucker@morningjournal.com>; Brad Dicken <bdicken@chronicler.com>; Julie Wallace <JWallace@chronicler.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chronicler.com>; Dull, Breanna <Breanna\_Dull@cityoflorain.org>; Arredondo, Joel <joel\_arredondo@cityoflorain.org>; Springowski, Mary <Mary\_Springowski@cityoflorain.org>; Jack M. Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>; Kathryn Kennedy <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Jeanne Petty <jeanne\_810@yahoo.com>; Jean Anderson <jeansladybug@netscape.net>; Ethlyn <ethlynrae@aol.com>; kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org Hill <kirsten@totallyengagedamericans.org>; Jeff Baxter <jabaxter@oh.rr.com>; Jim Dowdell <jwdowdell@frontier.com>; Dan Petticord <dan.petticord@lcprosecutor.org>  
**Subject:** Is some going to respond to Mr. Knapp's question and disclosures? Is it true? A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION. Why have Lorain Politicians not investigated this?

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WHO is running Lorain, Ohio?

Gargas, Robert J.

Sent from my iPhone

## Falbo, Carlie

---

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 8, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** City Council Mail Group; Anthony Nizi; Angel Arroyo; Breanna Dull; Joseph LaVeck; Patrick Riley; Tony Cillo; Mike Failing; Sheriff Jack Hall; Mary Springowski  
**Cc:** Robert J. Gargas; Mike Mason; Garon Petty; Lorain Daily; Cleveland Scene; Noelle Williams; Jack Bradley; Fox 8; Rey Carrion; Brian Ames; 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 6, 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**

---

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

As you can see by his own video, he now plans to confront m  
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@chroniclet.com>; Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov <Cri <AGOCARES@ohioago.gov>; Andrew Geronimo, JD <andrew.geronim <Mike.Brosky@fflorain.bank>; Michael Scherach <mjscherach.law@o <Mike\_Failing@cityoflorain.org>; Morris, Jacob <Jacob\_Morris@cityo <kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com>; Kokoski, Lori <Lori\_Kokoski@city <Kyle\_Gelenius@cityoflorain.org>; Elsebeth Baumgartner <baumgartn <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; Jackie Conrad <botanist62@hotmail.c  
**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

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: **88836612**

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.

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

---

Councilwoman Springowski, Councilman Arrnys, 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 Hilton 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 LaVeck  
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 Leader v. Ricketts*, 56 Ohio St.2d 97 (1978)

## Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Springowski, Mary <Mary.Springowski@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 12:44 PM  
**To:** lorainmary  
**Subject:** Fw: McCann

Get Outlook for iOS

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**From:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 11:28:24 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Jack Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>; David O'Brien <dobrien@chroniclet.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** RE: McCann

Look, I'm aware of my responsibilities and the expectations that come with the position. While I value constituent input, it's important to understand that decisions aren't made based solely on individual demands. We have processes in place to address community issues comprehensively. I will continue to balance the needs and interests of the community, not just yours.

**From:** Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Bradley, Jack <Jack\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org>; City Council Mail Group <CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org>; Robert J. Gargas <rjgargas@gmail.com>; Garon Petty <onelung2014@gmail.com>; Jack Hall <jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com>; David O'Brien <dobrien@chroniclet.com>; Carissa Woytach <cwoytach@chroniclet.com>; Brad Dicken <BDicken@chroniclet.com>; Tony Cillo <antcillo.cill@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Carrion, Rey <Rey\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org>  
**Subject:** Re: McCann

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I don't really care what you think, do your job. I don't do private conversations with people who cant do their constituents bidding.

I look in the mirror daily. I love what I see.

I don't hire unqualified people.

I don't do bogus investigations.

I don't release My Police Chiefs SSI to people. I don't let my chief commit felonies.

You don't get to say "look in the mirror to me" that's slander .

You are the government I have a right to say what I want you. Period.

What you want doesn't concern me. What the people want does.

Why would I put myself in a position to be exposed by you and your goons? Why would I meet with you now? I have you opportunities to speak and you refused.

Now you voted to have a lawyer prosecute a guy you had to your house for lunch in a bs charge?

You just violated the law sending me McCanns SSI number. You guys signed off on it. 🙄

You've slandered me in writing now saying "look in the mirror" as I am not a government official subject to your criticism.

Rey is an unqualified idiot. I have the files and emails to back that up. I have no smdesire to meet with people who cannot follow the laws the created and release their employment files to the public.

When you hire "High School Diploma" for HR and a chief who failed English Composition writing emails to citizens you don't get to insinuate citizens should look in the mirror.

I'm attaching my attorney in the email for possible reference to slander.

Make it a wonderful day.

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

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On Jan 13, 2025, at 10:38, Bradley, Jack <[Jack\\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org)> wrote:

You should look in the mirror when talking about unqualified idiots. I am not expecting nor desirous of a reply; nevertheless, if you would like to discuss the qualifications of my staff, I would be more than happy to sit down with you and have an intelligent conversation.

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

**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 8:13 AM

**To:** City Council Mail Group <[CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org](mailto:CityCouncilMailGroup@cityoflorain.org)>; Jack Hall <[jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com](mailto:jack.hall@hallforsheriff.com)>; Bradley, Jack <[Jack\\_Bradley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Jack_Bradley@cityoflorain.org)>; David O'Brien <[dobrien@chronicle.com](mailto:dobrien@chronicle.com)>; Carissa Woytach <[cwoytach@chronicle.com](mailto:cwoytach@chronicle.com)>; Robert J. Gargas <[rgargas@gmail.com](mailto:rgargas@gmail.com)>; Garon Petty <[conelung2014@gmail.com](mailto:conelung2014@gmail.com)>; Brad Dicken <[BDicken@chronicle.com](mailto:BDicken@chronicle.com)>; Tony Cillo <[antcillo.cill@gmail.com](mailto:antcillo.cill@gmail.com)>; Riley, Patrick <[Patrick\\_Riley@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Patrick_Riley@cityoflorain.org)>; Carrion, Rey <[Rey\\_Carrion@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Rey_Carrion@cityoflorain.org)>; Jackie Conrad <[botanist62@hotmail.com](mailto:botanist62@hotmail.com)>; LaVeck, Joseph <[Joseph\\_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org](mailto:Joseph_LaVeck@cityoflorain.org)>; Giovanna Bremke

<gtremke@kremknlaw.com>; Kalo, Ted <Ted\_Kalo@cityofboston.ma>

**Subject:** McCann

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

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

I once again renew my request for a real criminal investigation into James McCanns retaliation and felonious behaviors towards my personage.

Please follow the law and don't allow an unqualified idiot like Rey Carrion be the decision maker on this matter.

Make it a wonderful day

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

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## Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Loraine Ritchey <lritch7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 2:43 PM  
**To:** James - Chief McCann  
**Cc:** Sanford Washington; Patrick Riley; Joseph LaVeck; Jack Bradley; Mary Springowski  
**Subject:** Lorain Police Department and worrying rhetoric  
**Attachments:** Patton.png; lpd fake files.jpg; lpd fake.jpg; Members of Fake LPD FB Page August 25th2023.docx; Patton three.jpg

I have attached names and media files from a newish Face Book page going under the name **Lorain Police Department** ( which of course is misleading in and of itself).

Most worrying is the rhetoric the media files and threatening comments being made against our department. I have attached the membership of today , a couple are fake names however George Patton I tracked him of old and he is Aaron Knapp . I have complained to Facebook as to community standards , we will see if anything comes of that.

I believe there is too much threatening and stalking behaviors happening and not just with this site and our officers but also with Mrs. Springowski, I have been following Mr. Petty's tirades for months, to me this is unacceptable and threatening, **there has to accountability for those that serve the residents of Lorain.** One of the quotes in comments ""Chris Campeau So pig season is open? with reference to Officer Palmer .

I would hope the City of Lorain might have more pull than I in getting these sort of sites shut down, let us be proactive for once instead of reactive.. there has to be accountability ..... Thank you Loraine Ritchey

## Falbo, Carlie

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**From:** Robert J. Gargasz <rjgargasz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:10 AM  
**To:** Aaron Knapp; Mallory\_holmes@cityoflorain.org; Radeff, Rocky; Riley, Patrick; Jack Bradley; michele\_beko@cityoflorain.org; Carrio, Rey; City Council Mail Group; Maggie Partin; Zaleski, Don; Mary\_springowski@cityoflorain.org; Arredondo, Joel; David Yost AG; Lindsay Carr; Dennis Flores; Garon Petty; Jeanne Petty; Jean Anderson; Mike Witte; Don Killinger; Kirsten Hill; Jon Morrow; Jeff Baxter; William Poplar; Jeff Graham; Anthony Giardini; Anthony Giardini; Giardini, Lauren; Joseph LaVeck; Pritchard, Joseph; Resar, Kenneth; Bowles, Scott; Joe K Auditor; Lori Kokoski; McCann, Chief; Patrick Ward; Major Jack Hall; anthony.cillo@lcprosecutor.org; Jack Hall; Soto, Terri; David Moore; kathrynkennedy627@gmail.com; Comer,David; Marty Gallagher; jfr\_74@hotmail.com; Jeff Riddel; david@yesce.com Moore, David; Helmuth Chamale; Gelenius, Kyle; Kyrlece Brooks; David O'Brien; Brad Dicken; Darryl Tucker; Carissa Woytach; Julie Wallace;  
**Subject:** Re: Dimacchia driving on a suspended.  
Channel 19 Tips: Aaron Knapp

**External sender** <rjgargasz@gmail.com>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Should this communication be provided by the Police Chief to his command staff as a "make it happen" order or directive of the highest magnitude?

Can his cell phone geo-location data and record location be obtained by his investigators to track his movements and can this data movement be tracked against his paper data?

His driving should be able to be tracked and monitored from his movements recorded electronically. School officials and employees could be interviewed as well. How does he travel and when?

Perhaps an all points alert could be issued?

Citizens turn on your cameras and film this or any council members breaking the law or engaging in fraudulent activity. Turn it on to the Major Crimes Division of the New Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

Matters of corruption are no longer capable of being swept under the rug!!

Alléluia (and Praise God it's Sunday). THANK YOU Jack Hall our new County Sheriff. A Golden era has arrived in Lorain County, Ohio. Hats off to Tony Cillo who is not going to cover up corruption and I expect will work closely with the New Sheriff to Clorox government corruption.

He should be interviewed by an investigator who knows how to obtain confessions and who can ask questions that require the individual to explain and affirmatively assert a factual response from their own knowledge as opposed to guessing or speculation.

Has he had a blood test yet or a urine test? A refusal to take a BAC test should have resulted in a loss of driving privileges. Why did this not happen?

Specifically, why? Was that not corrupt favoritism from the prosecutor? The law was not equally applied, was it?

The councilman and political candidate was given special privileges and treatment despite the Police Chief claims to the contrary, right?

Riley and his staff allowed this and orchestrated it all for his political friends.

This corrupt command of law and politics illustrates that change is necessary and needed to the individuals working as public servants in Lorain or The Law is a tyranny that must be challenged and changed. Which is it? The race for Lorain Municipal Court Judge should spotlight these circumstances as we want a Judge who will follow the law and respect the Bill of Rights.

Candidates please do not hide behind the smog of it might come up, so I can't talk about it excuse. I want to know your view: can you charge or arrest me for trespassing in a public building or felony intimidation as I properly seek redress of my government?

Answer the question please?

Why does our government prosecutors and police officers believe the answer is they can? (McCann)? Make it happen!

To everyone who has facts of corruption in Lorain, now is the time to clear your conscience and explain what you know to the new Sheriff and the new Prosecutor.

The scrubbing of the evil corrupt entrenched putrid political swamp of Lorain City politics begins now!

**Good People it's time to act!**

**Please pass this message on to All your families, friends, and citizen contacts!**

**Run for office if you can The People need you.**

Robert J. Gargas, Esq.  
Robert J. Gargas Co., L.P.A.  
1670 Cooper Foster Park Road  
Lorain, Ohio 44053  
(440) 960-1670  
(440) 960-1754 Facsimile  
rjgargas@gmail.com

On Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 11:53 PM Aaron Knapp <a4xbeaverman@yahoo.com> wrote:

I'd like to request any video footage of Mr Dimacchia driving on school grounds during the time frame of 3 weeks before this email and one week after.



1700

Morris, Jacob

Hide

1701

Baez, Miguel

Gerace, Nicholas

Save as group

Gentlemen,

It has been brought to my attention that Councilman Dimacchia has possibly been driving on a suspended license. I have passed this information along to Chief McCann who immediately directed me to check with the Lorain City Prosecutor's Office and obtain Councilman Dimacchia's driving status. As of today, according to the Lorain City Prosecutor's Office, Councilman Dimacchia's driving status is "SUSPENDED". I realize the position this puts you in as officers, though per Chief McCann and I, if you see Councilman Dimacchia operating a motor vehicle, it is to be handled exactly as you would any other civilian. This means he WILL be cited, and the vehicle WILL BE towed. I realize that Mr. Dimacchia wears many different hats within our city, but Chief McCann will not allow our credibility to be compromised because of poor decisions made by individual public leaders.

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

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