

From: Cook, Darcy <DCook@LickingCounty.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 12:30 PM

To: Mark Evans <mevans@etnatownship.com>; West, Zach <ZWest@LickingCounty.gov>

Cc: Wells, Jenny <JennyWells@LickingCounty.gov>; Ramsay, Bryce

<BRamsay@LickingCounty.gov>; Thorp, Randy <RThorp@LickingCounty.gov>

Subject: RE: Request for Guidance & Meeting re: Ongoing Disruptions at Etna Township Resident Forum (video attached)

Mr. Evans,

I am taking the liberty to interject here because I see several issues here that I believe should be addressed.

First, I watched the first video and I definitely agree that there are problems and that all looked very frustrating. And we want to help the Board as best we can, within our position as legal counsel to the Board of Trustees.

Second, maybe it was the 20 years of being a Navy wife that rubbed off on me, but there is a chain of command that is typically followed, regardless of whether it is elected official to elected official. The chain of command is important for many reasons, but it also reflects a respect for the responsibility and load of those at the top of the chain, as well as gives those on the lower end of the chain the opportunity to do their jobs. I say this because what I think you may have overlooked is that on the civil side, our office represents over 60 different agencies, including 25 townships that each have three trustees and a fiscal officer. On the criminal side, our office partners with over 20 different law enforcement agencies. So, there are hundreds of individuals that seek assistance from our office on a routine basis. Because of that, Prosecutor Wells has to delegate issues where she sees fit. You can disagree with her decisions, and even be frustrated, but your response, at least with me was not received with an attitude of professional cooperation, in part because you did not follow the chain of command.

Further, the issue that you asked about is well within the area where Zach and Bryce can and should be addressing, not only because they are the Board's assigned prosecutors, but

also because they have the full understanding of the background of all the issues that have plagued Etna Township recently. And that understanding lends to them an ability to address issues with the full picture and within context, all of which puts them in them the particular place to best respond when advising the Board.

But, with that requires the process that this office has put into place for reasons that may not make sense to you, but they are the processes we have put in place so that we can best represent the Etna Township Board of Trustees, as well as our other clients, all the while maintaining our ethical duties as attorneys and the additional ethical duties we have as prosecutors. And Prosecutor Wells has those ethical duties as an attorney, as a prosecutor, and even more so as an elected official.

The process of having the Board pass a resolution to seek our legal assistance is in direct response to our assistant prosecutors being put in a difficult position, where one trustee is asking for help in doing something that affects another trustee or the Board as a whole. But we do not represent the trustees individually. Rather, we represent the Board. And so we (including Prosecutor Wells) are bound by our ethical responsibilities, and we have determined this process to ensure that what is being asked of us is from the Board, in the context of the business of the Board, and not the individual trustees. I have concerns that you are seeking individual legal assistance, and that is something we cannot ethically do.

You have asked that we address your concerns, and in response, Zach has asked that you take the first step so we can do just that (send us a Board resolution). You said that the prosecutor's office wants to ignore your email, but my email will be the second email that you have received from this office, both on the first business day following your email sent on Saturday. This is the opposite of ignoring you. I hear that you are frustrated that we are responding in a way that is different than you would like, but we are attempting to address your concerns in light of our ethical and practical duties. We will address your concerns once there is the proper resolution passed by the Board.

Respectfully,

Darcy T. Cook

Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division

Licking County, Ohio

740-670-5255

From: Mark Evans <mevans@etnatownship.com>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 10:13 AM

To: West, Zach <ZWest@LickingCounty.gov>

Cc: Wells, Jenny <JennyWells@LickingCounty.gov>; Ramsay, Bryce <BRamsay@LickingCounty.gov>; Thorp, Randy <RThorp@LickingCounty.gov>; Cook, Darcy <DCook@LickingCounty.gov>

Subject: Re: Request for Guidance & Meeting re: Ongoing Disruptions at Etna Township Resident Forum (video attached)

Zach,

This was a request to meet with Ms. Wells and the Sheriff regarding an ongoing and escalating matter.

With all due respect, I would expect an elected official to be able to meet with another elected official regarding an issue.

I am trying to handle this professionally but it appears the prosecutor's office wants to ignore it.

I had previously asked, long ago, for a brief meeting with Ms. Wells also but that was also refused.

This is not working cooperatively in any regards.

I can assure you that if what has been allowed to transpire with disturbances in the forum occurred at the prosecutor building, the BOE or the commissioners office, it would be handled differently.

Again, I am asking for a brief meeting to address this concern. That is more than reasonable.

Mark Evans

Etna Township Trustee

On Aug 25, 2025, at 9:38 AM, West, Zach <ZWest@lickingcounty.gov> wrote:

Trustee Evans,

Prosecutor Wells forwarded your email to me and Bryce. As you are aware, our office has implemented a policy that any request for legal assistance from the Etna Township Board of Trustees needs to be accompanied by a resolution or audio recording from a meeting that shows the Board voted to approve the request, and all three trustees must be copied on any communications regarding the request.

Please send the appropriate documentation to Bryce or I and we will follow up when we receive it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Zach West

Assistant Prosecutor, Civil Division

Licking County Prosecutor's Office

65 E. Main Street, 3rd Floor

Newark, OH 43055

(740) 670-5268

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From: Wells, Jenny <JennyWells@LickingCounty.gov>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Evans <mevans@etnatownship.com>

Date: August 23, 2025 at 8:01:16 PM EDT

To: "Wells, Jenny" <JennyWells@lickingcounty.gov>, rthorp@lickingcounry.gov

Subject: Request for Guidance & Meeting re: Ongoing Disruptions at Etna Township Resident Forum (video attached)

Sheriff Thorpe and Prosecutor Wells,

I'm writing to request guidance and a brief joint meeting regarding recurring disruptions at Etna Township's monthly Resident Forum/Open Office Hours that I host to meet with constituents. I have brought this concern up previously and it is escalating. One of them is going to cross a serious line soon.

This morning (Saturday, August 23, 2025), I called for Licking County Sheriff's deputies due to Mr. Steven Perkins' continued disruptive behavior. After the deputies departed, the situation escalated again. I ended the forum and closed my open office hours, but Mr. Perkins refused to leave. He then began manipulating the light switches; when I turned them off, he physically attempted to turn them back on while my hand was still on the switches. Pushing up into my hand while I kept them off. He lunged towards me at one point, and I thought he may take a swing.

Then when I attempted to close and lock the doors, Mr. Perkins blocked the area which made it difficult to release the bungee cord holding the door open. The cord brushed him when it slipped out of my hand and he then took a delayed flop like an acting soccer or NBA player injured. A short video taken after the deputies left is attached.

Mr. Perkin's bizarre behavior continued outside as he continued to harass me and then placed his hand on my driver's side mirror to prevent me from leaving.

The responding deputies indicated there was "nothing they could do" with a disruptive individual in this context. Respectfully, I find that difficult to reconcile with what would occur if a similarly disruptive person were to enter the Board of Elections, the Prosecutor's Office, or the Sheriff's Office and loudly interfere with staff conducting public business. In such circumstances I would expect removal for disorderly conduct or related offenses. I've also received multiple threats in the past, and I am concerned these incidents could escalate into violence if unaddressed.

I'm asking for:

- Written guidance for deputies and myself on the appropriate enforcement options during township business hours and public meetings/office hours (e.g., disorderly conduct, obstructing official business, criminal trespass once notice to leave is given, and any other applicable provisions).
- Whether—and how—LCSO may issue a trespass warning or other notice when a person refuses to leave after a forum or office hours are officially concluded.
- Recommended documentation standards for potential charging (e.g., deputy observations, body cam, third-party statements, and citizen video like the attached).

- A brief joint meeting to align on a safety and enforcement plan for future forums/open office hours so residents, and I can engage safely and without unlawful interference.

I can provide additional details about behavior that occurred prior to the attached video, including dates of past incidents and witness information.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please let me know your earliest availability for a 20–30 minute meeting, and whether you prefer in-person in Newark or virtual. I appreciate your help in ensuring we can conduct public business safely and within the law.

The following are the links to the relevant videos and audio.

Inside hall video of Mr. Perkin's refusing to leave when I ended the resident forum/open office hours preventing me from locking up and then trying to push the lights back on as I had my hand on the switches. <https://youtu.be/1bAMzYAJg7w>

Behavior of Mr. Perkins outside the hall. <https://youtu.be/TlGVn0PXIEg>

Mr. Perkins after he had his hand on my mirror preventing me from leaving. https://youtube.com/shorts/wf_xYttbwuc?feature=share

Audio of Resident Forum

[<image001.png>](#)

[250823 Perkins](#)

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

Mark Evans

Etna Township Board of Trustees

Committed to Serving Residents and Restoring Proper Leadership and Integrity to the Township

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