Second request and follow-up from our phone conversation.

Orest Melnyk

Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2026 5:25 AM
To: George Kurzatkowski [gkurzatkowski@mypafcu.com]
Cc: George Kurzatkowski [president@americanpolishcenter.com]; Ela Wienke Apcc [elizabethgm@americanpolishcenter.com]

George,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me yesterday.

As I mentioned, I am currently conducting an investigation into a copyright claim that has been made against OMA Comp regarding photographs from the APCC event.

I am not asking APCC to become involved in the dispute or to take sides. I am simply requesting factual information so that I can complete my investigation accurately and fairly.

Specifically, I would appreciate clarification on the following:

- Who uploaded the photographs to the APCC Facebook page?
- Was Mariusz Nowak engaged by APCC as the official photographer for the event?
- If so, was there a written agreement governing APCC's use of the photographs?
- Did APCC receive permission or a license to publish the photographs on its Facebook page and other promotional materials?
- Was OMA Comp ever informed that these photographs were subject to copyright restrictions or that additional permission was required before reposting APCC's content?
- As OMA Comp has worked with APCC for many years in promoting community events, was it understood that APCC marketing materials would be shared through our marketing channels?

My intent has always been to support APCC and promote our Polish-American community. Had I been aware that these photographs required separate authorization or attribution, I would have respected those requirements.

Immediately after receiving the notice, the photographs were removed, and I began reviewing the circumstances surrounding their use.

Unfortunately, despite requesting additional information from Mariusz Nowak, he has declined to answer my questions and has instead continued sending payment demands and additional invoice notices. I am therefore attempting to gather the relevant facts directly from those involved in organizing and promoting the event.

I appreciate that everyone is busy, but your response will help me complete my investigation and ensure that I respond based on accurate information rather than assumptions.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and for everything you continue to do for APCC and our community.

Best regards,
Orest Melnyk

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On Jun 19, 2026, at 10:45, Orest Melnyk <Orest@omacomp.com> wrote:

Dear Elizabeth and George,

I wanted to personally make you aware of a situation that recently arose involving photographs from the APCC event that OMA Comp helped sponsor, support, and promote.

On June 13, I received a copyright claim from Mariusz regarding photographs used in one of OMA Comp's promotional posts about the event. At the time, I did not know who Mariusz was, nor was I familiar with any restrictions associated with the photographs. Once the matter was brought to my attention, the photographs were removed while I began reviewing the claim and gathering information.

I want to assure both of you that my use of the photographs was solely intended to promote the event, support APCC, and create additional visibility for the organization and the community. There was never any intention to misuse anyone's work, claim ownership, or derive personal benefit from the photographs themselves.

Over the years, I have promoted countless community events and have personally shared hundreds, if not thousands, of photographs and videos for organizations, sponsors, volunteers, performers, and attendees to download, share, and use in support of community activities. In my experience, event photographs have frequently been circulated and reposted throughout the community for promotional purposes. This is the first claim of this nature I have encountered in more than 30 years of business.

As part of my review, I am trying to understand how the photographs were originally distributed, whether there were any restrictions or licensing conditions associated with them, and whether those restrictions were

communicated anywhere. I did not obtain the photographs from Mariusz directly, nor was I aware of any copyright notice, licensing terms, or limitations on their use when I reposted them in connection with promoting the event.

If either of you have any information regarding how the photographs were shared, distributed, or communicated to APCC and its partners, I would appreciate your perspective. I am simply trying to understand the facts before responding further.

I also wanted to make you aware of the situation because APCC was the event organizer and because I believe transparency is important. At this time, I am handling the matter directly and am not seeking APCC's involvement in the dispute. My intention is simply to keep you informed should questions arise in the future.

On a personal level, I must admit that this situation saddens me. We all work extremely hard to support our community, promote our culture, and help APCC succeed. While I fully respect the rights of photographers and creators, I am disappointed that a matter involving promotion of a successful community event has developed in this direction before I have even had an opportunity to complete a full review of the facts.

Unfortunately, I am currently in Europe helping my elderly mother transition to a new assisted living facility, which has limited my ability to investigate as quickly as I would like. Nevertheless, I have been responding diligently and taking the matter seriously.

For now, I simply wanted you both to be aware of the situation. If you have any thoughts, observations, or information that may help me better understand the circumstances surrounding these photographs, I would welcome them.

Thank you both for your friendship, your understanding, and everything you continue to do for our community.

Best regards,
Orest Melnyk

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