

Russ Kick

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18 Nov 2003

Departmental Disclosure Officer
Department of Homeland Security
Washington DC 20528

04-105
12/18/03

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. According to a recent article in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the investigation into suspicious financial activities immediately prior to 9/11 has ended. I hereby request the following material related to this investigation:

- * All reports on all pre-9/11 speculative trading that was investigated
- * Investigations into such trading
- * Any FOIA requests at the your agency concerning such trading or such investigations or reports
- * Any responses provided in response to those FOIA requests
- * The administrative tracking file, including internal memos and/or email, associated with those FOIA requests

I am a freelance writer and journalist. I am willing to pay for expenses that do not exceed \$70. If this request will be more than this amount, please notify me in advance.

I hope to hear from you within the 20-business-day statutory time period for responses to FOIA requests. If you decide to withhold any information from release, I would like a detailed explanation of the exemptions invoked. (If material is withheld, I am entitled under the law to be given any remaining "reasonably segregable portions" of these documents.)

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

[Signature Box]

Russ Kick

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Suspicious profits sit uncollected
Airline investors seem to be lying
low

San Francisco Chronicle

GO

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WAR ON TERRORISM

THE WAR

Investors have yet to collect more than \$2.5 million in profits they made trading options in the stock of United Airlines before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to a source familiar with the trades and market data.

The uncollected money raises suspicions that the investors — whose identities and nationalities have not been made public — had advance knowledge of the strikes.

"Usually, if someone has a windfall like that, you take the money and run," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Whoever did this thought the exchange would not be closed for four days.

"This smells real bad."

The source and others in the financial industry speculate that the purchaser or purchasers — having initially assumed the money could be picked up without detection — now fear exposure, or that the account has been frozen.

Mark Morford:

The markets were closed for four days after the attack, giving investigators time to notice the anomalous trades.

Securities regulators and law-enforcement agents throughout the United States and Europe are investigating unusual patterns in short sales and the purchase of "put" options, both of which are financial-market bets that the price of a given stock will fall. Authorities here and abroad have not publicly disclosed any conclusions they have reached and refuse to discuss the case.

There was an unusually large jump in purchases of put options on the stocks of UAL Corp. and AMR

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December 9, 2003

Department of Homeland Security
Elizabeth R. Withnell
Acting Departmental Disclosure Officer
Departmental Disclosure Office
Washington, D.C. 20528

04-121

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). I, Ron McLane, request a copy of the following document(s) be provided to me for the purpose of providing retirement planning and benefit counseling under the Saver Act of 1997.

I am requesting a list of subject personnel assigned to and/or employed in your command.

- Name: Last, First, MI
- Pay Plan, Series, and Grade
- Job Title
- Organizational Assignment, with Division/Branch/Section
- Telephone Number
- Electronic Mail Address

To help you determine my requester category, I own a private business and information is for use in the company's business. I agree to pay all reasonable costs up to and including \$100.00. Contact me if the costs will exceed the limit indicated. Please contact me at the telephone number listed below, if you need to discuss my request further.

Sincerely,

Ron McLane

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THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

December 8, 2003

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Elizabeth R. Withnell
or Acting Departmental Disclosure Officer
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Departmental Disclosure Officer,

This is a request under the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the common law of the United States, the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C.) section 552a, and any statute providing for public access to government information:

I request that I be sent copies of the following documents or, if there is a large number, be permitted to inspect the following documents:

Electronic data detailing non-governmental sponsored trips disclosed as "Semiannual Reports of Payment Accepted From Non-Federal Sources Under 31 U.S.C." for your agency since 2000.

If all or some portion of my request is denied, please list the specific exemptions which are being claimed to withhold information. If you determine that some portions of the requested material are exempt, I will expect, as the Act provides, that you will provide me with the remaining non-exempt portions. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal any decision to withhold information and expect that you will list the address and office where such an appeal can be sent.

As you know, the amended FOIA permits you to reduce or waive search and/or copying fees when release of the requested information would be "in the public interest." The organization that I represent, the Center for Public Integrity, is a non-profit organization that publishes newsworthy information and I request this information for the purpose of newsgathering, not commercial use. For this reason I believe that this request clearly falls into the distinction of "in the public interest" and I ask that these fees be waved.

I appreciate your attention to this and expect, as the FOIA provides, to hear from your office within 20 days. If you have any questions about the nature or scope of this request, please call me at: 202-466-1300 ext. 1251.

Sincerely,

ALEX KAPLAN

Reporter for the Center for Public Integrity
910 17th Street, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

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04-148

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

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Ann Terry Pincus

As an addendum to the Center for Public Integrity's filed Freedom of Information Act request, I am sending you the following letter to request a waiver for all fees with regards to searching, reviewing and duplicating documents. I believe that our organization deserves the status of "news media" based both on our journalistic background and the purpose for the requested documents.

The Center for Public Integrity is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigative journalism. Almost our entire staff, with the exception of administrative positions, is made up of journalists, reporters and researchers. The Center publishes a newsletter and online publication called the *Public i*. Though the Center's printed newsletter has a limited circulation, the Center's web publications have received as many as 50,000 "web hits" following the release of its stories. Over the years, hundreds of media organizations have covered articles broken by the Center. Our original reporting has unearthed national stories including the Lincoln Bedroom, the Harkin stock trading scandal and potential conflicts of interest dealing with Halliburton.

Since the Center's inception, our organization has regularly received awards reserved for the media from organizations like the Society of Professional Journalists and Investigative Reporters and Editors. Though our organization is a small non-profit, we are a legitimate part of the media, just like other nonprofits including National Public Radio and the Associated Press.

The Center for Public Integrity intends to use the requested documents as a source to write news stories and other publications in its capacity as a news provider. Currently the Center is compiling information on various presidential candidates in hopes of publishing news stories that will inform the public about each politician's political record. As investigative journalists, will plan extract and analyze the substantive content of these records and provide context by comparing them with other documents already collected.

Thank you for your time and consideration in viewing my request. Please feel free to contact me in regards to your decision to honor the fee waiver.

Sincerely,

Alex Knott

Reporter for the Center for Public Integrity
910 17th Street, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006