



County of Union, Illinois
Office of the Chief Information Officer
309 W. Market—Room 115
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Rollie Hawk, CIO
(618) 925-2470
cio@unioncountyl.gov
@unioncountycio

August 17, 2017

Josh Ditto

josh@techguyconsulting.net

Dear Mr. Ditto:

Please consider this our response to your attached follow-up to your previous Freedom of Information Act request, received via email on August 14, 2017.

As before, I remind you that FOIA is intended as a mechanism to obtain records and not a tool for questions and answers but to the degree that your questions are in the public interest and that we are reasonably able to answer in a public manner, we will attempt to assist you. The bulk of your follow-up email is editorial in nature and asks questions related to security procedures that are not a matter of public record.

Is the county, that you are an employee of, paying your private company for access to this email server or does the county directly own the hosting account where the emails are stored? It appears as though the county websites and emails are hosted on the same webserver as your own personal websites. How is it that you selected yourself as a vendor for these services?

The County entered into a professional services agreement for web hosting in 2011 and has maintained that relationship ever since. When the County changed the Chief Information Officer position from a contractual role to an employee position in September of 2016, the Board of Commissioners agreed to maintain the status quo in regards to web hosting for the fiscal year 2017. As you will see in the attached statement of economic interest, business ownership and dealings have been a transparent matter of public record as is legally required by State statute and County resolution.

Can you please provide your education background and work experience as it relates to your job duties for Union County? Do you hold any degrees or certifications pertaining to information technology, networking, etc? As a taxpayer, I feel it important to know that our tax dollars are going towards properly qualified personnel, so I hope you can understand this request.

The County has no records responsive to this portion of your request.

We consider this follow-up to your original request completed. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Rollie Hawk, Chief Information Officer

Enclosure

CC: Tyler Edmonds, State's Attorney

Re: FOIA Response - Ditto - 2017-08-04

From: Josh Ditto <josh@techguyconsulting.net>
To: Rollie J. Hawk <rhawk@unioncountyil.gov>, Tyler R. Edmonds <tedmonds@unioncountyil.gov>
Subject: Re: FOIA Response - Ditto - 2017-08-04
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 4:53 PM
Size: 33 KB

If you are unable to respond to any of the below concerns, please feel free to let me know. The numbers referenced are in regard to my original requests and your original reply.

Regarding (1), (2) - My concerns are not simply that you have posted the emails and direct phone extensions on the web. My concern is that you are publicly posting more information than should be known about the inner workings of the county IT systems. You are telling potentially malicious persons: what phone system you use, where your emails are hosted, the manuals to your phone system, right alongside the names, phones, emails, departments, and job titles of every individual. While you see this as "not a threat" it's definitely lazy and completely unnecessary. If the county employees need this sort of information to be easily accessible, it should be setup internally and not available externally. You are creating unnecessary risk for the sake of minimal added convenience.

Regarding (7) - This does not reflect a matter of opinion. The county is, without a doubt, using an inferior email service in terms of security, uptime reliability, and data archiving purposes. The HTTP accessibility says it all: at any time any users could have logged in, unencrypted, and had their information compromised - unbeknownst to you. So I ask again - why is the county not utilizing a more secure solution? Is their continued use of their current email server based only on your personal recommendation?

Regarding (8) - I'm glad my recommendations were helpful in securing your email server, but I'm a bit disappointed to know our county officials have been communicating via this server for a time period unknown to their IT department.

Can you guarantee that the http link "was not in use anywhere"? Do you have records for the server in question that detail access to that page vs the https page? Are you able to guarantee that no employees, at any point in the past, have accessed and logged into the non-secure version of the webmail? As the page was easily accessible by simply typing unioncountyil.gov/webmail into any web browser from anywhere, I think it would be a good service to the county and the taxpayers that you should supply public evidence that this non-secure server was not accessed by any users. As it stands, any access of the county's email accounts through the HTTP page poses as a breach of potentially confidential information. If such an event were to occur, the people of Union County, and the employees of Union County, **have a right to know if their private information is at risk.**

To clarify: please **prove** that this page (<http://unioncountyil.gov/webmail>) was never, ever, accessed or utilized at anytime by any person. If you cannot prove otherwise, it is safe to assume the page has been accessed, and thus county employees have been communicating over an unencrypted email connection. In turn, this means you should inform the residents and employees of Union County of this potential breach of information.

Regarding (10) - My company will gladly offer our services, free of charge, as a service to the county, its employees, and its residents. We will gladly perform a security audit of all of your IT systems (website, email server, network, endpoint devices, security camera systems, onsite servers, etc) and provide thorough reporting to you and your board. We have performed similar services for area utility companies and other Southern Illinois businesses and can easily provide referrals should you need them. We can start as early as next week if you would like.

Additional concerns I have:

-Is the county, that you are an employee of, paying your private company for access to this email server or does the county directly own the hosting account where the emails are stored? It appears as though the county websites and emails are hosted on the same webserver as your own personal websites. How is it that you selected yourself as a vendor for these services?

-Can you please provide your education background and work experience as it relates to your job duties for Union County? Do you hold any degrees or certifications pertaining to information technology, networking, etc? As a taxpayer, I feel it important to know that our tax dollars are going towards properly qualified personnel, so I hope you can understand this request.

On Mon, Aug 14, 2017 at 4:50 PM, Rollie J. Hawk <rhawk@unioncountyil.gov> wrote:

If you have specific requests related to public records, please list them and I'm happy to provide any records that are available.

Rollie

On Mon, Aug 14, 2017, at 04:40 PM, Josh Ditto wrote:

Rollie -

I sent out a follow-up request regarding my additional concerns on August 4th. Have you had time to draft an additional response?

Thank you,

On Fri, Aug 4, 2017 at 3:28 PM, Rollie J. Hawk <rhawk@unioncountyil.gov> wrote:

Mr. Ditto --

Please find attached our response to your recent FOIA request. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

All the best,
Rollie

--

Rollie Hawk

rhawk@unioncountyil.gov

Union County Chief Information Officer
309 West Market Street, Room 115
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952

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Josh Ditto

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Rollie Hawk

rhawk@unioncountyil.gov

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Josh Ditto

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Statement of Economic Interests to be Filed with the County Clerk
(Type or Print)

Name: Rollie Joshua Hawk

Each Office or Position of Employment for which this Statement is Filed:

Union County Chief Information Officer

Union County Hospital Board Director

Full Post Office Address: PO Box 44; Jonesboro, IL 62952

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

The interest (if constructively controlled by the person making the statement) of a spouse or any other party, shall be considered to be the same as the interest of the person making the statement. Campaign receipts shall not be included in this statement. If more space is needed, please attach supplemental listing.

- 1. List the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business with a unit of local government in relation to which the person is required to file, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value, or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were received during the preceding calendar year: (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand deposit in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument shall be listed.

Table with 3 columns: Business Entity, Instrument of Ownership, Position of Management. Row 1: Union County Technology Solutions, Sole Proprietorship, Owner.

- 2. List the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor, or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year:

Table with 3 columns: Name, Address, Type of Practice. Row 1: Union County Technology Solutions, PO Box 44; Jonesboro, IL 62952, IT Consultancy and Services. Row 2: Family Counseling Center, Inc., PO Box 1328; Vienna, IL 62995, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

- 3. List the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the unit or units of local government in relation to which the person is required to file) to each entity from which income exceeding \$5,000 was received for professional services rendered during the preceding calendar year by the person making the statement:

IT consulting, copy writing, web hosting, public relations

4. List the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a capital gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year:

n/a

5. List the name of any entity and the nature of the governmental action requested by any entity which has applied to a unit of local government in relation to which the person must file for any license, franchise or permit for annexation, zoning or rezoning or real estate during the preceding calendar year, if the ownership interest of the person filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value at the time of filing, or if income or dividends in excess of \$1,200 were received by the person filing from the entity during the preceding calendar year:

n/a

6. List the name of any entity doing business with a unit of local government in relation to which the person is required to file, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity: (No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.)

n/a

7. List the name of any unit of government that employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year, other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file:

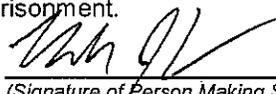
n/a

8. List the name of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year:

n/a

VERIFICATION

I declare that this Statement of Economic Interests (including any accompanying schedules and statements) has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is a true, correct and complete statement of my economic interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. I understand that the penalty for willfully filing a false or incomplete statement shall be a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or imprisonment in a penal institution other than the penitentiary not to exceed one year, or both fine and imprisonment.



(Signature of Person Making Statement)

01/23/2017

(Date)