

Obama's Phone Records, Passport Documents Breached By Verizon Employees, Dept Of State Contractors

By Commercial Investigations LLC

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OBAMA'S PHONE RECORDS, PASSPORT DOCUMENTS BREACHED BY VERIZON EMPLOYEES AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONTRACTORS

(Troy, NY) Verizon Wireless has confirmed that unauthorized employees have accessed President-elect Barack Obama's personal cell phone records. They have apologized for the occurrence and put those employees on paid leave while an investigation into the circumstances of their access continues.

This raises the question of whether any of our information is safe. "We apologize to President-elect Obama and will work to keep the trust our customers place in us every day," Chief Executive Lowell McAdam said in a statement.

At a time when concern over identity theft continues to rise, it is more important than ever to monitor employee access to both the personal information of other employees as well as customers.

It is also important to utilize background investigations, including credit reports, to screen employees who will have access to personal identifiers and information.

In March of this year, it was revealed that Obama's passport documents were accessed by unauthorized contractors. According to Infoworld.com:

"Private contract employees working for the U.S. Department of State have repeatedly accessed U.S. Sen. Barack Obama's passport records over the past three months – a breach flagged by the State Department's in-house computer system but subsequently downplayed by the supervisors of the offices in which the breaches occurred. Two of these workers have been fired by their employers. The Obama campaign is seeking

answers as to how it happened, and a broader investigation is now in the works."

The actions of the three separate workers, employees of two different contractors, were described Thursday night by State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack as 'imprudent curiosity.' But he said that this is only an 'initial finding' and said the department's inspector general has been asked to investigate. Details about the breach emerged in a late-night,

hastily called press conference by State Department officials”
(http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/03/21/Obama-passport-records-breached_1.html)

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