
AP-2014-03844: additional information regarding public interest in disclosure

1 message

Matt Topic <matt@loevy.com>

Wed, Oct 15, 2014 at 3:54 PM

To: timothy.ziese@usdoj.gov

Mr. Ziese:

Per our call today, I am providing additional information as to the public interest in disclosure of the records. In addition to the public interest in disclosure regarding Mr. Watts' illegal misconduct as a police officer, disclosure of the information would also allow the public to understand the level of vigor with which the FBI investigated Mr. Watts, including for example, whether the FBI pursued all possible misconduct by Mr. Watts or others in the Chicago Police Department. The public, particularly in Chicago and Illinois, relies heavily on the FBI to investigate acts of corruption and misconduct by Chicago and Illinois police officers and public officials. As Robert Grant, the head of the Chicago office of FBI stated in 2008: "If (Illinois) isn't the most corrupt state in the United States, it's certainly one hell of a competitor." Further, the FBI frequently highlights public corruption cases on its website and in the media, and the press release materials FBI provided in connection with Mr. Baker's FOIA request includes an FBI press release promoting Watts' arrest to the media.

For these further reasons, there is a significant public interest in the disclosure of the information.

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Matthew Topic
Loevy & Loevy
312 N. May Street, Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60607
[312-789-4973](tel:312-789-4973) (office)
[773-368-8812](tel:773-368-8812) (cell)
matt@loevy.com

www.loevy.com/attorneys/matthew-v-topic

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