MATOVINA JOHN M

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of

securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Form 5

February 12, 2009

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FORM	1 5							OMB A OMB	PPROVAL			
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION									3235-0362			
Check this no longer	Was	Washington, D.C. 20549					Number: Expires:	January 31, 2005				
to Section Form 4 or 5 obligation may contin		ATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BEN OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES				CFICIAL		Estimated average burden hours per				
may continue. See Instruction 1(b). Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 Transactions Reported												
1. Name and A	Person * 2. Issuer Symbol	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer						
1,11110 / 11 (AMERICAN EQUITY									
			INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING				(Check all applicable)					
		CO [AF	CO [AEL]					X Director 10% Owner				
(Last)	(First) (M		3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)				_X_ Officer (give below)	title Other (specify below)				
							Vice Chairman					
12/31/2008 5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY,												
SUITE 440												
	(Street)	4. If Ame	4. If Amendment, Date Original				6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting					
		Filed(Mon	Filed(Month/Day/Year)									
							(chec	ck applicable line)			
WEST DES	MOINES, IAÂ	50266										
X Form Filed						Form Filed by	y One Reporting Person More than One Reporting					
(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tabl	e I - Non-Deri	ivative Sec	nritie	s Acan	ired, Disposed o	f. or Beneficia	lly Owned			
1.Title of	2. Transaction Date		3.	4. Securi		, rrequ	5. Amount of		•			
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transaction	Acquired (A) or			Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect			
(Instr. 3)		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			Beneficially Owned at end	(D) or Indirect (I)	Beneficial Ownership			
				(111301. 3,	(A)	<i>J</i>)	of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)			
				Amount	or	Price						
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	68,000	D	Â			
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	1,000	I	By Spouse			

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SEC 2270

(9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			te	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.85	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/11/2011	06/11/2018	Common Stock	40,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common Stock	20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common Stock	20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	20,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
MATOVINA JOHN M 5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440 WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	ÂΧ	Â	Vice Chairman	Â			

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of
Attorney

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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