

## **Excerpt, Des Moines, Iowa Presidential Candidate Debate, 12/12/07**

**Q: Mayor Giuliani, your administration in New York has been accused of handling your security expenses in a way that obscured the public disclosure. What, specifically, will you promise to do to ensure that a Giuliani White House is open with information that might be inconvenient to explain to the public?**

**GIULIANI:** The reality is that all that information was available and known to people, known six years ago. And I would make sure that government was transparent. My government in New York City was so transparent that they knew every single thing I did almost every time I did. ... So, I would be extremely open. I'm used to it. I'm used to being analyzed. I haven't had a perfect life. I wish I had. And I do the best that I can to learn from my mistakes.

But as far as open, transparent government, I think I've had both an open, transparent government and an open, transparent life. And it allows you to lead, then, with honesty and truth.

**Q: So, are there things you could have done in this situation that would have been more open and not raised these concerns about obscuring public...**

**GIULIANI:** No, the reality is that this was a bookkeeping practice. The way it was done actually made it more available to Freedom of Information Act requests. Had it been done just in the police department, nobody would have ever found it. And everything that was laid out a few weeks ago had been laid out six years ago -- very well-known. Some of the things that I wish if I had led a perfect life would have happened differently. But it was all very well-known. And on the issue of transparency, I can't think of a public figure that's had a more transparent life than I've had.