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AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO

Form 4

September 28, 2006

FORM 4	UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Workington, D.C. 20540
	Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

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response... 0.5

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Check this box

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * GERLACH JAMES M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERICAN EQUITY

INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING

CO [AEL]

(Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

> (Month/Day/Year) 09/26/2006

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

_X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

Executive Vice President

5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY,

SUITE 440

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City) (State) (Zip)

(Street)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Form: Direct Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned (D) or Ownership Following Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) Reported (Instr. 4) (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

Common 09/26/2006 F 134,143 D 53,107 Stock

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)		4.	5. orNumber	6. Date Exerc Expiration Da		7. Title Amou		8. Price of Derivative	9. Nu Deriv
Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Monun Day/ Year)	execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/		Under Securi	lying	Security (Instr. 5)	Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
. 9	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
GERLACH JAMES M			Executive				
5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440	X		Vice				
WEST DES MOINES LA 50266			President				

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney 09/28/2006

**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 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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