

insidethegames.biz/articles/1045680/nsa-fail-to-get-alleged-surveillance-at-2002-winter-olympics-case-thrown-out-of-court



A bid to dismiss a lawsuit against the National Security Agency (NSA) over claims they conducted a surveillance programme during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City without warrants has been rejected in the United States.



The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that US District Judge Robert Shelby decided to let the case continue after NSA bosses called the allegations against them "implausible".

Shelby said the judges cannot rule on whether allegations are based on facts at this stage of a case.

"The court is simply in no position to evaluate at this stage of the proceeding whether the NSA engaged in the massive warrantless surveillance programme plaintiffs allege," Shelby said.

"If the NSA engaged in the conduct alleged, it is presently unknown whether the plaintiffs' communications were intercepted or whether the NSA still possesses any of plaintiffs' data."

It is claimed the Agency gathered the contents of text messages and emails along with metadata from any phone call made around Salt Lake City before and during the Games, which took place five months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



It is alleged America's National Security Agency collected data from phone calls, text messages and emails during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City ©Getty Images

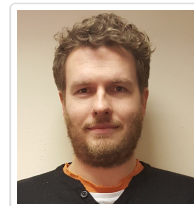
Rocky Anderson, who was the city's Mayor when the Games took place, filed the lawsuit in 2013 which also alleges then-US President George W Bush and vice-president Dick Cheney had approved the programme.

Bush and Cheney, both Republicans, are listed as defendants in the case.

Anderson, who was a Democrat Party member before co-founding the Justice Party in 2011 and becoming their US Presidential candidate a year later, has said he believes the NSA still has data collected from the Games.

insidethegames have approached the NSA for comment.

About the author



George Thorpe Desk Editor

George Thorpe is a desk editor at Inside The Games. Between August 2010 and November 2016, he worked with a number of regional newspapers including the Basildon/Southend Echo, Falmouth Packet and Watford Observer in news and sports. He was shortlisted for Weekly Sports Reporter of the Year at the 2014 Regional Press Awards and has interviewed a number of athletes and personalities in sport, including Mark Foster, Alastair Cook and Helen Glover.
