



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 18, 2011

Via electronic mail

Ms. Beverly Glass
Frankfort Police Department
20602 Lincoln Way Lane
Frankfort, Illinois 60423
bglass@frankfortpolice.net

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 14107

Dear Ms. Glass:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Frankfort Police Department (Department) of its intention to deny certain information under section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) (West 2009 Supp.), as amended by Public Act 96-1378, effective July 29, 2010). The Department seeks to redact dates of birth from the requested documents.

On May 4, 2011, the Department received a request from Ms. Ashley Rueff of *The Chicago Tribune* seeking any reports related to a traffic crash involving a certain named individual. In its written notice, the Department asserts that the dates of birth in the responsive documents are exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA exempts from inspection and copying "[p]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information." The exemption defines "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" as "the disclosure of information that is highly personal or objectionable to a reasonable person and in which the subject's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) (West 2009 Supp.), as amended by Public Act 96-1378, effective July 29, 2010.

DETERMINATION

The Department's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) for the dates of birth is **approved**. We have determined that the Department has met its initial burden of demonstrating

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that the disclosure of dates of birth would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This type of information is highly personal by its very nature, and the subject's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining this information. *See, e.g., Oliva v. United States*, 756 F. Supp. 105, 107 (E.D.N.Y. 1991) (holding that, under Exemption 6 of the Federal Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)), "dates of birth[] are a private matter, particularly when coupled with * * * other information" and "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy"); *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts v. Attorney General of Texas*, ___ S.W.3d ___, 54 Tex. Sup. Ct. J. 245 (2010) (state employees have a "nontrivial privacy interest" in their dates of birth under the Texas Public Information Act (*see* Tex. Gov't Code §§552.101, 552.102), which substantially outweighs the negligible public interest in disclosure).

Accordingly, the Department may issue a partial denial letter and release the documents with the appropriate information redacted, if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 814-2086. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,



SARAH KAPLAN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

cc: *Via electronic mail*
Ms. Ashley Rueff
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