



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 20, 2011

Laura Godette, FOIA Officer  
Village of Tinley Park  
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 14285

Dear Ms. Godette:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Village of Tinley Park (Village) of its intention to deny certain information as exempt from disclosure 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 Village is seeking to redact dates of birth from the requested documents.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Company submitted a FOIA request for all records pertaining to IDOT Control No. U100358766 and Tinley Park Police Department Agency Crash Report Number 2011-9125 on May 13, 2011. In its written notice, the Village asserts that dates of birth 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 Village's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) for the dates of birth is **approved**. We have determined that the Village has met its initial burden to demonstrate that the disclosure of dates of birth would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal

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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 disclosing 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 Village may issue a partial denial letter and release the reports with the dates of birth redacted, if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions about FOIA, please contact us at (877) 299-FOIA. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Dushyanth Reddivari.

DUSHYANTH REDDIVARI  
Assistant Attorney General  
Public Access Bureau

cc: State Farm Mutual Automobile Company  
P.O. Box 2350  
Bloomington, IL 61702-2350