OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 2, 2011

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

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 14500

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.

[redacted] submitted a FOIA request for the Tinley Park Police Department Incident Report pertaining to Case # 01-11-010729 on May 31, 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 of demonstrating 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 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,

DUSHYANTH REDDIVARI
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

cc: