OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 22, 2011

Mr. Jerome A. Nudera, Jr.
FOIA Officer
Will County Sheriff's Office
14 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 14734

Dear Mr. Nudera:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Will County Sheriff's Office of its intention to deny disclosure of 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 Office is seeking to redact dates of birth from the requested documents.

On May 22, 2011, Citizens Information Associates LLC submitted a FOIA request for booking photos and jail/arrest log entries documenting the entry of all individuals into Will County Jails and Correctional Facilities between April 1, 2011 and April 30, 2011. On June 2, 2011, Citizens submitted an identical request for the period between May 1, 2011 and May 31, 2011. In its written notice, the Office 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 Office's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) for the dates of birth is **approved**. We have determined that the Office 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 Office 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) 299-3642. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,

DUSHYANTH REDDIVARI
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

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cc: Mr. Kyle Prall
Citizens Information Associates LLC
1604 Nueces St.
Austin, TX 78701