



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 8, 2011

Mr. Larry Randa, FOIA Officer  
Valley View School District No. 365U  
755 Dalhart Avenue  
Romeoville, IL 60446

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request – 2011 PAC 14332

Dear Mr. Randa:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from Valley View School District No. 365U (School District) of its intention to deny certain information as exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) (West 2010)). Specifically, on April 29, 2011, Rhonda Reed-Slaughter submitted a FOIA request for information regarding legal services provided to the School District and legal fees for 2010 and 2011. On May 6, 2011, the School District submitted a pre-authorization request to redact from attorney billing records the names of individuals who filed FOIA requests; we approved the use of section 7(1)(c) for those redactions. Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Pre-Auth. al14022, issued May 13, 2011. On May 16, 2011, the School District submitted this second pre-authorization request seeking to redact the names of FOIA requesters from additional billing records.

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 2010).

**DETERMINATION**

The School District's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) for the names of FOIA requestors is **approved**. We previously have determined that disclosure of this information would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under section 7(1)(c).

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Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Pre-Auth. al8578, issued August 3, 2010; Ill. Att'y Gen. PAC Pre-Auth. al14022, issued May 13, 2011. *See also Chicago Alliance For Neighborhood Safety v. City of Chicago*, 348 Ill. App. 3d 188, 212 (1<sup>st</sup> Dist. 2004) (disclosure of the names and addresses of individuals who submitted FOIA requests to the City of Chicago Police Department would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under section 7(1)(c)). Therefore, we conclude that the School District has sustained its initial burden of demonstrating that the names of FOIA requesters are exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(c).

Accordingly, the School District may issue a partial denial letter and release the redacted records, if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 814-6756. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,



STEVE SILVERMAN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Public Access Bureau

cc: *Via electronic mail*  
Ms. Rhonda Reed-Slaughter  
The Number Crunchers-Bolingbrook  
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