



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 18, 2010

Mr. Larry K. Randa
Freedom of Information Officer
Valley View Community Unit District 365U
755 Luther Drive
Romeoville, IL 60446

RE: FOIA Pre-approval Request – 2010 PAC 7316

Dear Mr. Randa:

On May 11, 2010, we received from Valley View Community Unit District 365U (District) a written notice of its intent to assert the Section 7(1)(c) exemption in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 10, 2010 submitted by [REDACTED] (Requester). The request sought a "list of expenses and copies of receipts for Mike Evans disbursement 10/21/2009 \$743.88 for conference in Boston...and for Steve Quigley disbursement 10/21/2009 \$501.28 for conference in Boston."

The District has indicated that it intends to disclose all responsive records, but that it intends to redact from such records references to "personal expenses" (for meals and entertainment) that were not reimbursed in connection with this conference pursuant to Section 7(1)(c). Section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act permits a public body to withhold "[p]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." That provision further defines an "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." It also provides that "[t]he disclosure of information that bears on the public duties of public employees and officials shall not be considered an invasion of personal privacy."

Based on our review of the District's explanation of the information it intends to withhold as constituting a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and its explanation of its bases for asserting that exemption, we have determined that the District has met its burden to justify redacting references to personal expenses for which Mr. Evans and Mr. Quigley were not reimbursed in connection with the conference at issue. Such expenses do not appear to bear on the public duties of public employees. They are highly personal in nature and the release of references to those expenses in conjunction with the identities of the individuals submitting them

would likely be objectionable to a reasonable person. The employees' rights to privacy outweigh any public interest in release of the proposed redactions. The public interest in this information is sufficiently served by the release of redacted versions of these records that will allow for public understanding of the full nature and extent of the expenses for which reimbursement was made by the District.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (217) 782-9078. This letter shall serve to close this file.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By 

Matthew M. Sebek
Assistant Attorney General, Public Access Division

cc: 