



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 7, 2010

Kerry Sutton  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Illinois State Police  
801 S. Seventh St.  
Suite 1000-S  
Springfield, IL 19461

RE: Pre-Authorization Request — 2010 PAC 7688

Dear Trooper Sutton:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Illinois State Police (ISP) of its intention to deny disclosure of certain information as exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended.

██████████ submitted a FOIA request dated May 24, 2010, seeking evidentiary documents regarding his case. In its written notice, the ISP asserted that the names of the other suspects are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

**Determination**

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 disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). The exemption defines "[u]nwarranted 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." *Id.*

The ISP's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to the names of suspects who have not been arrested is approved. We have determined that the disclosure of these names would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). 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.

However, the ISP's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to the names of suspects who *have* been arrested is denied. We have determined that the disclosure of these names would

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not constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c).

As such, the ISP may issue a partial denial letter directly to [REDACTED] and release the records to him with the appropriate information redacted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Access Counselor's Office at (877) 299-3642. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith  
Public Access Counselor

By:

[REDACTED]

Amalia Rioja  
Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc:

[REDACTED]