



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 21, 2010

Ms. Karen Lucas
Freedom of Information Officer
Metra
547 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60661

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 7978
FOIA Requester: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Lucas:

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

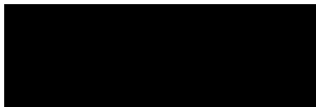
Section 7(1)(c) exempts from inspection and copying “[p]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy”. The exemption defines “unwarranted invasion of personal privacy” as “the disclosure of information 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.”

Metra’s use of the Section 7(1)(c) exemption with regard to dates of birth is **approved**. The information is highly personal by its very nature, and the subjects’ right to privacy with respect to this information outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining it. Thus, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA, as disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy to the subjects of the information.

Please note that home addresses are exempt from disclosure as private information under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA. Metra’s use of this exemption does not require preapproval from our office. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (312) 793-0865. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

cc:



Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor



By: Sara Cadola Gallagher
Deputy Public Access Counselor