



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 15, 2010

Karen Lucas
Freedom of Information Officer
Metra- Law Department
547 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60661

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 8373

Dear Ms. Lucas:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from Metra of its intention to deny 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 June 29, 2010, seeking a copy of Metra Police Report #10-010128. In its written notice, Metra asserted 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 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.*

Determinations

Metra’s use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to dates of birth is approved. We have determined that the disclosure of dates of birth 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. As such, Metra may issue a partial denial letter directly to ██████████ and release the record to her with the appropriate information redacted.

PAC 8373
July 15, 2010
Page 2

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-5206. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By:

Amalia Rioja
Amalia Rioja *by EK*
Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc:

