



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

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 28, 2010

Julie A. Gragnani  
FOIA Officer  
Lake County Forest Preserve District  
2000 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request 2010 PAC 8565

Dear Ms. Gragnani:

We have reviewed Lake County Forest Preserve District's pre-authorization request and associated documents to determine whether Section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c), was properly asserted to withhold requested documents.

Specifically, on July 5, 2010, [REDACTED] submitted a FOIA request to the District seeking "application materials of all individuals who were selected for interviews regarding the Assistant Manager of Natural Resources position, which was recently filled." The District claims that the disclosure of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c), because the applicants have an expectation that their applications will remain private, and disclosure could cause them irreparable harm, including jeopardizing their current employment.

The District's assertion of Section 7(1)(c) to withhold these job applications is approved, with respect to the applications of those individuals who were not hired for the position of Assistant Manager of Natural Resources. This information is highly personal, and its disclosure will not further the fundamental purpose of FOIA—to provide scrutiny over governmental affairs.

However, the District may not, pursuant to Section 7(1)(c), withhold the job application of the applicant who was selected as the Assistant Manager of Natural Resources. The public's interest in learning of the qualifications of a public employee (in contrast to an applicant for employment) outweighs the individual's personal privacy interests under these circumstances.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-5044. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith  
Public Access Counselor

By:

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Sunil Bhawe  
Assistant Attorney General

cc:

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