



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

**Lisa Madigan**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 11, 2011

Mr. Roman Gold  
Freedom of Information Officer  
547 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60661  
rgold@metrarr.com

Re: Pre-Authorization Request – 2011 PAC 13374  
FOIA Requester: Mr. Kevin P. Craver, Senior Reporter, Northwest Herald

Dear Mr. Gold:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from Metra of its intention to deny disclosure of the names of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requesters contained within responsive records for being exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended.

On February 22, 2011, Mr. Kevin P. Craver, a reporter with the Northwest Herald, submitted a FOIA request to Metra for:

- A copy of Metra's impending response to a FOIA filed Feb. 8 by blogger Cal Skinner.
- A copy of all FOIA requests to Metra (excluding Metra's responses) filed since Jan. 1, 2010, regarding the duties and compensation of former Executive Director Phil Pagano."

On April 5, 2011, Metra sought our office's approval to withhold "the name(s) of parties that requested public documents from Metra pursuant to FOIA" that are contained in the responsive documents. Metra argues that "the right to privacy of private individuals making FOIA requests outweighs any public interest in obtaining this information." Metra released "the names of requestors that are members of the media, elected officials, or others who claimed their request was made in the public interest."

**Determination**

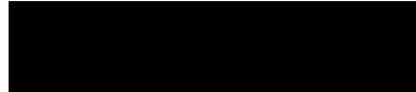
Section 7(1)(c) exempts from inspection and copying "[p]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The exemption defines "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" as "the disclosure of information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

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Metra's use of the Section 7(1)(c) exemption to withhold the names of FOIA requesters contained within the responsive records is **approved**. Our office agrees that the subjects' right to privacy outweighs any public interest in obtaining this information. Thus, our office finds that the Metra has met its initial burden with respect to the redaction of the FOIA requestors' names.

Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at (877) 299-3642. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Rebecca Riddick.

Rebecca Riddick  
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc:  
Mr. Kevin P. Craver  
Senior Reporter, Northwest Herald  
kcraver@nwherald.com