

## OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan

October 12, 2010

William Miller Chief of Police Department of Police Village of Flossmoor 2800 Flossmoor Road Flossmoor, Illinois 60422

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 10019

Dear Chief Miller:

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

submitted a FOIA request dated September 23, 2010, seeking copies of records concerning a locker break- in at Homewood Flossmoor High School on September 23, 2010. In its written notice, the Department asserted that dates of birth 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." 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 Department'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



October 12, 2010 Page 2

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, the Department may issue a partial denial letter directly to the requester and release the records to her 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:

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Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc:

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