



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 19, 2011

Colleen O'Brien
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Harvard Police Department
PO Box 310
Harvard, IL 60033

RE: Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 13549

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

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

On March 30, 2011, [REDACTED] submitted a FOIA request seeking a copy of the Department's Reports Nos. 301100985 and 3011001437. In its April 14, 2011 written notice to the Office of the Public Access Counselor, the Department asserted that dates of birth are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c)) which 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.*

Determination

The Department's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to dates of birth is approved. 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 requestor and release the records with the appropriate information redacted if it has not already done so.

Accordingly, the Department has met its burden of demonstrating that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-5383. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew C. Rogina
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc:



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