OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 28, 2011

Colleen O'Brien
Freedom of Information Officer
Harvard Police Department
201 West Front Street
Harvard, Illinois 60033

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2011 PAC 13703

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Harvard 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.

[redacted] submitted a FOIA request dated April 14, 2011, seeking police report number 30-10-006512. 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." 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.*

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 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. Therefore, the Department has met its initial burden demonstrating that the redacted information is exempt under Section 7(1)(c). As such, the Department may issue a partial denial letter directly to the requester and release the

records 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,

Rebecca Riddick by: AA

Rebecca Riddick
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc: [redacted]

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