



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 12, 2011

Ann Kavanaugh
Records Supervisor
Schaumburg Police Department
1000 W. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60194-4198

RE: Pre-Authorization Request — 2011 PAC 13613

Dear Ms. Kavanaugh:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Village of Schaumburg Police Department of its intention to deny certain information as exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) (West 2009 Supp.), as amended by Public Act 96-1378, effective July 29, 2010). The Department is seeking to redact dates of birth and certain third party names from the requested document.

Metropolitan Reporting Bureau submitted a FOIA request for records concerning a loss on Amherst Drive in Schaumburg, Illinois, on April 15, 2011. In its written notice, the Department asserts that dates of birth and certain third party names are exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

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 the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information." 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." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) (West 2009 Supp.), as amended by Public Act 96-1378, effective July 29, 2010.

DETERMINATION

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The Department's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) for the dates of birth is **approved**. We have determined that the Department has met its initial burden to demonstrate that the disclosure of dates of birth would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. 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. *See, e.g., Oliva v. United States*, 756 F. Supp. 105, 107 (E.D.N.Y. 1991) (holding that, under Exemption 6 of the Federal Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)), "dates of birth[] are a private matter, particularly when coupled with * * * other information" and "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy"); *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts v. Attorney General of Texas*, ___ S.W.3d ___, 54 Tex. Sup. Ct. J. 245 (2010) (state employees have a "nontrivial privacy interest" in their dates of birth under the Texas Public Information Act (*see* Tex. Gov't Code §§552.101, 552.102), which substantially outweighs the negligible public interest in disclosure).

The Department's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) to redact third party names is also **approved**. We have concluded that the Department has met its initial burden to demonstrate that the disclosure of these names would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person. Under these circumstances, the individual's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in the information that the Department intends to redact from the report.

Accordingly, the Department may issue a partial denial letter and release the report with the dates of birth and third party names redacted, if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 814-6756. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,

STEVE SILVERMAN

STEVE SILVERMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

BYEK

cc: Metropolitan Reporting Bureau
William Penn Annex, P.O. Box 926
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105-0926