



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 13, 2011

Mr. Larry Randa
Valley View School District 365U
755 Dalhart Ave.
Romeoville, IL 60446

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 14022

Dear Mr. Randa:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Valley View School District No.365U (District)of its intention to deny disclosure of certain information pursuant to section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c) (West 2009 Supp.), as amended by Public Act 96-1378, effective July 29, 2010). The District is seeking to redact names of FOIA requesters from responsive documents.

On April 29, 2011, Ms. Rhonda Reed-Slaughter submitted a FOIA request for:

1. The name of the attorney who sits with the school board members at board meetings and the name of his law firm.
2. [T]he detail that explains the nature of his work with the district * * * [and a copy of any] signed agreement the District has with him.
3. [T]he detail that makes up the balance of legal fees for 2010 & 2011.

In its written notice, the District asserts that the names of FOIA requesters referenced in certain of the responsive records are exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

Mr. Larry Randa
May 13, 2011
Page 2

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

The District's use of the exemption in section 7(1)(c) for the names of FOIA requesters is **approved**. This office agrees that FOIA requesters' rights to privacy outweigh any public interest in obtaining this information. Thus, we find that the District has met its initial burden with respect to the redaction of the FOIA requestor's name.

Accordingly, the District may issue a partial denial letter and release the reports with the names of FOIA requesters redacted, if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (877) 299-3642. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,



REBECCA RIDDICK
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

Via Electronic Mail

cc: Ms. Rhonda Reed-Slaughter

