



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 16, 2010

Robert Burden
FOIA Officer
City of Loves Park
100 Heart Boulevard
Loves Park, Illinois 61111

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 10734

Dear Mr. Burden:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the City of Loves Park (City) 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 October 20, 2010, seeking copies of police reports of incidents which occurred at a specific address. In its written notice, the City asserted that victims' names, suspects' names, addresses, a VIN number and a license plate number 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 City's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) to withhold a VIN number is denied. We have

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determined that the disclosure of this information would not constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). The City has not met its burden establishing a basis for redacting this type of information.

The City's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) to withhold the names of victims and suspects who have not been arrested is approved. We have determined that the disclosure of these names 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.

As such, the City may issue a partial denial letter directly to the requester and release the records in accordance with this letter.

Please note that addresses and a license plate number may be redacted as "private information" under Section 7(1)(b), which does not require pre-authorization from our office.

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,

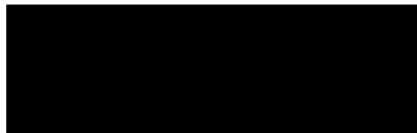
Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By:

Amalia Rioja by EK

Amalia Rioja
Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc:



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