



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 17, 2010

Via E-mail

Lola Dada-Olley
Associate General Counsel
Office of Governor Pat Quinn
State of Illinois
100 W. Randolph, 16th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Lola.Dada-Olley@Illinois.gov

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 9692

Dear Ms. Dada-Olley:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Office of the Governor 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 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended.

On September 10, 2010, Ray Long of the *Chicago Tribune* submitted a FOIA request to the Office of the Governor seeking “copies of all applications filed for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioner post the governor filled by appointment in August 2009.”

In its written notice, the Office of the Governor asserted that it intended to withhold the signature of the person who was appointed to fill the vacancy.

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.* Furthermore, “[t]he disclosure of information that bears on the

public duties of public employees and officials shall not be considered an invasion of personal privacy.” *Id.*

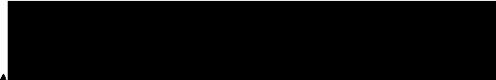
The Office of the Governor’s use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to the redacted signature is approved. We have determined that the Office of the Governor has met its initial burden to show that the disclosure of an individual’s signature would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). A person’s signature is highly personal and the subject’s right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in disclosing this information.

If you have any questions, please call me at 312-814-5206. This letter shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By:



Amanita Kioja
Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc: Ray Long
Chicago Tribune
flong@tribune.com

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