



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 18, 2010

Mr. Michael S. Recupito
Freedom of Information Officer
Round Lake Police Department
741 West Town Line Rd.
Round Lake, IL 60073

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 10719
FOIA Requester: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Recupito:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Round Lake Police Department (Department) of its intention to deny disclosure of certain information as exempt from disclosure 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 November 5, 2010, seeking a copy of Report #2010-001983. In its written notice, the Department asserts that dates of birth are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c)).

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." *Id.* 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). 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. Accordingly, the Department has met its burden of demonstrating that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA. As such, the Department may issue a partial denial letter directly to Ms. Watson and release the records to her 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,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By: Tola Sobitan DNR

Tola Sobitan
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc:



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