



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 4, 2011

Ms. Nicole Both  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Metra  
547 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60661

RE: Pre-Authorization Request — 2011 PAC 12468

Dear Ms. Both:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from Metra 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.

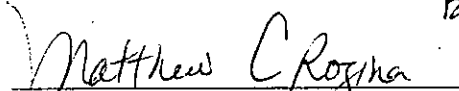
On February 11, 2011, Metropolitan Reporting Bureau submitted a FOIA request seeking a copy of Police Report No. 11-004967. In its written notice, Metra asserted that dates of birth are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c)) which exempts from inspection and copying, "[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."

**Determination**

Metra's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to a date of birth is approved. 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, Metra may issue a partial denial letter directly to Metropolitan Reporting Bureau and release the records with the appropriate information redacted if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-5383. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Matthew C. Rogina  
Matthew C. Rogina  
Assistant Public Access Counselor

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

*12468 preauth al 71c dob pd*