

November 12, 2015

VIA U.S. MAIL

Metropolitan Reporting Bureau
Box 926, William Penn Annex
Philadelphia, PA 19105-0926

RE: 15-FOIA-211 Police Report #15-34043; Your Claim [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

We are in receipt of your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* (“**FOIA**”).

I. Background

On October 14, 2015, we received your request for police report #15-34043 (“**Request**”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

II. Responsive Documents

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with the above-referenced police report and a copy of a personal recognizance bond (“**Responsive Documents**”).

III. Partial Denial

While FOIA requires public bodies to provide access to public records generally, FOIA also authorizes units of government to withhold certain information. Therefore, Attorney Thomas Stuebner has determined that the following portions of the Responsive Document are exempt from disclosure under certain provisions of FOIA:

1. The employee identification numbers, passwords, personal telephone number, home address, driver’s license number, and vehicle license plate number of the parties mentioned in the Responsive Documents are being redacted because they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA, which exempts “private information.” “Employee identification numbers,” “passwords,” “personal telephone numbers,” “home addresses,” “driver’s license numbers,” and “vehicle license plate numbers” are specifically mentioned within the definition of “private information” found in Section 2(c-5) of FOIA.
2. The date of birth and the physical description of the party mentioned in the Responsive Documents, as well as the name of a third-party are being redacted because they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA, which exempts “personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy....” Section 7(1)(c) goes on to say that, “‘Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy’ means 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.” It has been determined that the aforementioned data falls squarely within that definition and its redaction is appropriate under FOIA.

3. Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA exempts “[i]nformation specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law.” 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(a). Accordingly, the home address, date of birth, driver’s license number, physical description of the party mentioned and results of background check status in the Responsive Documents are exempt from disclosure per the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2721 *et seq.*, which prohibits individuals from knowingly obtaining or disclosing “personal information” from a motor vehicle record.

IV. Right of Review

A person whose request to inspect or copy a public record was treated by the public body as a request for a commercial purpose under Section 3.1 of FOIA may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office for the limited purpose of reviewing whether the public body properly determined that the request was made for a commercial purpose. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(b). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us.

You also have the right to seek judicial review of the partial denial of your Request by filing a lawsuit in the circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton
Freedom of Information Officer
FOIA@metrarr.com
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3462

Enclosures