

January 21, 2016

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

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

RE: 15-FOIA-262 Police Report #15-57548

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 December 16, 2015, we received your request for a copy of police report #15-57548 (“**Request**”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

**II. Responsive Document**

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

**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, home address, vehicle license plate number, and driver’s license number of the parties mentioned in the Responsive Document are being redacted because they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA, which exempts “private information.” “Employee identification numbers,” “passwords,” “home addresses,” “vehicle license plate numbers,” and “driver’s license numbers” are specifically mentioned within the definition of “private information” found in Section 2(c-5) of FOIA.
2. The date of birth of the party mentioned in the Responsive Document is being redacted because it is 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, and any physical description of the parties mentioned in the Responsive Document 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](mailto: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,



Douglas A. Smagur  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[foia@metrarr.com](mailto:foia@metrarr.com)  
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642

Enclosure