



June 19, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Christopher R. Groeling
Claims Representative
BNSF Railway
Email: Christopher.Groeling@BNSF.com

RE: 19-FOIA-161 MPD Report - Berwyn Amtrak Fatality

Dear Mr. Groeling:

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 June 17, 2019, we received your request for a Metra Police report concerning a fatality where Amtrak train #380 struck a trespasser at Ridgeland Avenue in Berwyn, IL on June 10, 2019 (“Request”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

II. Responsive Document

In response to your Request, Metra’s Police Department is providing you with Metra police report #MP-19-00027876 (“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 Keith Pardonnet has determined that the following portions of the Responsive Document are exempt from disclosure under certain provisions of FOIA:

1. The employee identification numbers of the parties mentioned in the Responsive Document are redacted because they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA, which exempts “private information.” “Employee identification numbers” are specifically mentioned within the definition of “private information” found in Section 2(c-5) of FOIA.
2. Certain graphic descriptions mentioned in the Responsive Document are 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 graphic descriptions fall squarely within that definition and redaction is appropriate under FOIA.

IV. Right of Review

You have the right to have the partial denial of your Request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). 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.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this partial denial letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this partial denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

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

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Haton
Freedom of Information Officer
foia@metrarr.com
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642

Attachment