

February 4, 2016

**VIA E-MAIL**

Ms. Lourdes Alvarez  
[REDACTED]

RE: 16-FOIA-015 Police Report - [REDACTED] Accident 1/20/16

Dear Ms. Alvarez:

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 January 21, 2016, we received your request for a copy of a police report of an accident involving [REDACTED] at the intersection of 87<sup>th</sup> and Pulaski on January 20, 2016 (“Request”). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

**II. Responsive Document**

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with police report #16-00113 (“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, personal financial information, and the vehicle license plate 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,” “personal financial information,” 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, physical description of the parties, as well as the name of the third-party mentioned in the Responsive Document 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.

#### **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](mailto: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 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](mailto:FOIA@metrarr.com)  
FOIA Hotline #312-663-3462

Attachment