

April 25, 2016

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Ms. Linda Dotson  
[REDACTED]

RE: 16-FOIA-104 Findings of [REDACTED] Incident 12/14/2015 Worth, IL

Dear Ms. Dotson:

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 April 19, 2016, we received your request for the findings of the train incident occurring on 12/14/2015 in Worth, IL involving your grandson, [REDACTED] (“Request”).

I spoke to you on April 21, to clarify what you meant by “findings” and you stated all reports and photographs regarding the incident. You requested that the photos be placed in a separate envelope, marked “Photos.” Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

**II. Responsive Documents**

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with Metra Police Report #15-034759; photographs (enclosed in separate, marked envelope) and Worth Police Report #161513517 (“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 Documents are exempt from disclosure under certain provisions of FOIA:

1. The employee identification numbers, personal telephone number, home address, and driver’s license 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.” “Driver’s license number,” “employee identification numbers,” “personal financial information,” “passwords,” “personal telephone numbers,” and “home addresses” 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 descriptions of the parties, as well as the names of the third-parties mentioned in the Responsive Documents 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, and physical description of the party mentioned 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**

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 #312-663-3642

Enclosures