

547 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60661 312.322.6900

October 26, 2016

VIA EMAIL Ms. Tina Nawara Email:

RE: 16-FOIA-270 Police Report #MP-16-000-38650

Dear Ms. Nawara:

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. <u>Background</u>

On October 24, 2016, we received your request for a copy of the Metra Police report #MP-16-00038650 ("**Request**"). Your Request is granted in part and denied in part.

II. <u>Responsive Document</u>

In response to your Request, Metra is providing you with the above-referenced report ("**Responsive Document**").

III. <u>Partial Denial</u>

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

1. The employee identification number of the party mentioned in the Responsive Document is being redacted because it is 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.

IV. <u>Denial</u>

The RC 4005 form mentioned in the Responsive Documents is denied for the following reasons: Damage and injury reports are exempt under 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m) and 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(s). Section 7(1)(m) authorizes exemption from disclosure of "[m]aterials prepared or compiled by or for a public body in anticipation of a criminal, civil or administrative proceeding upon the request of an attorney advising the public body..." Damage and injury reports are prepared by Metra for several reasons, one of which is in anticipation of any possible legal proceedings that may stem from the occurred incident. Additionally, the above-mentioned reports are also exempt under Section 7(1)(s), which authorizes

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exemption from disclosure of "loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications." These reports are maintained by Metra's Risk Management Department as part of its duties to identify, assess, and manage risks. Accordingly, the above-mentioned report is hereby denied.

V. <u>Right of Review</u>

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: <u>publicaccess@atg.state.il.us</u>.

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.

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Sonserese Hatch Freedom of Information Officer <u>foia@metrarr.com</u> FOIA Hotline #312-663-3642

Attachment