



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 21, 1995

Ms. Y. Quiyamah Taylor
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR95-1554

Dear Ms. Taylor:

You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 35127.

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for copies of the ordinance or ordinances relied upon by the city for "piece-meal approval of replats in subdivisions." You contend that the requested records are excepted from disclosure under section 552.103(a).

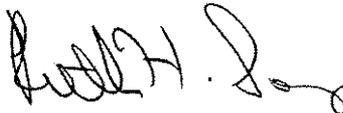
However, this office has determined that municipal ordinances may not be withheld from disclosure pursuant to section 552.103(a). In Open Records Decision No. 551 (1990) at 2-3, we stated:

It is difficult to conceive of a more open record. The law, binding upon every citizen, is free for publication to all. This policy is based on the concept of due process which requires that the people have notice of the law. Given this constitutional consideration, it is difficult to hypothesize a circumstance that would bring a law or ordinance within an exception to public disclosure.

(Citations omitted).

Accordingly, the city must release the requested information. We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth H. Soucy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Ruth H. Soucy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RHS/rho

Ref.: ID# 32127

cc: Ms. Barbara Youngs Settle
22 South Wynden Drive
Houston, Texas 77056