



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 28, 2009

Ms. Susan Camp-Lee
Sheets & Crossfield, P.C.
309 East Main Street
Round Rock, Texas 78664-5246

OR2009-10408

Dear Ms. Camp-Lee:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 354901.

The Round Rock Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to a specified accident. You state that you have released some of the requested information. You have redacted social security numbers from the submitted information.¹ You claim that some the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.130, and 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be demonstrated. *Id.* at 681-82. This office has found that personal financial information not relating to a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is generally intimate and embarrassing. *See* Open Records Decision No. 545 (1990). Upon review, we agree the information you have marked constitutes personal financial information. Further, we find there is not a legitimate public interest in the release of this

¹We note section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act.

information. Therefore, the department must withhold the information you have marked in green under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.

You assert some of the remaining information is excepted under section 552.130 of the Government Code, which excepts from disclosure "information [that] relates to . . . a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state [or] a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state[.]" Gov't Code § 552.130. Accordingly, the department must withhold the Texas motor vehicle record information you have marked in yellow under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.136 provides that "[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." *Id.* § 552.136. Upon review, we agree the department must withhold the insurance policy number you have marked in blue under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the information you have marked in green under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The Texas motor vehicle record information you have marked in yellow must be withheld under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must withhold the insurance policy number you have marked in blue under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Paige Savoie
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PS/eeg

Ref: ID# 354901

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)