



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 19, 2009

Ms. Cheryl K. Byles  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Fort Worth  
1000 Throckmorton Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2009-11628

Dear Ms. Byles:

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# 357298 (Fort Worth Public Information Request No. 4657-09).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for a specified 9-1-1 call sheet. It appears that Texas motor vehicle information has been redacted from the submitted information pursuant to previous determinations issued to the city under section 552.130 of the Government Code in Open Records Letter Nos. 2006-14726 (2006) and 2007-00198 (2007).<sup>1</sup> You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception 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. This section encompasses information protected by 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. *See Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 683-85 (Tex. 1976). The types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *See id.* at 683. This office has also found that some kinds of medical information or information indicating disabilities or specific illnesses are

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<sup>1</sup>See Gov't Code § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 at 7-8 (2001) (previous determinations).

confidential under common-law privacy. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 470 (1987) (illness from severe emotional and job-related stress), 455 (1987) (prescription drugs, illnesses, operations, and physical handicaps). Generally, only highly intimate information that implicates the privacy of an individual is withheld. However, in certain instances where it is demonstrated that the requestor knows the identity of the individual involved as well as the nature of certain incidents, the entire report must be withheld to protect the individual's privacy. Although you seek to withhold the submitted information in its entirety, you have not demonstrated, nor does it otherwise appear, that this is a situation where the entire report must be withheld on the basis of common-law privacy. However, we agree that the information we have marked within the submitted information is highly embarrassing and not of legitimate public interest. Accordingly, the city must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy. The remaining information is not protected by common-law privacy and it may not be withheld under section 552.101 on that basis. As you raise no further exceptions, the remaining information must be released to the requestor.

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](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,



Laura Ream Lemus  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

LRL/jb

Ref: ID# 357298

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)