



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

December 19, 2011

Ms. Lillian Guillen Graham
Assistant City Attorney
City of Mesquite
P.O. Box 850137
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

OR2011-18617

Dear Ms. Graham:

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# 440397.

The Mesquite Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified report. You state you will redact some of the submitted information pursuant to section 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ You also state you will redact social security numbers pursuant to section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.² You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.137 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the information you have submitted.

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 the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if it (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

¹Section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the motor vehicle record information described in subsections 552.130(a)(1) and (a)(3) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. Gov't Code § 552.130(c).

²Section 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 an attorney general decision under the Act. *See* Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

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 established. *Id.* at 681-82. The type of information considered highly intimate or 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. *Id.* at 683. We note names, addresses, and telephone numbers of individuals are not highly intimate or embarrassing. See Open Records Decision No. 455 at 7 (1987) (names and addresses not protected by privacy). Upon review, we find none of the information you have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public interest. Therefore, the department may not withhold the marked information under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.137 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body” unless the member of the public consents to its release or the e-mail address is of a type specifically excluded by subsection (c). See *id.* § 552.137(a)-(c). You do not inform us the owners of the e-mail addresses you have marked consented to release. Therefore, the department must withhold the e-mail addresses you have marked under section 552.137 of the Government Code, unless the owners affirmatively consent to release. As no exceptions to disclosure are raised for the remaining information, it 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, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Melanie J. Villars
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MJV/dls

Ref: ID# 440397

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)