



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 22, 2012

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

OR2012-02731

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# 446085.

The Mesquite Police Department (the "department") received two requests for two specified arrest reports. You claim 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. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as chapter 411 of the Government Code, which deems confidential criminal history record information ("CHRI") generated by the National Crime Information Center or by the Texas Crime Information Center. CHRI means "information collected about a person by a criminal justice agency that consists of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, informations, and other formal criminal charges and their dispositions." *Id.* § 411.082(2). Title 28, part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations governs the release of CHRI that states obtain from the federal government or other states. *See* Open Records Decision No. 565 (1990). The federal regulations allow each state to follow its individual law with respect to CHRI it generates. *Id.* at 10-12. Section 411.083 of the Government Code deems confidential CHRI that DPS maintains, except that DPS may disseminate this information as provided in chapter 411, subchapter F of the Government Code. *See* Gov't Code § 411.083. Sections 411.083(b)(1) and 411.089(a) authorize a criminal justice agency

to obtain CHRI; however, a criminal justice agency may not release CHRI except to another criminal justice agency for a criminal justice purpose. *See id.* § 411.089(b)(1). Other entities specified in chapter 411 of the Government Code are entitled to obtain CHRI from DPS or another criminal justice agency; however, those entities may not release CHRI except as provided by chapter 411. *See generally id.* § 411.090-.127. Furthermore, any CHRI obtained from DPS or any other criminal justice agency must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with Government Code chapter 411, subchapter F. We understand the information you marked to be CHRI the department obtained from the National Crime Information Center or the Texas Crime Information Center. Thus, we agree the department must withhold the marked information from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code and federal law.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part:

(a) Information is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if the information relates to:

- (1) a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state or another state or country;
- (2) a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country; or
- (3) a personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document.

Gov't Code § 552.130. Upon review, we agree the department must withhold the driver's license number and license plate numbers you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. However, you have also marked a number under section 552.130 identified in the documents as "SID" and "State ID Number." It is unclear whether this number consists of information relating to a personal identification document issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document. Accordingly, to the extent this number consists of a number pertaining to a personal identification document issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document, the department must withhold it under section 552.130. If this number does not consist of a number pertaining to such a personal identification document, it may not be withheld under section 552.130.

In summary, the department must withhold the information you marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction section 411.083 of the Government Code and federal law. The department must withhold the driver's license and license plate numbers you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. To the extent

the marked "SID" and "State ID Number" pertains to a personal identification document issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document, the department must also withhold it under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining information.¹

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,



Sean Nottingham
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

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¹We note the information being released includes the first requestor's Texas driver's license and license plate number, which are generally confidential under section 552.130 of the Government Code. Because this exception was enacted to protect a person's privacy, the requestor has a right of access to this information under section 552.023(a) of the Government Code. See Gov't Code § 552.023(a); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual asks governmental body to provide her with information concerning herself). If the department receives another request for this information from an individual other than this requestor, Open Records Decision No. 684 is a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold ten categories of information, including Texas license plate numbers, under section 552.130 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision. In addition, on September 1, 2011, the Texas legislature amended section 552.130 to allow a governmental body to redact the information described in subsections 552.130(a)(1) and (a)(3) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. Accordingly, if the department receives another request for this information from a person other than the first requestor, the driver's license and license plate numbers may be withheld without seeking a ruling from this office. We further note the information to be released contains social security numbers. 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. We note, however, the first requestor has a right of access to his own social security number. See generally *id.* § 552.023(b).

Ref: ID# 446085

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestors (2)
(w/o enclosures)