



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 4, 2013

Ms. Danielle Folsom
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
P.O. Box 368
Houston, Texas 77001-0368

OR2013-03615

Dear Ms. Folsom:

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# 480305 (GC No. 20207).

The Houston Emergency Center (the "center") received a request for information regarding the 9-1-1 audio recordings from specified incident reports. You state the center is releasing some of the responsive information to the requestor. You claim some of 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 the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if (1) the information contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) the information is not of legitimate concern to the public. *See Indus. Found. v. Texas Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both elements of the test must be established. *Id.* at 681-82. The type of information considered 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. Upon review, we find

some of the submitted information is highly intimate or embarrassing and of no legitimate public interest. Generally, only highly intimate or embarrassing information that implicates the privacy of an individual is withheld. In this instance, however, you copied the requestor on your brief to this office, and your brief reveals the nature of the private information at issue. Accordingly, the center must withhold the identifying information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy in order to protect the privacy interests of the individuals at issue. Further, the center has failed to demonstrate any of the remaining information is highly intimate or embarrassing and a matter of no legitimate public interest. Therefore, no portion of the remaining information may be withheld under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy. As you raise no other exceptions for the remaining information, 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, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle R. Garza", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michelle R. Garza
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MRG/akg

Ref: ID# 480305

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)