



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

November 12, 2013

Ms. Suzanne West  
City Attorney  
City of Del Rio  
109 West Broadway Street  
Del Rio, Texas 78840

OR2013-19718

Dear Ms. West:

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# 509919.

The City of Del Rio (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a named individual. You claim the requested 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 common-law right to 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 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 met. *Id.* at 681-82. A compilation of an individual's criminal history is highly embarrassing information, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person. *Cf. U.S. Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 764 (1989) (finding significant privacy interest in compilation of individual's criminal history by recognizing distinction between public records found in courthouse files and local police stations and compiled summary of criminal history

information). Furthermore, we find a compilation of a private citizen's criminal history is generally not of legitimate concern to the public. However, information that refers to an individual solely as a victim, witness, or involved person is not private as criminal history and may not be withheld under section 552.101 on that basis.

The present request seeks all information pertaining to a named individual. This request requires the city to compile unspecified law enforcement records concerning the named individual, thus implicating such individual's right to privacy. Therefore, to the extent the city maintains any law enforcement records depicting the named individual as a suspect, arrestee, or criminal defendant, the city must withhold such information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

We note incident report numbers 200900017702, 201000004490, and 201100026081 do not depict the named individual as a suspect, arrestee, or criminal defendant. This information does not implicate the individual's privacy rights, and may not be withheld under section 552.101 on that basis. However, we note portions of incident report number 200900017702 are subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup>

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See Gov't Code* § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). Accordingly, the city must withhold the information we have marked in incident report number 200900017702 under section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>2</sup>

In summary, to the extent the city maintains any law enforcement records depicting the named individual as a suspect, arrestee, or criminal defendant, the city must withhold such information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The city must withhold the information we have marked in incident report number 200900017702 under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information in incident report number 200900017702. The city must also release incident report numbers 201000004490 and 201100026081.

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.

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<sup>1</sup>The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception like section 552.130 on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See Open Records Decision Nos.* 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

<sup>2</sup>We note section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in subsection 552.130(a) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See Gov't Code* § 552.130(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See id.* § 552.130(d), (e).

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara H. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Tamara H. Holland  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

THH/bhf

Ref: ID# 509919

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)