



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 7, 2014

Mr. E. Barry Gaines
Legal Counsel
Harris County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 920975
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2014-03968

Dear Mr. Gaines:

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# 516433 (HCAD Ref. No. 13-4365).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the vehicle identification numbers ("VINs") for a specified account. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note you have submitted a document that contains information beyond the VINs specified in the request for information. The portions of the submitted document that do not consist of the information requested are not responsive to the present request. This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request and the district is not required to release that information in response to the request.

Section 552.130(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to "a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or county[.]" See Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(2). Accordingly, the district must withhold the responsive VINs under section 552.130(a)(2) of the Government Code.¹

¹We note section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in subsection 552.130(a)(2) 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 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.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, appearing to read "N. A. Ybarra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a stylized "Ybarra".

Nicholas A. Ybarra
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NAY/ac

Ref: ID# 516433

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)