



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 22, 2014

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

OR2014-06505

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# 520385 (HCAD Internal Reference # 14-1232).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the vehicle identification numbers ("VINs") for specified vehicles. You claim the requested 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 most of the submitted information is not responsive to the instant request because it does not consist of the requested VINs. The district need not release nonresponsive information in response to this request, and this ruling will not address that information.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that relates to a motor vehicle operator's license or driver's license or a motor vehicle title or registration issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). We note, and you acknowledge, the requestor asserts she is an accountant for the entity that owns the vehicles to which the VINs at issue pertain. Thus, if the requestor is the authorized representative of the entity that owns the property at issue, she has a right of access to the responsive information pursuant to section 552.023 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (person or person's authorized representative has

special right of access, beyond the right of general public, to information held by governmental body that relates to person and is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect person's privacy interests); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987). However, you state the requestor has failed to provide documentation demonstrating she is the authorized representative of the entity that owns the property at issue. Accordingly, we find the district must withhold the responsive information under section 552.130 of the Government Code.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.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,



Jennifer Luttrall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JL/akg

Ref: ID# 520385

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹Section 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).