



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 30, 2014

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

OR2014-07177

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# 521619 (HCAD Ref. # 14-1313).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the vehicle identification number ("VIN") for a vehicle listed in a specified account. 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 you have submitted a document that contains information beyond the VIN 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 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that relates to a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country. Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(2). Upon review, we find the responsive information is subject to section 552.130. We note, however, the requestor in this instance may be the authorized agent of the owner of the property at issue and, therefore, may have a right of access to the information that would otherwise be confidential under section 552.130. *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). As such, we rule conditionally. In the event the requestor is the authorized representative of the owner of the property at issue, the district may not withhold the information at issue under section 552.130 of the Government Code and must release the responsive information to this requestor. If the requestor is not the authorized representative of the owner of the property at issue, the district must withhold the responsive information under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

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,



Lana L. Freeman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LLF/bhf

Ref: ID# 521619

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)