



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

July 17, 2014

Ms. Catelyn H. Kostbar  
Administrative Technician III  
Harris County Appraisal District  
P.O. Box 920975  
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2014-12378

Dear Ms. Kostbar:

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# 529477 (HCAD internal reference no. 14-2133).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the iFile number pertaining to district account number 2178112. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the request is only for the iFile number pertaining to the specified account. Accordingly, only the iFile number in the submitted information is responsive to the request for information and the remaining information is not responsive to the request. The district need not release nonresponsive information in response to this request, and this ruling will not address that information.

Section 552.136 of the Government Code states "[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." Gov't Code § 552.136(b). Section 552.136(a) defines "access device" as "a card, plate, code, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, or other telecommunications service, equipment, or instrument identifier or means of account access that alone or in conjunction with another access device may be used to . . . obtain money, goods, services, or another thing of value [or] initiate a transfer of funds other than a transfer originated solely by paper instrument."

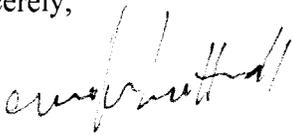
*Id.* § 552.136(a). You represent the submitted iFile number can be used to access confidential property information that is valuable to property owners and third party professionals involved in the protests of property tax appraisals. Based on your representations and our review, we agree the submitted iFile number is an access device number for purposes of section 552.136(a). Accordingly, the district must generally withhold the submitted iFile number under section 552.136(b) of the Government Code.

However, the requestor may be the property owner whose access device number is at issue. The owner of the access device number has a right of access to her own access device number under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld under section 552.136. *See id.* § 552.023(a); ORD 481 at 4. Accordingly, if the requestor is the property owner whose access device number is at issue, then the submitted iFile number must be released to her. However, if the requestor is not the property owner whose access device number is at issue, the district must withhold the submitted iFile number under section 552.136 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](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/som

Ref: ID# 529477

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)