



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

November 3, 2014

Mr. John P. Beauchamp  
General Counsel  
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement  
6330 East Highway 290, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78723-1035

OR2014-19793

Dear Mr. Beauchamp:

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# 542086.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (the "commission") received a request for the F-5 Reports of Separation of Licensee ("F-5 reports") for a named individual.<sup>1</sup> You claim the submitted 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. We have also received and considered comments from the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should or should not be released).

Initially, we understand you seek to withhold the requested information pursuant to Open Records Letter No. 2004-2523 (2004). Open Records Letter No. 2004-2523 permitted the commission to withhold F-5 reports under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code where the exceptions to confidentiality enumerated in section 1701.454 do not apply without requesting a decision

---

<sup>1</sup>We note the requestor clarified his request. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222(b) (stating if information requested is unclear to governmental body or if large amount of information has been requested, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify or narrow request, but may not inquire into purpose for which information will be used).

from this office. However, in 2005 and 2011 the Texas legislature amended section 1701.454. *See* Act of May 23, 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., S.B. 545, § 4 (codified as section 1701.454 of the Government Code); *see also* Act of May 30, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., H.B. 2677, § 4 (codified as section 1701.454 of the Government Code). Therefore, the law on which Open Records Letter No. 2004-2523 was based has changed and the commission may not rely on this ruling as a previous determination. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). Therefore, we will address your argument under section 552.101 of the Government Code against disclosure of the submitted information.

Next, we note the submitted information contains a police officer's commission identification number. In Open Records Decision No. 581 (1990), this office determined certain computer information, such as source codes, documentation information, and other computer programming, that has no significance other than its use as a tool for the maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property is not the kind of information made public under section 552.021 of the Government Code. We understand the officer's commission identification number is a unique computer-generated number assigned to peace officers for identification in the commissioner's electronic database and may be used as an access device number on the commission's website. Accordingly, we find the peace officer's commission number in the submitted information does not constitute public information under section 552.002 of the Government Code. Therefore, the peace officer's commission number in the submitted information is not subject to the Act and need not be released to the requestor.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code exempts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes such as section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code, which governs the public availability of information submitted to the commission under subchapter J of chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Section 1701.454 provides as follows:

(a) All information submitted to the commission under this subchapter is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, unless the person resigned or was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses.

(b) Except as provided by this subchapter, a commission member or other person may not release information submitted under this subchapter.

Occ. Code § 1701.454. You assert the submitted information is subject to section 1701.454. The requestor contends the resignation of the officer at issue was "dishonorable" and that the F-5 report misrepresents the separation of the officer at issue from the Arlington Police

Department. However, the submitted information reveals the officer at issue did not resign or was not terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses. Therefore, the commission must withhold the submitted F-5 report under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 1701.454 of the Occupations 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,



Paige Thompson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

PT/dls

Ref: ID# 542086

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)