



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

December 3, 2014

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

OR2014-21878

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# 545616 (HCAD Internal Ref. No. 14-3334).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for vehicle information pertaining to three specified accounts. You state the district will release some of the requested information. 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.<sup>1</sup>

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a). We note section 552.130 protects privacy interests. We have marked the information subject to section 552.130. In this instance, the requestor may be the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicles to which the information we have marked pertains. If so, the requestor has a right of access to the information pursuant

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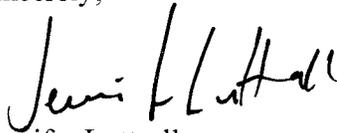
<sup>1</sup>We note, and the district acknowledges, the district did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting this decision. See Gov't Code § 552.301(b). Nonetheless, because section 552.130 of the Government Code can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness, we will consider its applicability to the submitted information. See *id.* §§ 552.007, .302, .352.

to section 552.023 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.023 (“person’s authorized representative has a special right of access, beyond the right of the general public, to information held by a governmental body that relates to the person and that is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect that person’s privacy interests”); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning himself). Accordingly, if the requestor is the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicles at issue, then she has a right of access to the information we have marked pursuant to section 552.023, and this information may not be withheld from her under section 552.130. If the requestor is not the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicles at issue, then the district must withhold the information we marked under section 552.130. The remaining information you have marked is not subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code. As you raise no other exceptions to disclosure, the remaining information must be released.

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/akg

Ref: ID# 545616

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)