



January 15, 2015

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

OR2015-00833

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# 551707 (HCAD Internal Reference No. 14-3284).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the vehicle identification number, make, model, and year for a specified account during specified tax years. You state some information will be released to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the requestor seeks only the vehicle identification number, make, model, and year for a specified account. You have submitted documents that contain information beyond these specific pieces of information. Thus, the portions of the submitted documents 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 provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or a personal

¹You state the district did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting a ruling from this office. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b), (e). Nonetheless, because the exception you claim 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.

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). Upon review, we find the submitted vehicle identification numbers consist of motor vehicle record information. We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. In this instance, the requestor may be the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicles at issue. If the requestor is the authorized representative of the owner, then the requestor has a right of access to his client's motor vehicle record information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld from him under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates or person's agent on ground that information is considered confidential by privacy principles); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). However, if the requestor is not the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicles at issue, then the district must withhold the vehicle identification numbers at issue under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The district must release the remaining responsive information.

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,



Lauren Dahlstein
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LMD/som

Ref: ID# 551707

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)