



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 9, 2015

Ms. Veta J. Byrd-Pérez
Associate General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892

OR2015-25765

Dear Ms. Byrd-Pérez:

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# 587988 (ORR# 2015-002).

The Rice University Police Department (the "department") received a request for the contract and salary information for the chief of the department. You claim the submitted information is not subject to release under the Act. Alternatively, you claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the 84th Legislature added section 51.212(f) of the Education Code, which reads as follows:

(f) A campus police department of a private institution of higher education is a law enforcement agency and a governmental body for purposes of [the Act], only with respect to information relating solely to law enforcement activities.

Educ. Code § 51.212(f). You inform us the department is a campus police department of a private institution of higher education. *See id.* §§ 51.212(e), 61.003. Thus, you acknowledge the department is a governmental body for purposes of the Act, and information maintained

by the department is subject to disclosure under the Act, to the extent such information relates solely to law enforcement activities. You state the submitted information is maintained by the department. However, you argue the information at issue does not relate “solely to law enforcement activities.” Rather, you argue the information relates to the “business operations” of the department. Upon review, we agree the information is administrative in nature and does not relate solely to law enforcement. *See id.* Accordingly, we find the submitted information is not subject to disclosure pursuant to section 51.212(f), and need not be released to the requestor.¹

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,



Lee Seidlits
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CLS/som

Ref: ID# 587988

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your alternative argument.