



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 17, 2015

Ms. Aimee Alcorn
Assistant City Attorney
City of Corpus Christi
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2015-26599

Dear Ms. Alcorn:

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# 591104 (Corpus Christi File #CBow1).

The Corpus Christi Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a named individual, including a information pertaining to a specified incident, during a specified time period. We understand the department will redact information pursuant to Open Records Letter Nos. 2011-17207 (2011) and 2011-16393 (2011).¹ You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code.² We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

¹Open Records Letter No. 2011-17207 authorized the department to withhold FBI numbers under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code without the necessity of requesting an attorney general's decision. Open Records Letter No. 2011-16393 is a previous determination authorizing the department to withhold, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code, the origination telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers furnished to the city by a 9-1-1 service supplier established in accordance with chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (governmental body may rely on previous determination when elements of law, facts, and circumstances have not changed, decision concludes specific, clearly delineated category of information is excepted, and governmental body is explicitly informed it need not seek a decision from this office to withhold information in response to future requests).

²We understand you to raise section 552.130 of the Government Code based on your markings.

Initially, we note the submitted information includes a department officers' body worn camera recording. Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Chapter 1701 provides the procedures a requestor must follow when seeking a body worn camera recording. Section 1701.661(a) provides:

A member of the public is required to provide the following information when submitting a written request to a law enforcement agency for information recorded by a body worn camera:

- (1) the date and approximate time of the recording;
- (2) the specific location where the recording occurred; and
- (3) the name of one or more persons known to be a subject of the recording.

Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). In this instance, the requestor does not give the requisite information under section 1701.661(a). As the requestor did not properly request the body worn camera recording at issue pursuant to chapter 1701, our ruling does not reach this information and it need not be released. However, pursuant to section 1701.661(b), a "failure to provide all the information required by Subsection (a) to be part of a request for recorded information does not preclude the requestor from making a future request for the same recorded information." *Id.*

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. Additionally, this office has concluded some kinds of medical information are generally highly intimate or embarrassing. *See* Open Records Decision No. 455 (1987). Under the common-law right of privacy, an individual has a right to be free from the publicizing of private affairs in which the public has no legitimate concern. *Indus. Found.*, 540 S.W.2d at 682. In considering whether a public citizen's date of birth is private, the Third Court of Appeals looked to the supreme court's rationale in *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts v. Attorney General of Texas*, 354 S.W.3d 336 (Tex. 2010). *Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3 (Tex. App. Austin May 22, 2015, pct. denied) (mem. op.). The supreme court concluded public employees' dates of birth are private under section 552.102 of the Government Code because the employees' privacy interest substantially outweighed

the negligible public interest in disclosure.³ *Texas Comptroller*, 354 S.W.3d at 347-48. Based on *Texas Comptroller*, the court of appeals concluded the privacy rights of public employees apply equally to public citizens, and thus, public citizens' dates of birth are also protected by common-law privacy pursuant to section 552.101. *City of Dallas*, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3.

Upon review, we find the public citizens' dates of birth you have marked must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. However, we find the remaining information you have marked and indicated is of legitimate public interest. Accordingly, the department may not withhold the remaining information under section 552.101 on the basis of common-law privacy.

Section 552.1175 of the Government Code protects the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, date of birth, and family member information of certain individuals, when that information is held by a governmental body in a non-employment capacity and the individual elects to keep the information confidential.⁴ *See Gov't Code* § 552.1175. Section 552.1175 applies, in part, to "peace officers as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure." *Id.* § 552.1175(a)(1). We have marked the personal information of a peace officer. We find the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.1175 if the peace officer at issue elects to restrict access to his information in accordance with section 552.1175(b) of the Government Code. However, the department may not withhold the information we have marked under section 552.1175 if the peace officer does not make an election in accordance with section 552.1175(b).

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that relates to a motor vehicle operator's license or driver's license or a motor vehicle title or registration issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country. *See id.* § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). Upon review, we find the department must withhold the motor vehicle record information you have marked and the motor vehicle record information we have marked and indicated under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department need not release the submitted body camera recording at issue in response to this request for information. The department must withhold the public citizens' dates of birth you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.1175 if the peace officer at issue elects to restrict access to his information in accordance with section 552.1175(b) of the Government Code. The

³Section 552.102(a) excepts from disclosure "information in a personnel file, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." *Gov't Code* § 552.102(a).

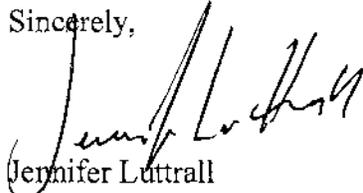
⁴The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body. *See Open Records Decision Nos.* 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

department must withhold the motor vehicle record information you have marked and the motor vehicle record information we have marked and indicated under section 552.130 of the Government Code. 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, 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# 591104

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)