



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 9, 2016

Ms. Vanessa A. Gonzales  
Counsel for Southern Methodist University  
Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP  
3711 South MoPac Expressway, Suite 300  
Austin, Texas 78746

OR2016-03050

Dear Ms. Gonzales:

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# 599273.

The Southern Methodist University Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for information regarding the hiring process for a specified position within the department, including the reason the requestor was not selected for the specified position. You claim the submitted information is not subject to the Act. We have considered your 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.

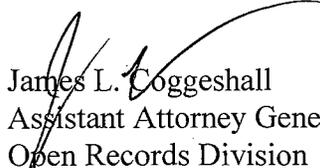
Educ. Code § 51.212(f). You inform us the department is a campus police department of a private institution of higher education. *See id.* §§ 51.212(e), 61.003. Thus, you acknowledge the department is a governmental body for purposes of the Act, and information maintained by the department is subject to disclosure under the Act, to the extent such information relates solely to law enforcement activities. You further acknowledge the submitted

information is maintained by the department. However, you argue the submitted information does not relate “solely to law enforcement activities.” Rather, you argue the information is purely administrative. Upon review, we agree the submitted information is administrative in nature and does not relate solely to law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 51.212(e), 61.003. 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.

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,



James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/bw

Ref: ID# 599273

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)