



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 22, 2016

Ms. Charla Thomas
Deputy City Attorney
City of Temple
2 North Main Street, Suite 308
Temple, Texas 76501

OR2016-04137

Dear Ms. Thomas:

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# 599014.

The Temple Municipal Court (the "court") received a request for all citations issued by a named officer of the City of Temple's police department during a specified time period. You argue the requested information is not subject to the Act. In the alternative, you claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.103 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

The Act is applicable to information "written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by a governmental body." Gov't Code § 552.002(a)(1). However, the Act's definition of "governmental body" does not include the judiciary. *Id.* § 552.003(1)(B). Information "collected, assembled, or maintained by or for the judiciary" is not subject to the Act but, instead, is "governed by rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas or by other applicable laws and rules." *Id.* § 552.0035(a); *cf.* Open Records Decision No. 131 (1976) (applying statutory predecessor to judiciary exclusion under Government Code section 552.003(1)(B) prior to enactment of Government Code section 552.0035). Therefore, the Act neither authorizes information held by the judiciary to be withheld, nor does it require such information be disclosed. *See* Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974). The instant request was addressed to the court. Thus, the instant request is for information maintained by the court. Accordingly, we conclude the requested information is not subject to the Act and the

court is not required to release it in response to this request for information.¹ As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure of the requested 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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/som

Ref: ID# 599014

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹We note records of the judiciary also may be public under other sources of law. See Gov't Code § 29.007(d)(4) (complaints filed with municipal court clerk), (f) (municipal court clerks shall perform duties prescribed by law for county court clerk); Local Gov't Code § 191.006 (records belonging to office of county clerk shall be open to public unless access restricted by law or court order); see also *Star-Telegram, Inc. v. Walker*, 834 S.W.2d 54, 57 (Tex. 1992) (documents filed with courts are generally considered public and must be released); Attorney General Opinions DM-166 (1992) at 2-3 (public has general right to inspect and copy judicial records), H-826 (1976); Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974).