



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 11, 2016

Ms. Jennifer Burnett
Office of General Counsel
The University of Texas System
201 West Seventh Street, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701-2901

OR2016-10783

Dear Ms. Burnett:

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# 609560 (OGC# 168055).

The University of Texas at San Antonio (the "university") received a request for any police reports or restraining orders concerning the requestor while he was in attendance at the university. You state you have released some information. You state you will withhold information pursuant to Open Records Letter No. 2015-27125 (2015) and sections 552.130 and 552.136 of the Government Code.¹ You claim portions of the submitted information are not subject to the Act. You also claim some of the submitted information is excepted from

¹Open Records Letter No. 2015-27125 is a previous determination issued to the university authorizing it to withhold the dates of birth of public citizens under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy without requesting a decision from this office. Section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in section 552.130(a) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See id.* § 552.130(d), (e). Section 552.136(c) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact, without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office, the information described in section 552.136(b). *Id.* § 552.136(c); *see also id.* § 552.136(d)-(e) (requestor may appeal governmental body's decision to withhold information under section 552.136(c) to attorney general and governmental body withholding information pursuant to section 552.136(c) must provide certain notice to requestor).

disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, you assert the University of Texas Electronic Identification Numbers (“UTEIDs”) contained in the submitted information are not subject to the Act. The Act applies only to “public information.” See Gov’t Code § 552.021. Section 552.002(a) defines “public information” as

[I]nformation that is written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business:

(1) by a governmental body;

(2) for a governmental body and the governmental body:

(A) owns the information;

(B) has a right of access to the information; or

(C) spends or contributes public money for the purpose of writing, producing, collecting, assembling, or maintaining the information; or

(3) by an individual officer or employee of a governmental body in the officer’s or employee’s official capacity and the information pertains to official business of the governmental body.

Id. § 552.002(a). In Open Records Decision No. 581 (1990), this office determined certain computer information, such as source codes, documentation information, and other computer programming, that has no significance other than its use as a tool for the maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property is not the kind of information made public under section 552.021 of the Government Code. We understand an individual’s UTEID provides employees and students access to the university’s computer system, but does not consist of log-on information. We understand the UTEID is part of a two-part log in protocol that could access secure and sensitive employment and student records, as well as the potential to compromise high level functions. Accordingly, we find UTEIDs contained in the submitted information do not constitute public information under section 552.002 of the Government Code, are not subject to the Act, and need not be released to the requestor.

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 or embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683.

This office has found that personal financial information not relating to a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is generally intimate or embarrassing. *See generally* Open Records Decision Nos. 600 at 9-10 (1992), 523 (1989) (sources of income not related to financial transaction between individual and governmental body protected under common-law privacy). Whether the public's interest in obtaining personal financial information is sufficient to justify its disclosure must be determined on a case-by-case basis. *See* ORD 373. Upon review, we find some of the submitted information satisfies the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation*. Therefore, the university must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state the remaining information you have marked pertains to a criminal case that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation, we agree section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the information at issue.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177, 186-87 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). *See* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Accordingly, with the exception of the basic information, which you state you have released, the university may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.²

²As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

In summary, the UTEIDs within the submitted information are not subject to the Act and need not be released. The university must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. With the exception of basic information, the university may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(2) 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,



Mili Gosar
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MG/akg

Ref: ID# 609560

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)