



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 26, 2016

Mr. Jose Hernandez  
Records Supervisor  
City of Edinburg  
1702 South Closner Boulevard  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

OR2016-12039

Re: Request for public records and complaint from report# 16-22190 involving the arrest of a named individual. Edinburg reference# 87541 and reference# 87663

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

The Office of the Attorney General has received your request for a ruling and assigned your request ID# 619535.

After reviewing your arguments and the submitted information, we have determined your request does not present a novel or complex issue. Thus, we are addressing your claims in a memorandum opinion. You claim the information marked as "552.108" may be withheld from the requestor pursuant to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments and the information and have determined that in accordance with section 552.108(a)(1) you may withhold some of the information marked as "552.108." However, you must release a detailed description of the offense as basic information pursuant to section 552.108(c). Also, you must withhold the marked motor vehicle record information under section 552.130 of the Government Code and may withhold the marked social security numbers of living persons under section 552.147 of the Government Code. Lastly, you must withhold the marked date(s) of birth pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. *Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at \*3 (Tex. App.—Austin May 22, 2015, pet. denied) (mem. op.). You must release the deceased individual's date of birth because common-law privacy lapses at death. *Moore v. Charles B. Pierce Film Enters., Inc.*, 589 S.W.2d 489, 491 (Tex. Civ. App.—Texarkana 1979, writ ref'd n.r.e.); see also *Justice v. Belo Broadcasting Corp.*, 472 F. Supp. 145, 147 (N.D. Tex. 1979) ("action for invasion of privacy can be maintained only

by a living individual whose privacy is invaded” (quoting RESTATEMENT (SECOND) OF TORTS § 652I (1977)); Attorney General Opinions JM-229 (1984) (“the right of privacy lapses upon death”), H-917 (1976) (“We are . . . of the opinion that the Texas courts would follow the almost uniform rule of other jurisdictions that the right of privacy lapses upon death.”); Open Records Decision No. 272 (1981) (“the right of privacy is personal and lapses upon death”).

For more information on the cited exception, please refer to the open government information on our website at <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/memorulings.shtml>. You may also contact our Open Government Hotline at 1-877-OPENTEX.

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestors  
(w/o enclosures)