



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 15, 2016

Ms. Rachel Saucier
Legal Assistant
City of Georgetown
P.O. Box 409
Georgetown, Texas 78627-0409

OR2016-13566

Dear M:

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# 621245 (ORR# G002426).

The Georgetown Police Department (the "department") received a request for photographs of a named former officer of the department. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

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. This section encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, such as section 143.090 of the Local Government Code. You state the City of Georgetown is a civil service city under chapter 143 of the Local Government Code. Section 143.090 provides as follows:

A department, [the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission], or municipality may not release a photograph that depicts a police officer unless:

- (1) the officer has been charged with an offense by indictment or by information;

(2) the officer is a party in a civil service hearing or a case before a hearing examiner or in arbitration;

(3) the photograph is introduced as evidence in a judicial proceeding;
or

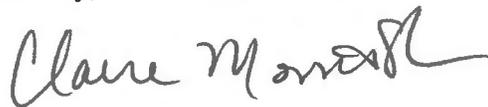
(4) the officer gives written consent to the release of the photograph.

Local Gov't Code § 143.090. You state the submitted information consists of photographs that depict a police officer. You inform us the police officer depicted in the submitted photographs has not provided written consent regarding the release of the photographs. You further inform us none of the remaining exceptions under section 143.090 are applicable. Therefore, the department must withhold the submitted photographs of a police officer under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 143.090 of the Local Government Code.

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# 621245

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)