



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 20, 2016

Mr. Rusty Meurer
Counsel for the Laredo Community College
Kazen, Meurer & Perez, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 6237
Laredo, Texas 78042-6237

OR2016-16336

Dear Mr. Meurer:

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# 625458.

The Laredo Community College (the "college"), which you represent, received a request for specified buyout terms from a specified meeting. The college claims the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.107 of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments.

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 exception encompasses information made confidential by section 551.104 of the Open Meetings Act. Section 551.104 provides, in part, "The certified agenda or recording of a closed meeting is available for public inspection and copying only under a court order issued under Subsection (b)(3)." *Id.* § 551.104(c). We note the college is not required to submit a certified agenda or tape recording of a closed meeting to this office for review. *See* Open Records Decision No. 495 at 4 (1988) (attorney general lacks authority to review certified agendas or tapes of executive sessions to determine whether governmental body may withhold such information from disclosure under statutory predecessor to section 552.101). Thus, such information cannot be released to a member of the public in response to an open records request. *See* Attorney General Opinion JM-995 at 5-6 (1988) (public disclosure of certified agenda of closed meeting may be accomplished

only under procedures provided in Open Meetings Act). Section 551.146 of the Open Meetings Act makes it a criminal offense to disclose a certified agenda or recording of a lawfully closed meeting to a member of the public. *See* Gov't Code § 551.146(a)-(b). You inform this office the requested information is contained within the audio recording of a closed meeting. Based on this representation, we agree the college must withhold the requested information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 551.104 of the Government Code. As we are able to make this determination, we do not address your remaining argument 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,



Paige Thompson
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PT/dls

Ref: ID# 625458

c: Requestor