



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 4, 2016

Ms. Stacie S. White
Counsel for the City of Crowley
Taylor Olson Adkins Sralla Elam
6000 Western Place, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

OR2016-17600

Dear Ms. White:

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# 621301.

The Crowley Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for information related to a specified automobile accident involving a named individual. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130. You assert the submitted video recordings contain motor vehicle record information that is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130. Upon review, we find some of the submitted video recordings, which we noted, contain confidential motor vehicle record information. In this instance, you state the department does not possess the technological capability to redact information from video files. Thus, we agree the department must withhold the entire video recordings containing motor vehicle record information, which we noted, under section 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ *See* Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983). However, we find the remaining

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of the information at issue.

submitted video recording does not contain motor vehicle record information. Accordingly, the department may not withhold any portion of the remaining information under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts “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 and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. Upon review, we find the department has failed to demonstrate the remaining information is highly intimate or embarrassing and of no legitimate public interest. Thus, the department may not withhold the remaining information under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.

In summary, the department must withhold the entire video recordings containing motor vehicle record information, which we noted, under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining 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,



Meagan J. Conway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MJC/akg

Ref: ID# 621301

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)