



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

**JOHN L. HILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

May 23, 1974

The Honorable George Wikoff
City Attorney
City of Port Arthur
P. O. Box 1089
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

Open Records Decision No. 35

Re: Whether person is entitled to a copy of judgment entered by municipal court in action growing out of accident in which requestor was involved.

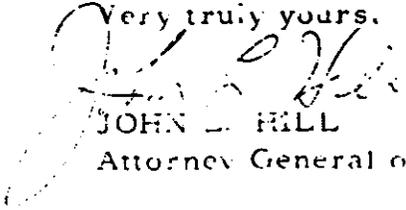
Dear Mr. Wikoff:

You have asked us to determine whether under Article 6252-17a, V. T. C. S., the Open Records Act, a Municipal Court is required to make available for public inspection copies of judgments it has entered. The Port Arthur Municipal Court has been requested to provide a copy of a judgment it entered in a suit arising out of an accident in which the requesting party was involved, but to date it has refused to do so.

The Open Records Act does not apply to records of the judiciary. Section 2 (i)(G). Municipal courts are a part of the judiciary. They are created by statute pursuant to Article 5, § 1, of the Texas Constitution. And see Articles 1194 and 1194A, V. T. C. S.

Because the Act does not apply, the Municipal Courts are left in the same position with respect to information in their possession as they have always been. The Act neither authorizes information held by the judiciary to be withheld nor requires it to be disclosed. Of course the common law right of inspection of public records may require the Municipal Court to make its judgments as well as other official court actions available for public inspection at reasonable times; see Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974).

Very truly yours,


JOHN L. HILL

Attorney General of Texas