



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS

JIM MATTOX
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 8, 1990

Mr. John D. Armstrong
Assistant City Attorney
City of La Porte
702 W. Fairmont Parkway
P. O. Box 1218
La Porte, Texas 77572-1218

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 8138; this decision is OR90-007.

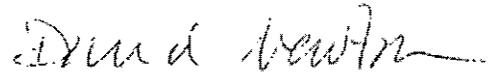
The City of La Porte Municipal Court received a request under the Open Records Act for information about moving traffic citations. Under the Open Records Act, all information held by a governmental body is open unless the information falls within one of the act's specific exceptions to disclosure. Attorney General Opinion H-436 (1974). However, section 2(1)(G) of the act specifically exempts the judiciary from the act's definition of governmental body. Therefore, as the municipal court is clearly part of the judiciary, the Open Records Act does not apply to its records. Nevertheless, in Open Records Decision No. 274 (1981), this office concluded that the public has a right to inspect the records of a municipal court even though those records are not subject to the Open Records Act. Accordingly, although the Open Records Act is not applicable here, we find no basis for withholding the information sought, and conclude that the information is subject to public disclosure. A copy of Open Records Decision No. 274 is enclosed.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a

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published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR90-007.

Yours very truly,



Open Government Section
of the Opinion Committee
Prepared by David A. Newton
Assistant Attorney General

DAN/le

Ref.: ID#s 8138, 8368, 7916

Enclosure: ORD-274

cc: Mr. Ron Wilhoite
Light for Living Ministries
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