OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL · STATE OF TEXAS
JOHN CORNYN

December 20, 1999

Ms. Kimberley Mickelson
Olson & Olson
Three Allen Center, Suite 3485
333 Clay Street
Houston, Texas 77002

OR99-3707

Dear Ms. Mickelson:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 131242.

The City of Friendswood (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for "all CAD Reports concerning animal control issues from October 16, 1999 through October 31, 1999." You have provided for our review information that is responsive to the request. You assert some of the information in the responsive documents is excepted from public disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.130 of the Public Information Act governs the release and use of motor vehicle record information. Section 552.130 provides in pertinent part:

> (a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if the information relates to:
>
> > (1) a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state;
> >
> > (2) a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state; or
> >
> > (3) a personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document.

In accordance with section 552.130 of the Government Code, you must therefore redact from the responsive documents, prior to their release, the driver's license and license plate numbers under section 552.130(a). We have marked for redaction the information at issue. This letter ruling is limited to the particular records 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 records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, within 10 calendar days of this ruling, the governmental body will do one of the following three things: 1) release the public records; 2) notify the requestor of the exact day, time, and place that copies of the records will be provided or that the records can be inspected; or 3) notify the requestor of the governmental body's intent to challenge this letter ruling in court. If the governmental body fails to do one of these three things within 10 calendar days of this ruling, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at 877/673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Department of Public Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.–Austin 1992, no writ).

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,

Michael Garbarino
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MG/jc

Ref: ID# 131242

Encl. Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Jeff Branscome
308 Woodsstream Circle
Friendswood, Texas 77546
(w/o enclosures)