



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 7, 2005

Mr. Gary Grief
Acting Executive Director
Texas Lottery Commission
P.O. Box 16630
Austin, Texas 78761-6630

OR2005-09138

Dear Mr. Grief:

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# 233830.

The Texas Lottery Commission (the "commission") received a request for information related to the commission's business recovery site. You state that you have released some of the requested information, but you claim that portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.139 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information. We have also received and considered comments from the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (allowing interested party to submit comments indicating why requested information should or should not be released).

Initially, we note that some of the submitted information is not responsive to this request. In her comments to this office, the requestor states that she is not seeking information regarding the location of the business recovery site, nor is she seeking "a blueprint of the facility or specific information about its system design and operations." This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request, and the commission need not release such information in response to this request. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dism'd).

We now turn to your arguments regarding the remaining submitted information. 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 section encompasses information protected by other statutes. Section 466.022(b) of the Government Code provides that the following information is confidential and exempt from disclosure:

(1) security plans and procedures of the commission designed to ensure the integrity and security of the operation of the lottery; [and]

(2) information of a nature that is designed to ensure the integrity and security of the selection of winning tickets or numbers in the lottery, other than information describing the general procedures for selecting winning tickets or numbers[.]

Gov’t Code § 466.022(b)(1)-(2). You state that release of the information you have marked “would compromise the lottery games and threaten the integrity and security of the lottery.” You further state that this information is “designed to ensure against any impropriety or thwarting of security plans and procedures in the operation of the lottery and selection of winning tickets or numbers.” Based on your representations and our review of the information at issue, we conclude that the information you have marked is confidential under section 466.022(b) of the Government Code, and the commission must withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government Code on that basis.¹

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, upon receiving this ruling, the governmental body

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.

will either release the public records promptly pursuant to section 552.221(a) of the Government Code or file a lawsuit challenging this ruling pursuant to section 552.324 of the Government Code. If the governmental body fails to do one of these things, 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 Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.—Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

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,



Caroline E. Cho
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CEC/sdk

Ref: ID# 233830

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Ms. Lisa Falkenberg
Houston Chronicle
1005 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
(w/o enclosures)