



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 15, 2006

Mr. Robert A. Schulman
Feldman & Rogers, L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
517 Soledad Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1508

OR2006-09262

Dear Mr. Schulman:

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# 256600.

The Alamo Heights Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for eleven categories of information pertaining to current district employees, including employees on approved leave of absence and employees pre-hired for the 2006-2007 school year. You state that you have reached an agreement with the requestor regarding the documents to be produced. You claim that portions of the requested information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.117 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the home addresses and telephone numbers, social security numbers, and family member information of current or former officials or employees of a governmental body who request that this information be kept confidential under section 552.024. *See Gov't Code § 552.117(a)(1)*. You inform us that the employees whose information is at issue timely elected to keep the information confidential under section 552.024. Upon review, we agree that most of the highlighted home addresses and telephone numbers must be withheld pursuant to section 552.117(a)(1). We note, however, that an individual's personal post office box number is not a "home address" for purposes of section 552.117. *See Open Records Decision No. 622 at 4 (1994)* (purpose of section 552.117 is to protect public employees from being harassed at home); *see*

also Open Records Decision No. 658 at 4 (1998) (statutory confidentiality provision must be express and cannot be implied). Accordingly, you must release the post office box information, which we have marked. Furthermore, you have marked district employees' work e-mail addresses; this type of information is not excepted under section 552.117 and must be released.

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 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,



Candice M. De La Garza
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CMD/krl

Ref: ID# 256600

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Comeaux
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San Antonio, Texas 78212-3636
(w/o enclosures)