



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 9, 2007

Mr. Ronald J. Bounds
Assistant City Attorney
City of Corpus Christi
Legal Department
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2007-13074

Dear Mr. Bounds:

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# 291174.

The City of Corpus Christi (the "city") received a request for all complaints and offense reports for a specified address. You claim that portions of the requested information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.130 and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides in relevant 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; [or]
- (2) a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state[.]

Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1), (2). The submitted offense reports contain Texas-issued motor vehicle record information. Therefore, we agree that the city must withhold the driver's

license and motor vehicle record information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

You assert that social security numbers contained in the offense reports are excepted under section 552.147 of the Government Code. Section 552.147 provides that “[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from” required public disclosure under the Act. The city may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147.¹

In summary, the city must withhold the marked Texas-issued motor vehicle record information under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The social security numbers you have marked may be withheld under section 552.147 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released to the requestor.

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).

¹We note that section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person’s social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act.

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,



M. Alan Akin
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MAA/mcf

Ref: ID# 291174

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Mr. Ruben Bonilla, Jr.
Bonilla & Chapa, P.C.
Post Office Drawer 5488
Corpus Christi, Texas 78465-5488
(w/o enclosures)