



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 11, 2009

Ms. Susan K. Bohn
General Counsel
Lake Travis Independent School District
3322 Ranch Road 620 South
Austin, Texas 78738

OR2009-08054

Dear Ms. Bohn:

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# 346318 (LTISD Nos. 100108-CA7/DL 3427 and 100108-CAB/DL 3428).

The Lake Travis Independent School District (the "district") received two requests from the same requestor for billing statements, invoices, and payments regarding any district-paid cell phones during the months of August and September of 2008. You state that you have made the responsive documents available to the requestor in redacted form. You claim that portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.117 and 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Initially, the district acknowledges, and we agree, that the district failed to comply with the requirements of section 552.301 of the Government Code. A governmental body's failure to comply with the requirements of section 552.301 results in the legal presumption that the

¹We assume that the representative sample of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

requested information is public and must be released unless the governmental body demonstrates a compelling reason to withhold the information from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.302; *Hancock v. State Bd. of Ins.*, 797 S.W.2d 379, 381-82 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ); Open Records Decision No. 319 (1982). The presumption that information is public under section 552.302 can generally be overcome by demonstrating that the information is confidential by law or third-party interests are at stake. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 630 at 3 (1994), 325 at 2 (1982). Sections 552.117 and 552.136 of the Government Code can provide compelling reasons to overcome this presumption; therefore, we will address the applicability of these exceptions to the submitted information.

Section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the current and former home addresses, 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 of the Government Code. Gov't Code § 552.117(a)(1). Whether a particular piece of information is protected under section 552.117(a)(1) must be determined at the time the request for it is made. *See* Open Records Decision No. 530 at 5 (1989). Thus, information may only be withheld under section 552.117(a)(1) on behalf of current or former employees who made a request for confidentiality under section 552.024 prior to the date on which the request for this information was made. You state that the employees whose information you have marked elected to keep their information confidential prior to the date the district received the request. Thus, the district must withhold the information you have marked in red and green under section 552.117(a)(1).

Section 552.136(b) states that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of [the Act], a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” Gov't Code § 552.136. An access device number is one that may be used to “(1) obtain money, goods, services, or another thing of value; or (2) initiate a transfer of funds other than a transfer originated solely by paper instrument.” *Id.* Upon review, we agree the account numbers you have marked in blue are access device numbers for the purposes of section 552.136. Accordingly, the district must withhold this information, and the additional account numbers we have marked, under section 552.136.

In summary, the district must withhold the employee information you have marked under section 552.117 of the Government Code and the marked account numbers under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released to the requestor.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information 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 information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Ana Carolina Vieira
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACV/eeg

Ref: ID# 346318

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)