



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 16, 2010

Ms. Michelle Villarreal
Assistant City Attorney
City of Waco
P.O. Box 2570
Waco, Texas 76702-2570

OR2010-05459

Dear Ms. Villarreal:

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# 381330 (LGL-10-339).

The Waco Police Department (the "department") received a request for information regarding police calls to a specified address from July 2009 to the present. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we must address the department's obligations under section 552.301 of the Government Code, which prescribes the procedures that a governmental body must follow in asking this office to decide whether requested information is excepted from public disclosure. Pursuant to section 552.301(b) of the Government Code, the governmental body must request a ruling from this office and state the exceptions to disclosure that apply within ten business days after receiving the request. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b). In this instance, you state the department received the request for information on March 10, 2010. Accordingly, the ten business-day deadline was March 24, 2010. However, the department did not request a ruling from this office until March 25, 2010. *See id.* § 552.308 (describing rules for calculating submission dates of documents sent via first class United States mail,

common or contract carrier, or interagency mail). Thus, we find the department failed to comply with the requirements mandated by section 552.301.

Pursuant to section 552.302 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 requested information is public and must be released unless the governmental body demonstrates a compelling reason to withhold the information from disclosure. *See id.* § 552.302; *Simmons v. Kuzmich*, 166 S.W.3d 342, 350 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2005, no pet.); *Hancock v. State Bd. of Ins.*, 797 S.W.2d 379, 381 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 630 (1994). A compelling reason exists when third-party interests are at stake or when information is confidential by law. Open Records Decision No. 150 (1977). Because your claim under section 552.101 of the Government Code can provide a compelling reason against public disclosure, we will address the applicability of this exception to the 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,” and encompasses information made confidential by other statutes. Gov't Code § 552.101. You have marked a telephone number and address in the submitted documents that you seek to withhold under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. Chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code relates to local emergency communications districts. Section 772.318 applies to an emergency 9-1-1 district established in accordance with chapter 772, and makes confidential the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers that are furnished by a service supplier. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). We understand the City of Waco to be part of an emergency communication district that was established under section 772.318.¹ Provided that the information you have marked consists of an originating telephone number and address furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier, we agree that the department must withhold the marked telephone number and address under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code.

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

¹Section 772.318 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 20,000.

information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Shipp".

Amy L.S. Shipp
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ALS/dls

Ref: ID# 381330

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)