



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 28, 2010

Mr. Kevin B. Laughlin
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, L.L.P.
1800 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2010-06104

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

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# 377332.

The City of Farmers Branch (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for the "Block Captain List." You state you are withholding e-mail addresses under section 552.137 of the Government Code pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).¹ You claim that portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.127 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.127 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that "identifies a person as a participant in a neighborhood crime watch organization and relates to the name, home address, business address, home telephone number, or business telephone number of the person." Gov't Code § 552.127(a). We note that "neighborhood crime watch organization" is defined as a "group of residents of a neighborhood or part of a neighborhood that is formed in affiliation or association with a law enforcement agency in this state[.]" *Id.*

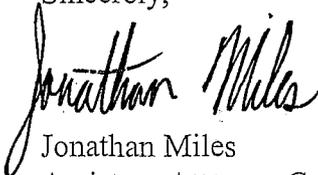
¹This office recently issued Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009), a previous determination to all governmental bodies, which authorizes withholding of ten categories of information, including an e-mail address of a member of the public under section 552.137 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

§ 552.127(b): You state that the remaining information contained in the submitted list identifies individuals who are members of a neighborhood crime watch organization that operates in association with the city's police department. Based on your representation, the city must withhold the identifying information in the submitted list, which we have marked, under section 552.127 of the Government Code. However, we find that the remaining information you seek to withhold under section 552.127 does not relate to names, home addresses, business addresses, home phone numbers, and business phone numbers of members of a neighborhood crime watch. Accordingly, none of the remaining information may not be withheld under section 552.127. As you raise no further exceptions, the remaining information must be released.

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, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Miles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JM/cc

Ref: ID# 377332

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)