



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

December 2, 2010

Ms. Susan Camp-Lee
Sheets & Crossfield, P.C.
For City of Round Rock
309 East Main Street
Round Rock, Texas 78664

OR2010-18053

Dear Ms. Camp-Lee:

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# 401799.

The City of Round Rock (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for all information pertaining to a specified automobile accident. You have redacted driver's license numbers, license plate numbers, and insurance policy numbers pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).¹ You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed 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." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if (1) the information contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) the information is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). The type of information considered intimate and

¹Open Records Decision No. 684 serves as a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold ten categories of information, including Texas driver's license numbers and Texas license plate numbers under section 552.130 of the Government Code and insurance policy numbers under section 552.136 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision. See ORD 684.

embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. This office has found personal financial information not relating to a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is generally intimate or embarrassing. See Open Records Decision No. 545 (1990). Additionally, this office has found a compilation of an individual's criminal history is highly embarrassing information, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person. Cf. *U.S. Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 764 (1989) (when considering prong regarding individual's privacy interest, court recognized distinction between public records found in courthouse files and local police stations and compiled summary of information and noted that individual has significant privacy interest in compilation of one's criminal history). Moreover, we find a compilation of a private citizen's criminal history is generally not of legitimate concern to the public. Upon review, we find the information you have marked under section 552.101, in addition to the information we have marked under section 552.101, is highly intimate or embarrassing and of no legitimate public interest. Accordingly, the city must withhold this information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information [that] relates to . . . a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state [or] a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state." Gov't Code § 552.130(a). The city must, therefore, withhold the Texas motor vehicle record information you have marked, in addition to the Texas motor vehicle record information we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city must withhold the information you have marked, in addition to the information we have marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The city must withhold the Texas motor vehicle record information you have marked, in addition to the Texas motor vehicle record information we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.²

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.

²We note the information being released contains confidential information to which the requestor has a right of access. See Gov't Code § 552.023 (person has special right of access to information that relates to the person and that is protected from disclosure by laws intended to protect person's privacy interests). Thus, if the city receives another request for this particular information from a different requestor, then the city should again seek a decision from this office.

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,



Vanessa Burgess
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VB/dls

Ref: ID# 401799

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)