ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 22, 2011

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

OR2011-08910

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# 422297.

The Corpus Christi Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to pawn shop transactions involving a named individual during a specified time period. You claim 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.

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 information made confidential by section 371.206 of the Finance Code, which reads as follows:

> Information obtained during an examination or inspection authorized by this subchapter is confidential and privileged except for use by the [consumer credit] commissioner or in a criminal investigation or prosecution.

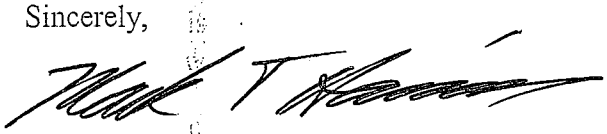
Fin. Code § 371.206. Additionally, section 371.204 of the Finance Code requires a pawnbroker to allow a peace officer to inspect the pawnbroker's books, accounts, papers, correspondence, or other records that relate to the business of the pawnbroker at any

reasonable time without judicial writ or other process. *See id.* § 371.204. You state the submitted information was acquired from an inspection of a pawn shop as authorized under section 371.204. Based upon your representation and our review, we conclude the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 371.206 of the Finance Code and must therefore be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government 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 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,



Mack T. Harrison
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MTH/em

Ref: ID# 422297

Enc. Submitted documents

c: requestor
(w/o enclosures)