



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 19, 2011

Mr. Jeff Bray
Senior Legal Advisor
Plano Police Department
P.O. Box 860358
Plano, Texas 75086-0358

OR2011-10288

Dear Mr. Bray:

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# 424444.

The City of Plano (the "city") received a request for information during a specified time period pertaining to Signature Towing, to include past and present contracts and fee structures; reports, documents, or e-mails from the Plano Police Department and other departments within the city or from Signature Towing regarding the monthly and/or yearly volume of calls; and information regarding complaints filed against Signature Towing.¹ You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.103, 552.104, 552.107, 552.108, 552.110, 552.111, 552.117, 552.1175, 552.128, 552.130, 552.132, 552.136, 552.137, 552.138, 552.147, 552.148, and 552.151 of the Government Code. We have considered your claims and the comments submitted by the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (providing that interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released).

¹You inform us the city sought and received clarification of the information requested. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222 (providing that if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); *see also* *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (holding that when a governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification or narrowing of an unclear or over-broad request for public information, the ten-day period to request an attorney general ruling is measured from the date the request is clarified or narrowed).

We must address the city's obligations under the Act. Under section 552.301(e) of the Government Code, a governmental body receiving a request for information that the governmental body wishes to withhold pursuant to an exception to disclosure under the Act is required to submit to this office within fifteen business days of receiving the request (1) general written comments stating the reasons why the stated exceptions apply that would allow the information to be withheld, (2) a copy of the written request for information, (3) a signed statement or sufficient evidence showing the date the governmental body received the written request, and (4) a copy of the specific information requested or representative samples, labeled to indicate which exceptions apply to which parts of the documents. *Id.* § 552.301(e). As of the date of this ruling, you have failed to submit a copy or representative sample of the responsive information or comments stating why the raised exceptions apply. Consequently, we find the city failed to comply with the requirements of section 552.301.

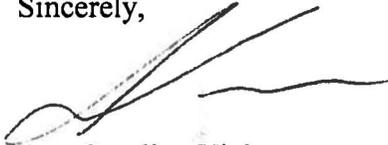
Pursuant to section 552.302 of the Government Code, a governmental body's failure to submit to this office the information required in section 552.301(e) results in the legal presumption the requested information is public and must be released. Information that is presumed public must be released unless a governmental body demonstrates a compelling reason to withhold the information to overcome this presumption. *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, 381-82 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ) (governmental body must make compelling demonstration to overcome presumption of openness pursuant to statutory predecessor to section 552.302 of the Government Code); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 630 (1994). Generally, a governmental body may demonstrate a compelling reason to withhold information by showing the information is made confidential by another source of law or affects third party interests. *See* ORD 630. By failing to comply with the requirements of the Act, the city waived its discretionary claims. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 663 at 5 (1999) (waiver of discretionary exceptions). Accordingly, the requested information may not be withheld under any of the claimed discretionary exceptions. Further, although you also claim mandatory exceptions that can provide compelling reasons for non-disclosure of information under section 552.302, because you have not submitted the requested information for our review, we have no basis for finding it confidential. Thus, we have no choice but to order the requested information released pursuant to section 552.302. If you believe the information is confidential and may not lawfully be released, you must challenge this ruling in court pursuant to section 552.324 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ana Carolina Vieira', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ana Carolina Vieira
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACV/bs

Ref: ID# 424444

c: Requestor