



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

December 5, 2011

Mr. Michael B. Gary
Legal Counsel
Harris County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 920975
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2011-17829

Dear Mr. Gary:

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# 440294 (HCAD ID#11-3441).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the tax year 2011 value notice for a specified district account number. You claim a portion of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

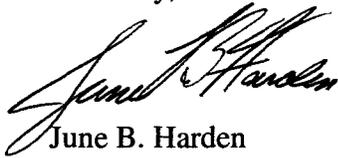
Section 552.136 of the Government Code states "[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." Gov't Code § 552.136(b). Section 552.136(a) defines "access device" as "a card, plate, code, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, or other telecommunications service, equipment, or instrument identifier or means of account access that alone or in conjunction with another access device may be used to . . . obtain money, goods, services, or another thing of value [or] initiate a transfer of funds other than a transfer originated solely by paper instrument." *Id.* § 552.136(a). You represent the submitted iFile number can be used to access confidential property information that is valuable to property owners and third party professionals involved in the protests of property tax appraisals. Based on your representations and our review, we agree the submitted iFile number is an access device number for purposes of section 552.136(a) and the district must

withhold it under section 552.136(b) of the Government Code. As you raise no other exceptions to disclosure, the remaining requested 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,



June B. Harden
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JBH/sdk

Ref: ID# 440294

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Ref: ID# 440294

Enc. Submitted documents

DL DAVIS
P O BOX 14069
HOUSTON TX 77221-4069
(w/o enclosures)