ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

GREG ABBOTT

May 4, 2012

Ms. Cherl K. Byles
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2012-06592

Dear Ms. Byles:

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# 452557 (Fort Worth PIR No. W014826).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for a specified police report. You state you have redacted certain Texas motor vehicle record information under section 552.130(a)(2) of the Government Code pursuant to the previous determinations issued to the city in Open Records Letter Nos. 2006-14726 (2006) and 2007-00198 (2007), and have redacted information pursuant to section 552.130(c) of the Government Code.[1] You claim portions of the remaining information are 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 the common-law right of privacy, which

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[1]Open Records Letter Nos. 2006-14726 and 2007-00198 are previous determinations issued to the city authorizing it to withhold certain Texas motor vehicle record information under section 552.130 of the Government Code without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision. Section 552.130(c) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact from the requested information it discloses, without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office, a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state, or another state or country, and a personal identification document issued by an agency of this state, or another state or country, or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(c) (governmental body may redact information described by subsections 552.130(a)(1) and (3) from any information the governmental body discloses without necessity of requesting decision from attorney general); *see id.* § 552.130(d)) (entitling requestor to appeal governmental body's decision to withhold information pursuant to section 552.130(c) to attorney general); *id.* § 552.130(e)) (requiring governmental body that withholds information pursuant to section 552.130(c) to provide notice to requestor).

protects information if it (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be established. *Id.* at 681-82. The type of information considered intimate or 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. Whether information is subject to a legitimate public interest and therefore not protected by common-law privacy must be determined on a case-by-case basis. *See* Open Records Decision No. 373 (1983). This office has found the following types of information are excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy: some kinds of medical information or information indicating disabilities or specific illnesses, *see* Open Records Decision Nos. 470 (1987) (illness from severe emotional and job-related stress), 455 (1987) (prescription drugs, illnesses, operations, and physical handicaps); personal financial information not relating to the financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body, *see* Open Records Decision Nos. 600 (1992), 545 (1990); and identities of victims of sexual abuse, *see* Open Records Decision Nos. 440 (1986), 393 (1983), 339 (1982). Upon review, we find you have failed to establish any of the information you have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate concern to the public; therefore, the information you have marked is not confidential under common-law privacy, and the city may not withhold it under section 552.101 on that ground. As no further exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the city must release the remaining information.

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,

Nneka Kanu
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NK/em

Ref: ID# 452557

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)