



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 22, 2012

Ms. Lillian Guillen Graham
Assistant City Attorney
City of Mesquite
P.O. Box 850137
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

OR2012-07762

Dear Ms. Graham:

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# 458324.

The Mesquite Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified arrest report. You claim some of 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.

You have marked a Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") number you seek to withhold. In Open Records Letter No. 2012-07334 (2012), this office issued a previous determination authorizing the department to withhold FBI numbers under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code without requesting a decision from this office when requests for such numbers are not made by individuals or entities who are authorized to obtain them under chapter 411 of the Government Code. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). We understand the request for the FBI number is not made by an individual or entity who is authorized to obtain it under chapter 411 of the Government Code. As such, the department must withhold the marked FBI number in accordance with the previous determination issued in Open Records Letter No. 2012-07334.

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. Criminal history record information (“CHRI”) generated by the National Crime Information Center or by the Texas Crime Information Center is confidential under federal and state law. Title 28, part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations governs the release of CHRI that states obtain from the federal government or other states. Open Records Decision No. 565 at 7 (1990). The federal regulations allow each state to follow its individual law with respect to CHRI it generates. *Id.* Section 411.083 of the Government Code deems confidential CHRI the Texas Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) maintains, except DPS may disseminate this information as provided in chapter 411, subchapter F of the Government Code. *See* Gov’t Code § 411.083. Sections 411.083(b)(1) and 411.089(a) authorize a criminal justice agency to obtain CHRI; however, a criminal justice agency may not release CHRI except to another criminal justice agency for a criminal justice purpose. *Id.* § 411.089(b)(1). Other entities specified in chapter 411 of the Government Code are entitled to obtain CHRI from DPS or another criminal justice agency; however, those entities may not release CHRI except as provided by chapter 411. *See generally id.* §§ 411.090-.127. Similarly, any CHRI obtained from DPS or any other criminal justice agency must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with Government Code chapter 411, subchapter F. Upon review, we find the department must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction section 411.083 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the FBI number you have marked in accordance with the previous determination issued to the department in Open Records Letter No. 2012-07334. The department must also withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

You ask this office to issue a previous determination that would permit the department to withhold all CHRI the department obtains from criminal history searches under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office. We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, 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', written over a horizontal line.

Ana Carolina Vieira
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACV/ag

Ref: ID# 458324

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)