



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 24, 2012

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

OR2012-07929

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# 454638 (HCAD Reference No. 12-1477).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the asset listing for a specified account. 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. This section encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, such as section 22.27 of the Tax Code, which states, in pertinent part:

(a) Rendition statements, real and personal property reports, attachments to those statements and reports, and other information the owner of property provides to the appraisal office in connection with the appraisal of the property, including income and expense information related to a property filed with an appraisal office and information voluntarily disclosed to an appraisal office or the comptroller about real or personal property sales prices after a promise it will be held confidential, are confidential and not open to public inspection. The statements and reports and the information they contain about specific real or personal property or a specific real or personal

property owner and information voluntarily disclosed to an appraisal office about real or personal property sales prices after a promise it will be held confidential may not be disclosed to anyone other than an employee of the appraisal office who appraises property except as authorized by Subsection (b) of this section.

Tax Code § 22.27(a). You state the submitted information consists of confidential information provided to the district by property owners for property tax purposes. You state the information at issue was provided to the district under a promise of confidentiality. You further state none of the exceptions to confidentiality provided by section 22.27(b) apply in this instance. *See id.* § 22.27(b). Based on your representations and our review, we find the submitted information is confidential and must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 22.27(a) of the Tax 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](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,



Kathryn R. Mattingly  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KRM/dls

Ref: ID# 454638

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)