



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 28, 2012

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

OR2012-13596

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# 467933.

The Mesquite Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to a specified service number. You state some of the requested information has been released. You claim the rest of the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.130, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the information you submitted.

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 exception encompasses common-law privacy, which protects information that is highly intimate or embarrassing, such that its release would be highly objectionable to a person of ordinary sensibilities, and of no legitimate public interest. *See Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). This office has determined common-law privacy encompasses certain types of personal financial information. Personal financial information related only to an individual ordinarily satisfies the first element of the common-law privacy test, but the public has a legitimate interest in the essential facts about a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body. *See Open Records Decision Nos. 545 at 4* (1990) (attorney general has found kinds of financial information not excepted from public disclosure by common-law privacy to

generally be those regarding receipt of governmental funds or debts owed to governmental entities), 523 at 4 (1989) (noting distinction under common-law privacy between confidential background financial information furnished to public body about individual and basic facts regarding particular financial transaction between individual and public body), 373 at 4 (1983) (determination of whether public's interest in obtaining personal financial information is sufficient to justify its disclosure must be made on case-by-case basis). We agree the personal financial information you have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and not a matter of legitimate public interest. We therefore conclude the department must withhold that information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information related to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit or a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). We agree the department must withhold the driver's license and motor vehicle information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.147 of the Government Code provides that "[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from" required public disclosure under the Act. *Id.* § 552.147(a). We agree the department may withhold the social security number you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department (1) must withhold the personal financial information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy; (2) must withhold the driver's license and motor vehicle information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code; and (3) may withhold the social security number you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

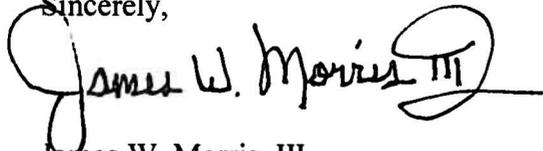
You also ask this office to issue previous determinations that would permit the department to withhold information under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code without the necessity of requesting a decision under the Act. *See id.* § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (previous determinations). We decline to issue such a decision at this time.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Morris III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

James W. Morris, III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JWM/bhf

Ref: ID# 467933

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)