



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 9, 2012

Ms. Donna L. Johnson
Counsel for the City of Spring Valley Village
Olson & Olson LLP
2727 Allen Parkway Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77019-2133

OR2012-16132

Dear Ms. Johnson:

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# 472837 (Ref: SVV12-019).

The City of Spring Valley Village (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information related to traffic convictions during a specified time period. You contend the requested information is not subject to the Act. In the alternative, you claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.103, 552.108, and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments and reviewed the information you submitted.

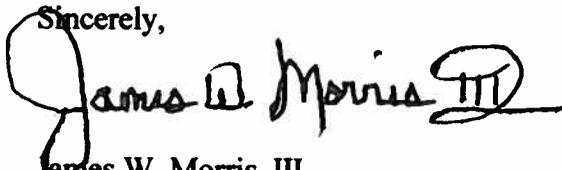
Although the Act is applicable to information "collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by a governmental body," Gov't Code § 552.002(a)(1), the Act's definition of "governmental body" "does not include the judiciary." *Id.* § 552.003(1)(B). Thus, information "collected, assembled, or maintained by or for the judiciary" is not subject to the Act but instead is "governed by rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas or by other applicable laws and rules." *Id.* § 552.0035(a); *cf.* Open Records Decision No. 131 (1976) (applying statutory predecessor to judiciary exclusion under Gov't Code § 552.003(1)(B) prior to enactment of Gov't Code § 552.0035). You state the information at issue consists of records of the city's municipal court. Based on your representation, we agree the submitted information is not

subject to disclosure under the Act and need not be released to the requestor.¹ As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your other arguments against disclosure.

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,



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

JWM/bhf

Ref: ID# 472837

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹We note judicial records may be public under other sources of law. See Gov't Code § 29.007(d)(4) (complaints filed with municipal court clerk); *id.* § 29.007(f) (municipal court clerks shall perform duties prescribed by law for county court clerk); Local Gov't Code § 191.006 (records belonging to office of county clerk shall be open to public unless access restricted by law or court order); see also *Star-Telegram, Inc. v. Walker*, 834 S.W.2d 54, 57 (Tex. 1992) (documents filed with courts are generally considered to be public and must be released); Attorney General Opinions DM-166 (1992) at 2-3 (public has general right to inspect and copy judicial records), H-826 (1976); Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974).