



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 25, 2013

Mr. Steven E. Meyer
Assistant City Attorney
City of Arlington Police Department
P.O. Box 1065, Mail Stop 04-0200
Arlington, Texas 76004-1065

OR2013-10712

Dear Mr. Meyer:

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# 491153 (Police Department Reference No. 11027).

The Arlington Police Department (the "department") received a request for all police reports related to a specified address during a specified time period and the arrest record of a named individual. 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.

Initially, we must address the department's obligations under the Act. Section 552.301 of the Government Code prescribes the procedures that a governmental body must follow in asking this office to decide whether requested information is excepted from public disclosure. Pursuant to section 552.301(e), a governmental body is required to submit to this office within fifteen business days of receiving an open records request (1) general written comments stating the reasons why the claimed exceptions apply that would allow the information to be withheld, (2) a copy of the written request for information, (3) a signed statement or sufficient evidence showing the date the governmental body received the written request, and (4) a copy of the specific information requested or representative samples, labeled to indicate which exceptions apply to which parts of the documents. Gov't Code § 552.301(e)(1)(A)-(D). You state the department received the request for information

on April 1, 2013. Accordingly, the department's fifteen-business-day deadline was April 15, 2013. The department did not submit some of the information requested until June 11, 2013. Therefore, we conclude the department failed to comply with the requirements of section 552.301 with respect to the information submitted on June 11, 2013.

Pursuant to section 552.302 of the Government Code, a governmental body's failure to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301 results in the legal presumption that the requested information is public and must be released unless the governmental body demonstrates a compelling reason to withhold the information from disclosure. *See id.* § 552.302; *Simmons v. Kuzmich*, 166 S.W.3d 342, 350 (Tex. App.—Forth Worth 2005, no pet.); *Hancock v. State Bd. of Ins.*, 797 S.W.2d 379, 381-81 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ); Open Records Decision No. 319 (1982). The presumption that information is public under section 552.302 can generally be overcome by demonstrating that the information is confidential by law or third-party interests are at stake. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 630 at 3 (1994), 325 at 2 (1982). The department raises section 552.101 of the Government Code. In addition, we note some of the submitted information is subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ Because these sections can provide compelling reasons to withhold information, we will address the applicability of these exceptions to all of the submitted information.

Next, we note a portion of the submitted information, which we have marked, is not responsive because it does not pertain to either the arrest of the named individual or the address specified in the request. The department need not release non-responsive information in response to the request, and this ruling will not address that 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 doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if (1) the information contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) the information 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 demonstrated. *Id.* at 681-82. A compilation of an individual's criminal history is highly embarrassing information, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person. *Cf. U. S. Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 764 (1989) (when considering prong regarding individual's privacy interest, court recognized distinction between public records found in courthouse files and local police stations and compiled summary of information and

¹The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

noted that individual has significant privacy interest in compilation of one's criminal history). Furthermore, we find a compilation of a private citizen's criminal history is generally not of legitimate concern to the public. However, information relating to routine traffic violations is not excepted from release under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy. *Cf.* Gov't Code § 411.082(2)(B) (criminal history record information does not include driving record information).

You state the present request requires the department to compile unspecified law enforcement records concerning the named individual, thus implicating this individual's right to privacy. However, upon review of the request and the submitted information, we find the requestor is, in part, seeking a specific domestic violence report involving herself and the named individual. Thus, this portion of the request does not implicate the named individual's right to privacy, and the domestic violence report involving the requestor and the named individual may not be withheld under section 552.101 on the basis of the named individual's privacy interests as a compilation of his criminal history. Furthermore, the remaining responsive information you have submitted relates to routine traffic violations or does not list the named individual as a suspect, arrestee, or criminal defendant. This information is not part of a compilation of an individual's criminal history and may not be withheld under section 552.101 on that basis.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses information that other statutes make confidential, such as section 58.007 of the Family Code, which provides for the confidentiality of juvenile law enforcement records related to delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. *See* Open Records Decision No. 680 at 4 (2004); *see also* Fam. Code §§ 51.03(a)-(b) (defining "delinquent conduct" and "conduct indicating a need for supervision"), .02(2) (defining "child" as a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the conduct). Section 58.007 provides in relevant part:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child and information stored, by electronic means or otherwise, concerning the child from which a record or file could be generated may not be disclosed to the public and shall be:

- (1) if maintained on paper or microfilm, kept separate from adult files and records;
- (2) if maintained electronically in the same computer system as records or files relating to adults, be accessible under controls that are separate and distinct from controls to access electronic data concerning adults; and

(3) maintained on a local basis only and not sent to a central state or federal depository, except as provided by Subchapters B, D, and E.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c). Upon review, we find report number 02-39749 consists of a law enforcement record that involves a juvenile engaged in delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Furthermore, it does not appear that any of the exceptions in section 58.007 apply in this instance. Accordingly, report number 02-39749 is confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code, and the department must withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses chapter 411 of the Government Code, which deems confidential criminal history record information ("CHRI") generated by the National Crime Information Center or by the Texas Crime Information Center. CHRI means "information collected about a person by a criminal justice agency that consists of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, informations, and other formal criminal charges and their dispositions." Gov't Code § 411.082(2). 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. *See* Open Records Decision No. 565 (1990). The federal regulations allow each state to follow its individual law with respect to CHRI it generates. *Id.* at 10-12. Section 411.083 of the Government Code deems confidential CHRI that the Texas Department of Public Safety ("DPS") maintains, except that 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. *See 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. Furthermore, 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 information we have marked consists of CHRI the department must withhold from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code and federal law.

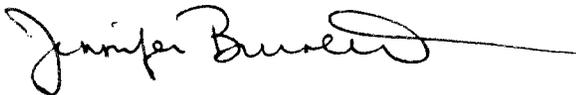
Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information [that] relates to . . . a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state or another state or country [or] a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country[.]" *See id.* § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). Upon review, we find the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold: (1) report number 02-39749 under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code; (2) the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code and federal law; and the information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining responsive information.²

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Burnett
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

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²We note the information being released contains the requestor's motor vehicle record information, to which she has a right of access under section 552.023 of the Government Code. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.023(a) (person or person's authorized representative has special right of access, beyond right of general public, to information held by governmental body that relates to person and is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect person's privacy interests), .130. Section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in subsection 552.130(a) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Act of May 6, 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., S.B. 458, § 1 (to be codified as an amendment to Gov't Code § 552.130(c)). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(d), (e). Thus, if the department receives another request for this same information from a person who does not have such a right of access, section 552.130(c) authorizes the department to redact the requestor's motor vehicle record information without the necessity of requesting a decision under the Act. We further note the information being released contains a social security number that does not belong to the requestor. Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act. *See id.* § 552.147(b).

Ref: ID# 491153

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)