



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 6, 2013

Ms. Rachel L. Lindsay
Counsel for the Town of Flower Mound
Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P.
740 East Campbell Road, Suite 800
Richardson, Texas 75081

OR2013-13548

Dear Ms. Lindsay:

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# 495524.

The Flower Mound Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for five categories of information pertaining to a named department police officer. You state the department does not possess some of the requested information.¹ You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.117, 552.130, 552.136, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

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

¹We note the Act does not require a governmental body that receives a request for information to create information that did not exist when the request was received. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev Corp. v Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2 (1992), 563 at 8 (1990), 555 at 1-2 (1990), 452 at 3 (1986), 362 at 2 (1983).

²We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988)*. This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than those submitted to this office.

Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 1703.306 of the Occupations Code, which provides as follows:

(a) A polygraph examiner, trainee, or employee of a polygraph examiner, or a person for whom a polygraph examination is conducted or an employee of the person, may not disclose information acquired from a polygraph examination to another person other than:

- (1) the examinee or any other person specifically designated in writing by the examinee;
- (2) the person that requested the examination;
- (3) a member, or the member's agent, of a governmental agency that licenses a polygraph examiner or supervises or controls a polygraph examiner's activities;
- (4) another polygraph examiner in private consultation; or
- (5) any other person required by due process of law.

(b) The [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation] or any other governmental agency that acquires information from a polygraph examination under this section shall maintain the confidentiality of the information.

(c) A polygraph examiner to whom information acquired from a polygraph examination is disclosed under Subsection (a)(4) may not disclose the information except as provided by this section.

Occ. Code § 1703.306. Some of the submitted information, which we have marked, consists of information acquired from a polygraph examination subject to section 1703.306. The requestor does not appear to fall into any of the categories of individuals who are authorized to receive the polygraph information under section 1703.306(a). Accordingly, the department must withhold the marked polygraph information under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 1703.306 of the Occupations Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses the common-law right of privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, such that its release would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *See Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be established. *See id.* at 681-82. This office has found personal financial information not relating to the financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is excepted from required public disclosure. *See* Open Records Decision

No. 545 (1990). Upon review, we find the information we have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public concern. Accordingly, the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy. However, we find the remaining information at issue is not highly intimate or embarrassing or is of legitimate concern to the public. Consequently, the department may not withhold any of the remaining information at issue under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.102(a) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “information in a personnel file, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”³ Gov’t Code § 552.102(a). The Texas Supreme Court held section 552.102(a) excepts from disclosure the dates of birth of state employees in the payroll database of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. *See Tex. Comptroller of Pub. Accounts v. Attorney Gen. of Tex.*, 354 S.W.3d 336 (Tex. 2010). Upon review, we find the department must withhold the date of birth we have marked under section 552.102(a) of the Government Code.

Section 552.117(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the home address, home telephone number, personal pager and cellular telephone numbers, emergency contact information, social security number, and family member information of a peace officer, regardless of whether the peace officer complies with sections 552.024 or 552.1175 of the Government Code.⁴ Gov’t Code § 552.117(a)(2). Accordingly, the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.117(a)(2) of the Government Code.⁵

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating 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 is excepted from public release. *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.

Section 552.136 of the Government Code states that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of [the Act], a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” *Id.* § 552.136(b); *see id.* § 552.136(a) (defining “access device”). This office has determined an insurance

³The 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).

⁴Section 552.117(a)(2) adopts the definition of peace officer found at article 2.12 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

⁵As our ruling for this information is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against its release.

policy number is an access device number for purposes of this exception. We have marked an insurance policy number the department must withhold under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold: (1) the polygraph information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1703.306 of the Occupations Code, (2) the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy, (3) the date of birth we have marked under section 552.102(a) of the Government Code, (4) the information we have marked under section 552.117(a)(2) of the Government Code; (5) the information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code; and (6) the insurance policy number we have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

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,



Ana Carolina Vieira
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACV/eb

Ref: ID# 495524

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)