



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 9, 2013

Ms. Evelyn W. Njuguna
Staff Attorney
City of Houston Police Department
1200 Travis
Houston, Texas 77002-6000

OR2013-13846

Dear Ms. Njuguna:

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# 495836 (ORU No. 13-3062).

The Houston Police Department (the "department") received a request for offense report number 61226513-E. You claim the requested 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 the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) 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 elements of the test must be established. *Id.* at 681-82. The types of information considered intimate or embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. Generally, only highly intimate information that implicates the privacy of an individual is withheld. However, in certain instances, where it is demonstrated that the requestor knows the identity of the individual involved, as well as

the nature of certain incidents, the submitted information must be withheld in its entirety to protect the individual's privacy.

You claim the submitted information is protected in its entirety by common-law privacy. However, you have not demonstrated, nor does it otherwise appear, this is a situation in which the information at issue must be withheld in its entirety on this basis. However, upon review, we find portions of the submitted information are highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate concern to the public. Accordingly, the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The department has failed to demonstrate, however, how any of the remaining information is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate concern to the public. Therefore, the department may not withhold any of the remaining information under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy. As no further exceptions to disclosure are raised for the remaining information, the department must release it.

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,



Kenneth Leland Conyer
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KLC/bhf

Ref: ID# 495836

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)