



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

October 9, 2013

Ms. Michelle M. Kretz  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Fort Worth  
1000 Throckmorton Street, Third Floor  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2013-17534

Dear Ms. Kretz:

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# 501787 (PIR No. W027434).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for a specified report. 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.

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 common-law right of privacy, which protects information if it (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 prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. Additionally, this office has concluded some kinds of medical information are generally highly intimate or embarrassing. *See* Open Records Decision No. 455 (1987).

Generally, only highly intimate information that implicates the privacy of an individual is withheld. However, in certain instances, where it is demonstrated the requestor knows the identity of the individual involved, as well as the nature of certain incidents, the entire report must be withheld to protect the individual's privacy. In this instance, although you seek to

withhold the submitted information in its entirety, you have not demonstrated, nor does it otherwise appear, this is a situation in which the information must be withheld in its entirety on the basis of common-law privacy. However, we note portions of the submitted information satisfy the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation*. Therefore, the city must generally withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy. However, we find you have failed to demonstrate the remaining information you have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public concern. Therefore, the city may not withhold this information, which we have marked for release, under section 552.101 on this basis.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130. You state the city will redact the driver's license information you have marked under section 552.130(c) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We note, however, some of the driver's license information you marked belongs to the requestor. Because section 552.130 protects personal privacy, the requestor has a right of access to his own driver's license information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld from him under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates or person's agent on ground that information is considered confidential by privacy principles); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). However, the city must withhold the driver's license information pertaining to other individuals that you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, except for the information we have marked for release, the city must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. With the exception of the requestor's driver's license information, the city must withhold the driver's license information you have marked under section 552.130 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.

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<sup>1</sup>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).

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](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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Britni Fabian".

Britni Fabian  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

BF/dls

Ref: ID# 501787

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)