



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 5, 2014

Ms. Judy Hickman
Assistant Supervisor
Police Records Division
City of Beaumont
P.O. Box 3827
Beaumont, Texas 77704

OR2014-02231

Dear Ms. Hickman:

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# 513074.

The Beaumont Police Department (the "department") received a request for a query of all automotive accidents during a specified period of time. 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 public disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 550.065(b) of the Transportation Code. Section 550.065(b) states that except as provided by subsection (c) or subsection (e), accident reports are privileged and confidential. *See* Transp. Code § 550.065. You claim the submitted information is subject to section 550.065 of the Transportation Code. Section 550.065 applies only to accident report forms completed pursuant to chapter 550 or section 601.004 of the Transportation Code. *See id.*; *see also id.* § 550.064 (discussing information required in accident report form). Upon review, we find the submitted information consists of a computer query of all accidents during the specified period of time, which was not completed pursuant to chapter 550 or section 601.004 of the Transportation Code. Therefore, the submitted

information is not subject to section 550.065 of the Transportation Code and may not be withheld under section 552.101 on that basis. As you raise no further exceptions to disclosure, the submitted 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle R. Garza", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle R. Garza
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MRG/som

Ref: ID# 513074

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)