



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 12, 2014

Ms. Catelyn H. Kostbar
Administrative Technician III
Legal Services Division
Harris County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 920975
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2014-07995

Dear Ms. Kostbar:

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# 522195 (HCAD Internal Reference No. 14-1396).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the vehicle identification numbers ("VINs") for a specified account. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

Initially, we note the request only seeks the VINs for the specified account. Therefore, only the submitted VINs are responsive to the request for information. Thus, the remaining

¹We note the district did not comply with section 552.301(e) of the Government Code in requesting this decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(e). Nonetheless, because section 552.130 of the Government Code can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness, we will consider its applicability to the submitted information. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302, .352.

²We assume that 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 that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

information is not responsive to the instant request. This ruling does not address the public availability of nonresponsive information, and the district is not required to release nonresponsive information in response to this request.

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 a personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a). Upon review, we find the district must withhold the responsive VINs under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

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,



Thana Hussaini
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TH/som

Ref: ID# 522195

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)