



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

June 6, 2014

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

OR2014-09789

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# 526064 (HCAD Internal Ref. No. 14-1697).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for information pertaining to certain vehicles. You state the district will release some of the requested information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.<sup>2</sup>

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit, a motor vehicle title or registration, or a personal

---

<sup>1</sup>You acknowledge, and we agree, the district failed to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting a decision from this office. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b), (e). Nonetheless, section 552.130 is a mandatory exception that can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness caused by failure to comply with section 552.301. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302. Thus, we will address the applicability of this exception to the submitted information, notwithstanding the district's violation of section 552.301 in requesting this decision.

<sup>2</sup>This letter ruling assumes that the submitted representative sample of information is truly representative of the requested information as a whole. This ruling does not reach, and therefore does not authorize, the withholding of any other requested information to the extent that the other information is substantially different than that submitted to this office. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301(e)(1)(D), .302; Open Records Decision Nos. 499 at 6 (1988), 497 at 4 (1988).

identification document issued by an agency of Texas or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a). Upon review, we find some of the submitted information, which we have marked, consists of motor vehicle record information that is subject to section 552.130. However, the requestor may represent the owner of the vehicles at issue and have a right of access to the information under section 552.023 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (person or person's authorized representative has special right of access, beyond right of general public, to information held by governmental body that relates to person and is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect person's privacy interests). Thus, we must rule conditionally. If the requestor represents the owner of the vehicles at issue, the district may not withhold the information we have marked under section 552.130 and must release it to the requestor. If, however, the requestor does not represent the owner of the vehicles at issue, the district must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.130. In either instance, we find the remaining information is not subject to section 552.130; thus, the district may not withhold the remaining information on that basis. Accordingly, the district must release the remaining information.

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](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,



Lindsay E. Hale  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

LEH/akg

Ref: ID# 526064

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)