



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 12, 2014

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

OR2014-20592

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# 543014 (HCAD Internal Reference No. 14-2946).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the vehicle identification number and license plate number for a vehicle listed on a specified account. The district claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exception the district claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the requestor only seeks a vehicle identification number and a license plate number for a vehicle listed on a specified account. Accordingly, any other information is not responsive to the request for information. This ruling does not address the public availability of non-responsive information, and the district need not release non-responsive information to the requestor.

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

¹We note, and the district acknowledges, the district did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting this decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b). 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.

document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a). We note section 552.130 protects privacy interests. In this instance, the requestor may be the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicle to which the responsive information pertains. If so, the requestor has a right of access to this information pursuant to section 552.023 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.023 (“person’s authorized representative has a special right of access, beyond the right of the general public, to information held by a governmental body that relates to the person and that is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect that person’s privacy interests”); *see* Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning herself). Accordingly, if the requestor is the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicle at issue, then this information may not be withheld from her under section 552.130. If the requestor is not the authorized representative of the owner of the vehicle at issue, then the district must withhold the responsive information 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,



Kristi L. Godden
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KLK/cz

Ref: ID# 543014

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)