



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 22, 2016

Ms. Shannon C. Francis  
Assistant County Attorney  
County of Williamson  
405 M.L.K. Street, #7  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2016-01633

Dear Ms. Francis:

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# 598567.

The Williamson County Attorney's Office (the "county attorney's office") received a request for the surveillance video pertaining to a specified incident. 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. This exception encompasses information other statutes make confidential. You claim section 552.101 in conjunction with section 418.182 of the Government Code, which was added to chapter 418 of the Government Code as part of the Texas Homeland Security Act. Section 418.182 provides in part:

- (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (c), information, including access codes and passwords, in the possession of a governmental entity that relates to the specifications, operating procedures, or location of a security

system used to protect public or private property from an act of terrorism or related criminal activity is confidential.

(b) Financial information in the possession of a governmental entity that relates to the expenditure of funds by a governmental entity for a security system is public information that is not excepted from required disclosure under Chapter 552.

*Id.* § 418.182(a), (b). The fact information may generally be related to a security system does not make the information *per se* confidential under section 418.182. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 at 3 (1996) (language of confidentiality provision controls scope of its protection). Furthermore, the mere recitation by a governmental body of a statute's key terms is not sufficient to demonstrate the applicability of a claimed provision. As with any confidentiality provision, a governmental body asserting section 418.182 must adequately explain how the responsive information falls within the scope of the statute. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (governmental body must explain how claimed exception to disclosure applies).

You argue the submitted information is confidential under section 418.182. You explain the information at issue consists of video surveillance recordings that are generated from security surveillance cameras located in the Williamson County Justice Center (the "center"). You explain the recordings at issue reveal the location of a security system used to protect the center from acts of terrorism or related criminal activity. You argue release of the information would provide insight into the capacities and deficiencies of the security system and would compromise the safety and welfare of the building and its occupants. Based on your representations and our review of the information at issue, we conclude the county attorney's office has demonstrated the information at issue falls within the scope of section 418.182(a). Accordingly, the county attorney's office must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 418.182(a) of the Government Code. *See generally* *Tex. Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Abbott*, 310 S.W.3d 670 (Tex. App.—Austin 2010, no pet.) (case construing section 418.182 of the HSA, which ruled recorded images necessarily relate to specifications of security system that recorded them).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Morris Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CVMS/som

Ref: ID# 598567

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)