



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 14, 2016

Ms. Linda Hight
Records Coordinator
City of Cleburne
P.O. Box 677
Cleburne, Texas 76033-0677

OR2016-23153

Dear Ms, Hight:

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# 636226.

The City of Cleburne (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a named individual. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101, 552.108, 552.130, and 552.136 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(2), .301(e)(1)(A). You state the information you have marked relates to a case that ended in a disposition other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Accordingly, the city may withhold the suspect information you marked under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

The city asserts the dates of birth in the remaining information are excepted from public disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law

¹Although you do not raise sections 552.130 and 552.136 of the Government Code in your brief, we understand you to raise these exceptions based on your markings.

privacy. Section 552.101 excepts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” *Id.* § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). Under the common-law right of privacy, an individual has a right to be free from the publicizing of private affairs in which the public has no legitimate concern. *Id.* at 682. In considering whether a public citizen’s date of birth is private, the Third Court of Appeals looked to the supreme court’s rationale in *Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts v. Attorney General of Texas*, 354 S.W.3d 336 (Tex. 2010). *Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3 (Tex. App.—Austin May 22, 2015, pet. denied) (mem. op.). The supreme court concluded public employees’ dates of birth are private under section 552.102 of the Government Code because the employees’ privacy interest substantially outweighed the negligible public interest in disclosure.² *Tex. Comptroller*, 354 S.W.3d at 347-48. Based on *Texas Comptroller*, the court of appeals concluded the privacy rights of public employees apply equally to public citizens, and thus, public citizens’ dates of birth are also protected by common-law privacy pursuant to section 552.101. *City of Dallas*, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3. Upon review, some of the dates of birth at issue relate to individuals whose identities have been withheld and whose privacy interests are thus protected. The city may not withhold otherwise private information relating to individuals who have been de-identified. Accordingly, the city must withhold all identifiable public citizens’ dates of birth you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

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 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 city must withhold the motor vehicle record information you have marked, and we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.136 of the Government Code provides, “Notwithstanding any other provision of [the Act], a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” *Id.* § 552.136(b); *see id.* § 552.136(a) (defining “access device”). We note check numbers are not access device numbers for purposes of section 552.136. Accordingly, with the exception of the check number you have marked, which must be released, the city must withhold the remaining information you have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city may withhold the suspect information you marked under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. The city must withhold all identifiable public citizens’ dates of birth you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The city must withhold the motor vehicle

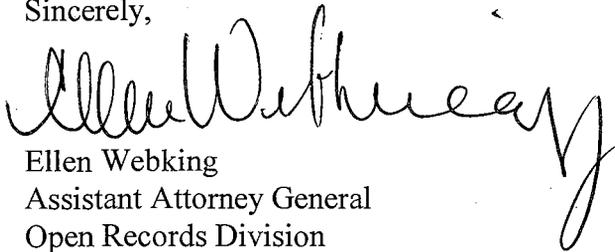
²Section 552.102(a) excepts from disclosure “information in a personnel file, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” Gov’t Code § 552.102(a).

record information you have marked, and we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code. With the exception of the check number you have marked, which must be released, the city must withhold the remaining information you have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information.³

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,



Ellen Webking
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

EW/bw

Ref: ID# 636226

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

³We note the requestor has a right of access to some information being released pursuant to section 552.023 of the Government Code. See Gov't Code § 552.023(a) (“[a] person or a 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”); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). Accordingly, if the city receives another request for this information from a different requestor, then the city should again seek a ruling from this office.