



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 19, 2016

Ms. Jessika J. Velasquez
Counsel for the City of Watauga
Evans, Daniel, Moore, Evans & Biggs
115 West Second Street, Suite 202
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2016-23439

Dear Ms. Velasquez:

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# 637493 (ORR# 16-461).

The Watauga Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for the video recordings and dispatch sheet related to a specified traffic stop. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the submitted information includes a police officer's body worn camera recording. Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Chapter 1701 provides the procedures a requestor must follow when seeking a body worn camera recording. Section 1701.661 provides, in relevant part, the following:

(a) A member of the public is required to provide the following information when submitting a written request to a law enforcement agency for information recorded by a body worn camera:

- (1) the date and approximate time of the recording;
- (2) the specific location where the recording occurred; and
- (3) the name of one or more persons known to be a subject of the recording.

Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). In this instance, the requestor does not provide the requisite information under section 1701.661(a). As the body worn camera recording at issue was not properly requested pursuant to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code, our ruling does not reach this information and it need not be released. However, pursuant to section 1701.661(b), a “failure to provide all the information required by [s]ubsection (a) to be part of a request for recorded information does not preclude the requestor from making a future request for the same recorded information.” *Id.* § 1701.661(b).

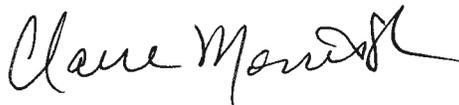
Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to a motor vehicle operator’s license, driver’s license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov’t Code § 552.130. You assert, and we agree, the submitted dash camera video recording contains confidential motor vehicle record information that is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130. In this instance, you state the department does not possess the technological capability to redact information from video files. Thus, we agree the department must withhold the entirety of the submitted dash camera video recording under section 552.130 of the Government Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983).

In summary, the submitted body worn camera recording was not properly requested pursuant to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code and it need not be released. The department must withhold the entirety of the submitted dash camera video recording 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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/som

Ref: ID# 637493

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)