



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 26, 2015

Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez
Lieutenant
City of Laredo Police Department
4712 Maher Avenue
Laredo, Texas 78041

OR2015-10201

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

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# 570798.

The Laredo Police Department (the "department") received a request for video recording pertaining to a specified incident. 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. We have also received and considered comments from the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released).

Initially, we address the requestor's assertions she has a right of access to the requested information under article 39.14 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Article 39.14 governs the discovery of information and the testimony of witnesses in criminal proceedings. *See* Crim. Proc. Code art. 39.14. However, we note the Act differs in purpose from statutes and procedural rules providing for discovery in judicial proceedings. *See id.* §§ 552.005 (the Act does not affect scope of civil discovery), .0055 (subpoena duces tecum or request for discovery issued in compliance with statute or rule of civil or criminal procedure is not considered to be request for information under the Act). The discovery process is a process through which parties to litigation can obtain information pertaining to the litigation. A

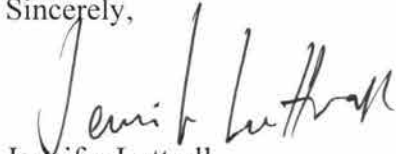
public information request under the Act is a process in which any individual may request information from a governmental body. Thus, the discovery process has no bearing on the availability of information requested under the Act.

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 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). We note the requestor has a right of access to her client's motor vehicle record information. *Id.* § 552.023(a) (person or 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 individual requests information concerning herself). Upon review, we find the submitted video recording contains motor record vehicle information that does not belong to the requestor's client. You state the department lacks the technical capability to redact the motor vehicle record information from the video recording. Based on this representation, we conclude the department must withhold the submitted video recording in its entirety under section 552.130 of the Government Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983).

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,



Jennifer Luttrall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JL/akg

Ref: ID# 570798

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)