



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 21, 2015

Ms. Patricia Davis
Chief Appraiser
Rockwall Central Appraisal District
841 Justin Road
Rockwall, Texas 75087

OR2015-17444

Dear Ms. Davis:

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# 576487.

The Rockwall Central Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for certain applications for open space exemptions. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. Additionally, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the interests of the individuals who submitted the applications at issue. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these interested individuals of the request for information and of their rights to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested third party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released). We have received comments from

numerous interested parties. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov’t Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by section 22.27 of the Tax Code, which provides:

(a) Rendition statements, real and personal property reports, attachments to those statements and reports, and other information the owner of property provides to the appraisal office in connection with the appraisal of the property, including income and expense information related to a property filed with an appraisal office and information voluntarily disclosed to an appraisal office or the comptroller about real or personal property sales prices after a promise it will be held confidential, are confidential and not open to public inspection. The statements and reports and the information they contain about specific real or personal property or a specific real or personal property owner and information voluntarily disclosed to an appraisal office about real or personal property sales prices after a promise it will be held confidential may not be disclosed to anyone other than an employee of the appraisal office who appraises property except as authorized by Subsection (b) of this section.

Tax Code § 22.27(a). We understand the district is an “appraisal office” for purposes of section 22.27(a). You state the submitted applications were provided to the district by property owners in connection with appraisals of the owners’ properties pursuant to section 22.27(a). You state none of the exceptions in section 22.27(b) apply in this instance. Based on your representations and our review, we conclude the district must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 22.27(a) of the Tax Code.²

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.

¹We assume the “representative sample” of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

²As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

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,



Lee Seidlits
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CLS/som

Ref: ID# 576487

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
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