



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 1, 2015

Ms. Paige Mebane
Assistant City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
The City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2015-20572

Dear Ms. Mebane:

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# 581505 (W044153).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified adopted animal. You state you have released some information. You claim some of 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 section encompasses information protected by other statutes, including section 826.0311 of the Health and Safety Code, which provides in relevant part:

(a) Information that is contained in a municipal or county registry of dogs and cats under Section 826.031 that identifies or tends to identify the owner or an address, telephone number, or other personally identifying information of the owner of the registered dog or cat is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

(b) The information may be disclosed only to a governmental entity for purposes related to the protection of public health and safety. A governmental entity that receives the information must maintain the confidentiality of the information, may not disclose the information under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may not use the information for a purpose that does not directly relate to the protection of public health and safety.

Health & Safety Code § 826.0311(a), (b). You state the city uses a software system called Pet Point to maintain the city's pet registration and licensing information. You further state the submitted document consists of the record of registration created by Pet Point for the registered dog. Based upon your representations and our review, we find the submitted information consists of information contained in the city's pet registry. Thus, we agree section 826.0311 is applicable to the submitted information. Section 826.0311 provides for the confidentiality of information that identifies or tends to identify the owner or an address, telephone number, or other personally identifying information of the owner of the registered dog or cat. We agree the information you have marked is information that identifies or tends to identify the owner of the registered dog that is confidential under section 826.0311. You indicate the exception in section 826.0311(b) does not apply in this instance. Accordingly, the city must withhold the marked information under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 826.0311(a) of the Health and Safety Code. The remaining information must be released.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paige Lay".

Paige Lay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PL/bhf

Ref: ID# 581505

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)