



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 22, 2017

Ms. Linda Pemberton
Paralegal
Office of the City Attorney
City of Killeen
P.O. Box 1329
Killeen, Texas 76540-1329

OR2017-05908

Dear Ms. Pemberton:

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# 656695 (PIR No. W021469).

The City of Killeen (the "city") received a request for the utility records for service pertaining to a specified address during a specified time period. You state the city released some information. You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.130, and 552.136 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exceptions 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. Section 182.052 of the Utilities Code provides, in relevant part:

(a) Except as provided by Section 182.054, a government-operated utility may not disclose personal information in a customer's account record, or any

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 in the submitted information.

information relating to the volume or units of utility usage or the amounts billed to or collected from the individual for utility usage, if the customer requests that the government-operated utility keep the information confidential. However, a government-operated utility may disclose information related to the customer's volume or units of utility usage or amounts billed to or collected from the individual for utility usage if the primary source of water for such utility was a sole-source designated aquifer.

(b) A customer may request confidentiality by delivering to the government-operated utility an appropriately marked form provided under Subsection (c)(3) or any other written request for confidentiality.

Util. Code § 182.052(a)-(b). "Personal information" under section 182.052(a) means an individual's address, telephone number, or social security number, but does not include the individual's name. *See id.* § 182.051(4); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 625 (1994) (construing statutory predecessor). Water service is included in the scope of utility services covered by section 182.052. Util. Code § 182.051(3).

You state the information at issue consists of the personal information of residential utility customers who timely requested confidentiality under section 182.052. You do not indicate any of the exceptions to confidentiality under section 182.054 apply in this instance. You state the primary source of water for the city's utility services is not a sole-source designated aquifer. Upon review, we find the city must withhold the addresses, social security numbers, and utility usage amounts relating to the customers who timely requested confidentiality pursuant to section 182.052, which the city marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 182.052 of the Utilities Code.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, 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. Upon review, we find the city must withhold the driver's license numbers you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.136 of the Government Code provides, "[n]otwithstanding 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"). Upon review, the city must withhold the information it marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city must withhold the addresses, social security numbers, and utility usage amounts relating to the customers who timely requested confidentiality pursuant to section 182.052, which the city marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in

conjunction with section 182.052 of the Utilities Code. The city must withhold the information it marked under sections 552.130 and 552.136 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information.

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,



Britni Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BR/som

Ref: ID# 656695

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)