



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 9, 2017

Mr. Matthew Crouch
Legal Counsel
Harris County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 920975
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2017-18047

Dear Mr. Crouch:

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# 670137 (HCAD Reference No. 17-2510).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for a vehicle identification number ("VIN") pertaining to a specified account. 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 requestor only seeks the VIN pertaining to the specified account. Accordingly, the remaining submitted information is not responsive to the instant request. The district need not release non-responsive information in response to this request, and this ruling will not address that information.

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 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(a). We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. We further note the responsive information may belong to the requestor, and as such, the requestor may have a right of access to his motor vehicle record information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (governmental body may not deny access to person to

whom information relates or person's agent on ground that information is considered confidential by privacy principles); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). However, because we are unable to determine whether the information at issue belongs to the requestor, we must rule conditionally. To the extent the motor vehicle record information at issue belongs to the requestor, the district may not withhold it under section 552.130. To the extent the motor vehicle record information at issue does not belong to the requestor, the district must withhold it 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,



D. Michelle Case
Attorney
Open Records Division

DMC/sdk

Ref: ID# 670137

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)