



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 27, 2017

Ms. Veta Byrd-Perez  
Associate General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892, MS 94  
Houston, Texas 77251-1892

OR2017-22110

Dear Ms. Byrd-Perez:

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# 677573 (RUPD Request Number 2017-019).

The Rice University Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to equipment issued to officers and officers hired during a specified time period. You claim the submitted information is not subject to the Act. In the alternative, you argue the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, and 552.152 of the Government Code. We have your arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 51.212(f) of the Education Code reads as follows:

(f) A campus police department of a private institution of higher education is a law enforcement agency and a governmental body for purposes of [the Act], only with respect to information relating solely to law enforcement activities.

Educ. Code § 51.212(f). We understand the department is a campus police department of a private institution of higher education. *See id.* §§ 51.212(e), 61.003. Thus, the department is a governmental body for purposes of the Act, and information maintained by the

department is subject to disclosure under the Act, to the extent such information relates solely to law enforcement activities. However, the department argues the information at issue “do[es] not constitute criminal investigative or law enforcement activity but rather relate[s] to the business and administrative operations of Rice University and [the department].” Upon review, we agree the information at issue is administrative in nature and does not relate solely to law enforcement activities. *See id* § 51.212(f). Accordingly, we find the submitted information is not subject to disclosure pursuant to section 51.212(f) of the Education Code, and need not be released to the requestor.<sup>1</sup>

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](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 Copeland  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JC/sb

Ref: ID# 677573

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup>As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the department’s remaining arguments against disclosure.