



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 18, 2017

Mr. Austin Beck
Assistant General Counsel
Corpus Christi Independent School District
P.O. Box 110
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403-0110

OR2017-23909

Dear Mr. Beck:

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# 685500.

The Corpus Christi Independent School District (the "district") received a request for a specified surveillance camera video recording. The district claims the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception 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 section 418.182(a) of the Government Code, which provides, "information . . . in the possession of a governmental entity that relates to the specifications, operating procedures, or location of a security system used to protect public or private property from an act of terrorism or related criminal activity is confidential." *Id.* § 418.182(a) of the Government Code. The fact that information may generally be related to emergency preparedness does not make the information *per se* confidential under section 418.176. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 at 3 (1996) (language of confidentiality provisions controls scope of its protection). As with any confidentiality statute, a governmental body asserting section 418.182 must adequately explain how the responsive information falls within the scope of the provisions. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (governmental body must explain how claimed exception to disclosure applies).

The district asserts the requested surveillance camera video recording “reveals the location, video quality and clarity, camera angles, and video surveillance coverage” of a surveillance camera at a district campus. It also asserts release of the recording would allow a person to determine the focus points of the security camera and thereby compromise the physical security of the campus community. Upon review, we find the submitted information relates to the specifications or location of a security system used to protect public or private property from an act of terrorism or related criminal activity. *See Tex. Dep’t of Pub. Safety v. Abbott*, 310 S.W.3d 670 (Tex. App.—Austin 2010, no pet.) (finding confidential under section 418.182 video recording containing images recorded by security cameras in Texas Capitol hallway because specifications of security system included cameras’ capabilities and video recording demonstrated those capabilities through characteristics, quality, and clarity of images recorded). Therefore, the district must withhold the submitted recording under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 418.182(a) 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,


James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/sb

Ref: ID# 685500

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)