



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 15, 2019

Ms. Sabrina E. Fernandez
Public Information Specialist
Katy Independent School District
6301 South Stadium Lane
Katy, Texas 77494

OR2019-01233

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

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# 746274 (PIR# 18412_40_Dolan).

The Katy Independent School District (the "district") received a request for "all urls and or keywords that are blocked on school and or district WiFi networks." You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.139 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.139 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part:

(a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if it is information that relates to computer network security, to restricted information under Section 2059.055 [of the Government Code], or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network.

(b) The following information is confidential:

(1) a computer network vulnerability report;

(2) any other assessment of the extent to which data processing operations, a computer, a computer program, network, system, or

system interface, or software of a governmental body or of a contractor of a governmental body is vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, including an assessment of the extent to which the governmental body's or contractor's electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use; [and]

...

(4) information directly arising from a governmental body's routine efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, or mitigate a computer security incident, including information contained in or derived from an information security log.

Gov't Code § 552.139(a), (b)(1)-(2), (4). Section 2059.055 of the Government Code provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Network security information is confidential under this section if the information is:

- (1) related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a governmental entity;
- (2) collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or
- (3) related to an assessment, made by or for a governmental entity or maintained by a governmental entity, of the vulnerability of a network to criminal activity.

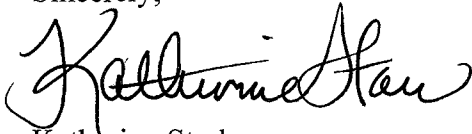
Id. § 2059.055(b). The district states the submitted information consists of a list of words and website addresses blocked by the district to protect the safety and security of district employees and students. The district asserts this information arises directly from the district's efforts to prevent computer security incidents and relates to the security of the district's computer network. The district further states some websites and keywords have been blocked as part of the district's security efforts because they have been identified as exposing the district's computers to risk as malicious sites. The district explains "information about website and keyword blocking inherently exposes [d]istrict-identified threats and efforts to mitigate threats, . . . thus exposing computer security vulnerabilities." Based on these arguments and our review of the information, we find the submitted information relates to computer network security, and the design, operation, or defense of the

district's computer network. Accordingly, the district must withhold the submitted information under section 552.139 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Stark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Stark
Attorney
Open Records Division

KS/eb

Ref: ID# 746274

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)