



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 22, 2019

Mr. Trey Qualls
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6311

OR2019-01847

Dear Mr. Qualls:

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# 747153 (ORR# W077946).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for body worn camera recordings related to a specified car crash. The city states it is releasing some of the requested information. The city claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the city claims 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. The submitted information consists of a video recording from the body worn video camera of a police officer of the city's police department (the "department"). Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Chapter 1701 provides the procedures a requestor must follow when seeking a body worn camera recording. Section 1701.661(a) provides:

A member of the public is required to provide the following information when submitting a written request to a law enforcement agency for information recorded by a body worn camera:

- (1) the date and approximate time of the recording;
- (2) the specific location where the recording occurred; and
- (3) the name of one or more persons known to be a subject of the recording.

Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). Upon review, we find the requestor provided the information required by section 1701.661(a) of the Occupations Code for release of the body worn camera recordings. We understand the submitted recordings were required to be made by law or the policies of the department and the recording relates to a law enforcement purpose. *See id.* § 1701.661(h). Further, we understand the recordings are or could be used as evidence in a criminal prosecution. *See id.* § 1701.661(d). Additionally, we have no indication the recordings document an incident that involves the use of deadly force by an officer or relate to an administrative or criminal investigation of an officer. *See id.* § 1701.660(a). However, section 1701.661(f) provides, in relevant part:

A law enforcement agency may not release any portion of a recording made in a private space . . . without written authorization from the person who is the subject of that portion of the recording or, if the person is deceased, from the person's authorized representative.

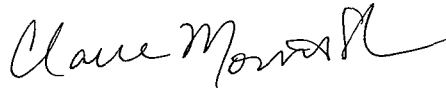
Id. § 1701.661(f). Upon review, we agree the submitted body worn camera recordings were made in a private space. *See id.* § 1701.651(3) (defining "private space" for purposes of section 1701.661 (f)). The city states it does not have written authorization for release of the recording from all of the subjects of the recordings. *See id.* § 1701.661(f). Accordingly, the city must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Claire Morris Sloan".

Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/gw

Ref: ID# 747153

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)