



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 21, 2019

Ms. Kristen Mills
Open Records Specialist
Baytown Police Department
3200 North Main Street
Baytown, Texas 77521

OR2019-04874

Dear Ms. Mills:

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# 753891 (ORR# 13139).

The Baytown Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident report. The department claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.117, 552.130, 552.136, and 552.152 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the claimed exceptions and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.136(b) of the Government Code provides, "[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." Gov't Code § 552.136(b). This office has determined an insurance policy number is an access device number for purposes of section 552.136. Open Records Decision No. 684 at 9 (2009). Thus, the department must withhold the insurance policy number it has marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.²

¹We understand the department to raise section 552.136 based on its markings.

²As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address the other argument of the department to withhold this information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov’t Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in the *Industrial Foundation* decision. *Id.* at 683. Additionally, this office has found personal financial information not relating to the financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy. See Open Records Decision Nos. 600 (1992), 545 (1990). The Third Court of Appeals has concluded public citizens’ dates of birth are protected by common-law privacy pursuant to section 552.101. See *Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3 (Tex. App.—Austin May 22, 2015, pet. denied) (mem. op.). Thus, the department must withhold all public citizens’ dates of birth under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. We also find some of the remaining information, which we have marked, satisfies the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation*. Accordingly, the department must also withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the home addresses and telephone numbers, emergency contact information, social security numbers, and family member information of current or former officials or employees of a governmental body who request that this information be kept confidential under section 552.024 of the Government Code. Gov’t Code § 552.117(a)(1). We note section 552.117 applies only to information that a governmental body holds in an employment context. The submitted information consists of law enforcement records and, thus, we find the department does not maintain it in an employment capacity. Accordingly, the department may not withhold any of the remaining information under section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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 *id.* § 552.130. The department must withhold the motor vehicle record information it has marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.152 of the Government Code provides the following:

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm.

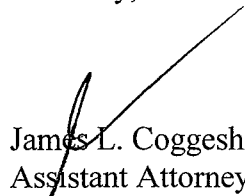
Id. § 552.152. The department represents release of the submitted information that identifies undercover officers would subject the officers to a “substantial threat of physical harm.” Upon review, we find the department has demonstrated release of the information at issue would subject the officers to a substantial threat of physical harm. Therefore, we conclude the department must withhold the identifying information of the undercover officers it has marked under section 552.152 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the following: (1) the insurance policy number it has marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code; (2) all public citizens’ dates of birth and the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy; (3) the information it has marked under sections 552.130 and 552.152 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining information.

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/jxd

Ref: ID# 753891

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)