



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 7, 2019

Ms. Nicole Warren  
Deputy City Attorney  
City of Temple  
2 North Main Street, Suite 308  
Temple, Texas 76501

OR2019-06336

Dear Ms. Warren:

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# 756475.

The Temple Police Department (the "department") received a request for several categories of information pertaining to a specified motor vehicle accident. You claim the submitted information was not properly requested pursuant to 1701.661 of the Occupations Code. You also claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note you have only submitted video recordings pertaining to the specified motor vehicle accident. To the extent any information responsive to the remaining portions of the request existed on the date the department received the request, we assume the department has released it. If the department has not released any such information, it must do so at this time. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301(a), .302; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body concludes no exceptions apply to requested information, it must release information as soon as possible).

Next, we note the submitted information includes a department officer's body worn camera recording. 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). In this instance, the requestor does not give the requisite information under section 1701.661(a). As the requestor did not properly request the body worn camera recording at issue pursuant to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code, our ruling does not reach this information and it need not be released.<sup>1</sup> However, pursuant to section 1701.661(b), a “failure to provide all the information required by Subsection (a) to be part of a request for recorded information does not preclude the requestor from making a future request for the same recorded information.” *Id.* 1701.661(b). We note the remaining information, which consists of dash camera recordings is not subject to section 1701.661 of the Occupations Code and the department may not withhold any portion of the remaining information on that basis.

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. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). Under the common-law right of privacy, an individual has a right to be free from the publicizing of private affairs in which the public has no legitimate concern. *Id.* at 682. 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.

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 a personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release.<sup>2</sup> Gov’t Code § 552.130(a). We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. The requestor has a right of access to her client’s motor vehicle record information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and the department may not withhold it from her under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023 (person or person’s authorized representative has special right of access to records that contain information relating to the

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<sup>1</sup>As we are able to make this determination, we need not consider your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

<sup>2</sup>The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

person that are protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect that person's privacy interests); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning himself). Thus, with the exception of the requestor's client's motor vehicle record information, the department must withhold the driver's license and license plate information, including all discernible license plates, in the remaining video recordings under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, as the requestor did not properly request the body worn camera recording at issue pursuant to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code, our ruling does not reach this information and it need not be released. The department must withhold all public citizens' dates of birth under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. With the exception of the requestor's client's motor vehicle record information, the department must withhold the driver's license and license plate information, including all discernible license plates, in the remaining video recordings under section 552.130 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](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,



Sidney M. Pounds  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

SMP/

Ref: ID# 756475

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)