



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 5, 2019

Ms. Lizbeth Islas Plaster
City Attorney
City of Lewisville
P.O. Box 299002
Lewisville, Texas 75029-9002

OR2019-09262

Dear Ms. Plaster:

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# 757801 (Ref. No. P029583-011519).

The City of Lewisville Police Department (the "department") received a request for fourteen categories of information pertaining to a specified accident. You state you have released or will release most of the responsive information to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim 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. 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 of the information at issue, we determine the requestor provided the information required by section 1701.661(a) of the Occupations Code for release of the submitted body worn camera recording. The recording at issue reflects it was required to be made by law or the policies of the department and relates to a law enforcement purpose. *See id.* § 1701.661(h). We understand the recording is or could be used as evidence in a criminal prosecution. *See id.* § 1701.661(d) (stating information “that is or could be used as evidence in a criminal prosecution is subject to the requirements of [the Act.]”). Additionally, we have no indication the recording documents an incident that involves the use of deadly force by an officer or relates to an administrative or criminal investigation of an officer. *See id.* § 1701.660(a). We note, however, section 1701.661(f) provides, in relevant part:

A law enforcement agency may not release any portion made in a private space, or of a recording involving the investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and does not result in arrest, 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 find a portion of the submitted video recording was made in a private space. *See id.* § 1701.651(3) (defining “private space” for purposes of section 1701.661(f)). Furthermore, you indicate the recording at issue is a body worn camera recording involving the investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and which did not result in an arrest. You state the department does not have permission for release from all subjects of the recording. *See id.* § 1701.661(f). Accordingly, the department 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 "Lecelle Clarke".

Lecelle Clarke
Attorney
Open Records Division

LC/gw

Ref: ID# 757801

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)