



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 22, 2019

Mr. Dustin Banks
In-House Counsel
Travis Central Appraisal District
PO Box 149012
Austin, Texas 78714

OR2019-13590

Dear Mr. Banks:

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# 765159 (PIR# 15826).

The Travis Central Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the name of the owner of a specified property. 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.

Initially, we note the requestor seeks only the name of the property owner. Accordingly, the remaining information is not responsive to the present request. This ruling does not address the public availability of non-responsive information, and the district is not required to release non-responsive information in response to this request.

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 section 25.025 of the Tax Code, which states, in pertinent part:

(b) Information in appraisal records under Section 25.02 is confidential and is available only for the official use of the appraisal district, this state, the comptroller, and taxing units and political subdivisions of this state if:

(1) the information identifies the home address of a named individual to whom this section applies; and

(2) the individual chooses to restrict public access to the information on the form prescribed for that purpose by the comptroller under Section 5.07.

(c) A choice made under Subsection (b) remains valid until rescinded in writing by the individual.

(d) This section does not prohibit the public disclosure of information in appraisal records that identifies property according to an address if the information does not identify an individual who has made an election under Subsection (b) in connection with the individual's address.

Tax Cod § 25.025(b)-(d). Section 25.025(b) applies, in part, to “a current or former peace officer as defined by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the spouse or surviving spouse of the peace officer[.]” *Id.* § 25.025(a)(1). Section 25.02 of the Tax Code prescribes the information that must be contained within appraisal records. *See id.* § 25.02. This information includes the name and address of the owner of the property. *See id.* § 25.02(a)(1). You state, and provide documentation showing, the owner of the property at issue made an election with the district under section 25.025 to restrict access to certain information, and that the owner falls under the categories of persons set out in section 25.025(a) authorized to make such an election. Upon review, we conclude the district must withhold the responsive information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 25.025 of the Tax 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,



Kelly McWethy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KSM/mo

Ref: ID# 765159

c: Requestor