



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 24, 2019

Mr. Michael Phelps  
Senior Paralegal  
Harris County Appraisal District  
P.O. Box 920975  
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2019-13878

Dear Mr. Phelps:

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# 767413 (ORR# 19-1843).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the 2019 iFile number for a specified account. The district claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the district claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the requestor seeks only the 2019 iFile number for the specified account. The district has submitted a document that contains information beyond this specific piece of information. Thus, the portions of the submitted document that do not consist of the information requested are not responsive to the present request. This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request and the district is not required to release that information in response to the request.

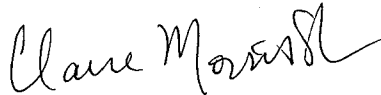
Section 552.136 of the Government Code provides, "Notwithstanding any other provision of [the Act], a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." Gov't Code § 552.136(b); *see id.* § 552.136(a) (defining "access device"). The district states the iFile number at issue, which the district marked, can be used to access confidential property information of value to property owners and third party professionals involved in the protests

of property tax appraisals. Based on the district's representations and our review, we agree the iFile number at issue is an access device number for purposes of section 552.136(a). Accordingly, the district must withhold the iFile number under section 552.136 of the Government 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](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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CVMS/mo

Ref: ID# 767413

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)