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June 17, 2019

Mr. Jay Youngblood
Counsel for the Pittsburg Independent School District
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100 East Southeast Loop 323, Suite 450
Tyler, Texas 75701

OR2019-16380

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

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# 771412.

The Pittsburg Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident and certain training and personnel information regarding certain individuals. You state the district released some information. 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. Section 552.101 encompasses former section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code, which provides:

(a) [TCOLE] may not issue a license to a person as an officer or county jailer unless the person is examined by:

(1) a licensed psychologist or by a psychiatrist who declares in writing that the person is in satisfactory psychological and emotional health to serve as the type of officer for which a license is sought; and

(2) a licensed physician who declares in writing that the person does not show any trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a physical examination, blood test, or other medical test.

(b) An agency hiring a person for whom a license as an officer or county jailer is sought shall select the examining physician and the examining psychologist or psychiatrist. The agency shall prepare a report of each declaration required by Subsection (a) and shall maintain a copy of the report on file in a format readily accessible to [TCOLE]. A declaration is not public information.

Act of May 17, 1999, 76th Leg., R.S., ch. 388, § 1, 1999 Tex. Gen. Laws 1431, 2219 (current version at Occ. Code § 1701.306(a), (b)). Some of the submitted L-2 and L-3 declaration forms were created prior to September 1, 2011. Although section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code was amended in 2011 by the 82nd Legislature, L-2 and L-3 declaration forms created prior to September 1, 2011, are subject to the former version of section 1701.306, which was continued in effect for that purpose. *See* Act of May 30, 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., ch. 1224, § 7. Upon review, we find the district must withhold the L-2 and L-3 declaration forms created prior to September 1, 2011, in Exhibit B under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with former section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses the current section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code, which provides:

(a) The commission may not issue a license to a person unless the person is examined by:

(1) a licensed psychologist or by a psychiatrist who declares in writing that the person is in satisfactory psychological and emotional health to serve as the type of officer for which a license is sought; and

(2) a licensed physician who declares in writing that the person does not show any trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a blood test or other medical test.

(b) An agency hiring a person for whom a license is sought shall select the examining physician and the examining psychologist or psychiatrist. The agency shall prepare a report of each declaration required by Subsection (a) and shall maintain a copy of the report on file in a format readily accessible to [TCOLE]. A declaration is not public information.

Occ. Code § 1701.306(a)-(b). The remaining information in Exhibit B contains L-2 and L-3 declaration forms created after September 1, 2011. Therefore, the district must withhold the submitted L-2 and L-3 declaration forms created after September 1, 2011, in Exhibit B under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses former section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code. We note Exhibit C includes an F-5 form created prior to the effective date of the amendment of section 1701.454 by the Seventy-ninth Legislature. *See* Act of May 25, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 1298, § 4, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 4094, 4096. Thus, the F-5 form at issue is governed by the previous version of section 1701.454. *See* Act of May 25, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 1298, § 6, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 4094, 4096.¹ Former section 1701.454 provides as follows:

(a) A report or statement submitted to [TCOLE] under this subchapter is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under [the Act] unless the person resigned or was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses.

(b) Except as provided by this subsection, a [TCOLE] member or other person may not release the contents of a report or statement submitted under this subchapter. The report or statement may be released only by the [TCOLE] employee having the responsibility to maintain the report or statement and only if:

(1) the head of a law enforcement agency or the agency head's designee makes a written request on the agency's letterhead for the report or statement accompanied by the agency head's or designee's signature; and

(2) the person who is the subject of the report or statement authorizes the release by providing a sworn statement on a form supplied by [TCOLE] that includes the person's waiver of liability regarding an agency head who is responsible for or who takes action based on the report or statement.

¹Section 6 of the amending legislation states "[t]he changes in law made by this Act in relation to employment termination reports apply only to an employment termination report under Subchapter J, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, regarding a resignation or termination that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. An employment termination report regarding a resignation or termination that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date and that law is continued in effect for that purpose." Act of May 25, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 1298, § 6, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 4094, 4096.

Occ. Code. § 1701.454 (repealed 2005). Upon review, we find the F-5 form created prior to September 1, 2011, is not subject to release under the provisions of former section 1701.454. Therefore, the district must withhold the F-5 form created prior to September 1, 2011, in Exhibit C under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with former section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses the current section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code, which governs the public availability of information submitted to TCOLE under subchapter J of chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Section 1701.454 provides as follows:

- (a) All information submitted to [TCOLE] under this subchapter is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under [the Act], unless the person resigned or was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses.
- (b) Except as provided by this subchapter, a [TCOLE] member or other person may not release information submitted under this subchapter.

Id. § 1701.454. We note the remaining information in Exhibit C consists of F-5 forms created after September 1, 2011, that were submitted to TCOLE pursuant to subchapter J of chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Furthermore, the information at issue does not indicate the named officer resigned or was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses. Therefore, the district must withhold the remaining F-5 forms created after September 1, 2011, in Exhibit C under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code.

In summary, with regard to Exhibit B, the district must withhold the L-2 and L-3 declaration forms created prior to September 1, 2011, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with former section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code and the remaining L-2 and L-3 declaration forms under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.306 of the Occupations Code. With regard to Exhibit C, the district must withhold the F-5 form created prior to September 1, 2011, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with former section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code and the remaining F-5 forms under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.454 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,



Britni Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BR/sb

Ref: ID# 771412

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)