



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 26, 2019

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

OR2019-17473

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# 779878 (ORR# 19-3190).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the iFile number for a specified property. 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 only the submitted iFile number is responsive to the request for information. 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 this information in response to this request.

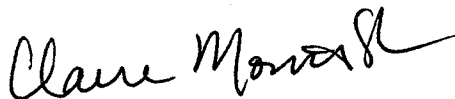
Section 552.136(b) of the Government Code provides, "[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." Gov't Code § 552.136(b). The district states the submitted iFile number 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 these representations, we conclude the iFile number at issue is an access device number for purposes of section

552.136(a). Accordingly, the district must withhold the submitted iFile number under section 552.136(b) of the Government Code.¹

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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/jxd

Ref: ID# 779878

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹We note section 552.136(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in section 552.136(b) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Gov't Code § 552.136(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.136(e). *See id.* § 552.136(d), (e).