



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 23, 2019

Ms. Lola Hazel
City Secretary
City of Dalworthington Gardens
2600 Roosevelt Drive
Dalworthington Gardens, Texas 76016

OR2019-20121

Dear Ms. Hazel:

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# 777464 (ORR# 2019-38).

The City of Dalworthington Gardens (the "city") received a request for personnel records related to a named former city employee. The city informs us it is releasing some of the requested information. The city indicates some of the submitted information does not consist of public information subject to the Act. The city claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.102, 552.117, and 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, the city indicates the submitted information contains a peace officer's Texas Commission on Law Enforcement ("commission") identification number.² Section 552.002(a) defines "public information" as information that is written, produced, collected,

¹Although the city does not cite to section 552.101, section 552.117, or section 552.130 of the Government Code in its brief, we understand the city to raise these exceptions based on the substance of its argument and its markings.

²The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education was renamed the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement by the 83rd Legislature. See Act of May 6, 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., ch. 93, § 1.01, 2013 Tex. Gen. Laws 174, 174.

assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by a governmental body; for a governmental body and the governmental body owns, has a right of access to, or spends or contributes public money for the purpose of writing, producing, collecting, assembling, or maintaining the information; or by an individual officer or employee of a governmental body in the officer's or employee's official capacity and the information pertains to official business of the governmental body. Gov't Code. § 552.002(a). In Open Records Decision No. 581 (1990), this office determined certain computer information, such as source codes, documentation information, and other computer programming, that has no significance other than its use as a tool for the maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property is not the kind of information made public under section 552.021 of the Government Code. ORD 581 at 5. We understand an officer's commission identification number is a unique computer-generated number assigned to peace officers for identification in the commissioner's electronic database, and may be used as an access device number on the commission's website. Accordingly, we find the officer's commission identification number the city marked does not constitute public information under section 552.002 of the Government Code. Therefore, the commission identification number is not subject to the Act and the city is not required to release it to the requestor.

Next, the requestor excludes dates of birth from the scope of the request. Accordingly, this type of information is not 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 city is not required to release that information in response to the request.

Section 552.102(a) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information in a personnel file, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Gov't Code § 552.102(a). The Texas Supreme Court held section 552.102(a) excepts from disclosure the dates of birth of state employees in the payroll database of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. *Tex. Comptroller of Pub. Accounts v. Attorney Gen. of Tex.*, 354 S.W.3d 336 (Tex. 2010). Having carefully reviewed the information at issue, we find no portion of the responsive information is subject to section 552.102(a) of the Government Code, and the city may not withhold any of the responsive information on that basis.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. Additionally, this office has concluded some kinds of medical information are generally highly intimate or

embarrassing. *See* Open Records Decision No. 455 (1987). However, this office has concluded the public has a legitimate interest in information that relates to public employees and their conduct in the workplace. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 562 at 10 (1990) (personnel file information does not involve most intimate aspects of human affairs but in fact touches on matters of legitimate public concern), 470 at 4 (1987) (job performance does not generally constitute public employee's private affairs), 444 at 3 (1986) (public has obvious interest in information concerning qualifications and performance of government employees), 405 at 2 (1983) (manner in which public employee's job was performed cannot be said to be of minimal public interest), 329 (1982) (reasons for employee's resignation ordinarily not private). Upon review, we find some of the submitted information, which we have marked, satisfies the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation*. Therefore, the city must withhold the information we marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. However, we find the city has not demonstrated any of the remaining information at issue is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public concern. Thus, the city may not withhold any portion of the remaining information under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the home address and telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, and family member information of a current or former employee or official of a governmental body who requests this information be kept confidential under section 552.024 of the Government Code. *See* Gov't Code § 552.117(a)(1). We further note section 552.117 is not applicable to a fiancé. Whether a particular item of information is protected by section 552.117(a)(1) must be determined at the time of the governmental body's receipt of the request for the information. *See* Open Records Decision No. 530 at 5 (1989). The city indicates the individual whose information is at issue timely requested confidentiality under section 552.024 of the Government Code. Upon review, we find most of the information the city marked is protected by section 552.117 of the Government Code. However, we find some of the information the city marked, which we marked for release, does not consist of the home address, telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, or family member information of a current or former employee of the city, and the city may not withhold that information under section 552.117(a)(1). Accordingly, with the exception of the information we marked for release, the city must withhold the information it marked and we marked under section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130. Accordingly, the city must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked and the additional motor vehicle record information we marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city must withhold the information we marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. With the exception of the information we marked for release, the city must withhold the information it marked and we marked under section 552.117(a)(1) of the Government Code. The city must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked and the additional motor vehicle record information we marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information.

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/gw

Ref: ID# 777464

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)