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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 1, 2019

Mr. Joseph J. Gorfida, Jr.
Counsel for City of Allen
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, LLP
500 North Akard Street, Suite 1800
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2019-21223

Dear Mr. Gorfida:

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# 786139 (File Ref. #105160).

The Allen Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for video recordings pertaining to a specified incident. You claim some of the requested information was not properly requested pursuant to section 1701.661 of the Occupations Code. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, you state the requested information includes body worn camera video. Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Chapter 1701 provides the procedures a requestor must follow when seeking a body worn camera recording. Section 1701.661(a) provides:

A member of the public is required to provide the following information when submitting a written request to a law enforcement agency for information recorded by a body worn camera:

- (1) the date and approximate time of the recording;
- (2) the specific location where the recording occurred; and
- (3) the name of one or more persons known to be a subject of the recording.

Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). In this instance, the requestor does not give the requisite information under section 1701.661(a). As the requestor did not properly request the body worn camera video at issue pursuant to chapter 1701, our ruling does not reach this information and it need not be released. However, pursuant to section 1701.661(b), a “failure to provide all the information required by Subsection (a) to be part of a request for recorded information does not preclude the requestor from making a future request for the same recorded information.” *Id.* § 1701.661(b).

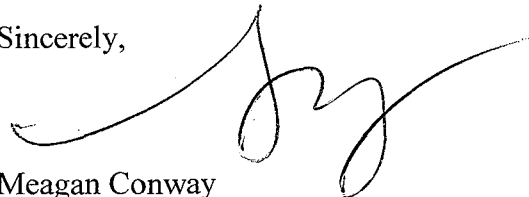
Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator’s license, driver’s license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov’t Code § 552.130. Upon review, we find portions of the submitted information consist of motor vehicle record information. In this instance, you state the department does not possess the technological capability to redact information from video files. Thus, we agree the department must withhold the entirety of the submitted video recording under section 552.130 of the Government Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983).

In summary, as the requestor did not properly request the body worn camera video at issue pursuant to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code, our ruling does not reach this information and it need not be released. The department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.130 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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Meagan Conway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MC/eb

Ref: ID# 786139

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)