



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 6, 2019

Mr. Dustin L. Banks
In-House Counsel
Travis County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 149012
Austin, Texas 78714

OR2019-24981

Dear Mr. Banks:

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# 783358 (PIR No. 16570).

The Travis County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for information related to the district's e-mail delivery system and a specified internet domain.¹ You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.139 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.139 of the Government Code provides, in part:

(a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if it is information that relates to computer network security, to restricted information under Section 2059.055 [of the Government Code], or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network.

Gov't Code § 552.139(a). Section 2059.055 of the Government Code provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Network security information is confidential under this section if the information is:

¹ The district sought clarification of the information requested and received a response. See Gov't Code § 552.222 (if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); see also *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.2d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (if governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification of unclear or over-broad request, ten-day period to request attorney general ruling is measured from date request is clarified).

- (1) related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a state agency;
- (2) collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or
- (3) related to an assessment, made by or for a governmental entity or maintained by a governmental entity, of the vulnerability of a network to criminal activity.

Id. § 2059.055(b). The district asserts the submitted information relates to computer security. The district further states that an unauthorized user could use the information at issue to exploit the security features of the district's computer system. Based upon these representations, we find the submitted information relates to computer network security and the design, operation, or defense of the district's computer network. Accordingly, the district must withhold the submitted information under section 552.139 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,



Sean McCormick
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SMC/eb

Ref: ID# 783358

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)