



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 17, 2019

Mr. Thomas Royce Hansen
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6311

OR2019-29269

Dear Mr. Hansen:

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# 791915 (PIR# W088485).

The Fort Worth Police Department (the "department") received a request for fourteen categories of information pertaining to a specified accident. You state the department has released some of the requested 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 information made confidential by other statutes. Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Section 1701.661(a) states the information a requestor must provide when seeking a body worn camera recording. Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). Upon our review of the submitted information, we determine the requestor provided the requisite information for the body worn camera recording. However, section 1701.661(f) provides, in relevant part:

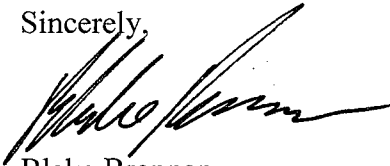
A law enforcement agency may not release any portion . . . of a recording involving the investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and does not result in arrest, without written authorization from the person who is the subject of that portion of the recording or, if the person is deceased, from the person's authorized representative.

Id. § 1701.661(f). You state the submitted video recording consists of a body worn camera recording involving an investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and that did not result in an arrest. You state you do not have permission for release from all of the subjects of the recording at issue. *See id.* Accordingly, we find the department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations Code.

You also ask this office to issue a previous determination permitting the department to withhold body worn camera video recordings pursuant to section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations Code without seeking a ruling from this office. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(a) (allowing governmental body to withhold information subject to previous determination); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, 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,



Blake Brennan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BBX/gw

Ref: ID# 791915

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)