



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 30, 2019

Ms. Karen Strand
Senior Assistant City Attorney
City of Mesquite
P.O. Box 850137
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

OR2019-30647

Dear Ms. Strand:

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# 794000.

The City of Mesquite (the "city") received a request for e-mail exchanged between a named individual and any member of the Mesquite Police Department during specified time periods. The city states it will release some information to the requestor. The city informs us it will withhold certain information pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).¹ The city claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.127 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the city claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.127 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that "identifies a person as a participant in a neighborhood crime watch organization and relates to the name, home address, business address, home telephone number, or business telephone number of the person." Gov't Code § 552.127(a); *see also id.* § 552.127(b) (defining "neighborhood crime watch organization" as "a group of residents of a neighborhood or part of a neighborhood that is formed in affiliation or association with a

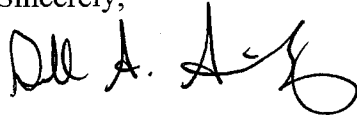
¹ Open Records Decision No. 684 is a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold certain categories of information, including personal e-mail addresses under section 552.137 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision. *See* ORD 684.

law enforcement agency in this state to observe activities within the neighborhood or part of a neighborhood and to take actions intended to reduce crime in that area.”). The city seeks to withhold some of the submitted information under section 552.127. The city asserts the information it marked identifies individuals who are members of neighborhood crime watch organizations. Upon review, we find the city must withhold the information it marked under section 552.127 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 <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,



Gerald Arismendez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

GAA/be

Ref: ID# 794000

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)