



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 6, 2020

Ms. Katie Lentz  
Open Records  
Williamson County Sheriff's Office  
508 South Rock Street  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2020-00360

Dear Ms. Lentz:

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# 806400.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for information related to the retirement of a specified K9. The sheriff's office claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.1177 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the sheriff's office claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.1177(a) of the Government Code relates to the humane disposition by a municipality or county of an animal and provides the following:

Except as provided by Subsection (b), information is confidential and excepted from [required public disclosure] if the information relates to the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, driver's license number, social security number, or other personally identifying information of a person who obtains ownership or control of an animal from a municipality or county making a humane disposition of the animal under a municipal ordinance or an order of the commissioners court.

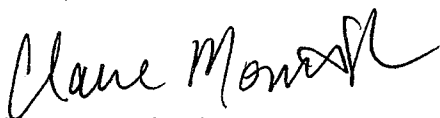
Gov't Code § 552.1177(a). The sheriff's office informs us the submitted information consists of "records related to a [sheriff's office] K9." Further, the sheriff's office states the information includes "personally identifiable information of a person who obtained ownership and adoption of the animal." However, the sheriff's office does not inform us,

and we are unable to discern, whether the person obtained ownership of the animal under a municipal ordinance or an order of the commissioners court. Accordingly, we must rule in the alternative. If the person obtained ownership of the animal under a municipal ordinance or an order of the commissioners court, then the sheriff's office must withhold the information we marked under section 552.1177 of the Government Code. If the person did not obtain ownership of the animal under a municipal ordinance or an order of the commissioners court, then the information we marked is not subject to section 552.1177 and the sheriff's office may not the information on that basis. Further, we find no portion of the remaining information is confidential under section 552.1177, and the sheriff's office may not withhold any of the remaining information on that ground. The sheriff's office 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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CVMS/mo

Ref: ID# 806400

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)