



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 3, 2020

Mr. Matthew Murray  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Fort Worth  
200 Texas Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6311

OR2020-10196

Dear Mr. Murray:

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# 821123 (PIR No. W096473).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for fourteen categories of information pertaining to a specified incident involving the requestor's client. You state the city will release most 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 representative sample of information.<sup>1</sup>

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. This section encompasses information made confidential by other statutes. Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Section 1701.661(a) of the Occupations Code states the information a requestor must provide when seeking a body worn camera recording. *See* Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). We note the requestor provides the requisite information for the body worn camera recordings at issue. However, section 1701.661(f) provides, in relevant part:

A law enforcement agency may not release any portion made . . . 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.

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<sup>1</sup> We assume the representative sample of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

*Id.* § 1701.661(f). You state the video recording pertains to the investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and which did not result in an arrest. You state the city has not received written authorizations for release from all subjects of the recording. *See id.* Accordingly, we find the city must withhold the submitted video recording under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations Code.

Finally, you ask this office to issue a previous determination that would permit the city to withhold body worn camera recordings subject to section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations Code under section 552.101 of the Government Code without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office. *See* 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,

Michelle Garza  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MRG/rm

Ref: ID# 821123

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)