



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 3, 2020

Ms. Lauren Downey
Assistant Attorney General
Public Information Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General
Post Office Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

OR2020-10274

Dear Ms. Downey:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. This request was originally received by the Open Records Division ("ORD") of this office and assigned ID# 819882. The preparation of the ruling has been assigned to the Opinion Committee.

The Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") received a public information request from Ms. Lauren Hirsch regarding "documents about additional consultants that have been hired to help with the Google antitrust investigation." You tell us the information sought by Ms. Hirsch is the same as a portion of the information that was the subject of a previous request for information. As a result of that previous request, this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2020-05041 (2020).

In that ruling, we determined the OAG may rely on prior rulings in Open Records Letter Nos. 2015-07623, 2019-00918, 2019-33880 and 2020-02580 as previous determinations and withhold the information in accordance with those rulings. We also determined that the OAG may withhold the information we indicated under sections 552.103, 552.107(1), 552.108(a)(1), 552.108(a)(2), and 552.022(a)(1) pursuant to rule 503 of the Texas Rules of Evidence. Additionally, we determined that the OAG must withhold the information we indicated under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy as well as with sections 261.201 and 58.008 of the Texas Family Code. We understand from your letter there has been no change in the law, facts, or circumstances on which the previous ruling was based. Accordingly, the OAG may continue to rely on Open Records Letter No. 2020-05041 as a previous determination and withhold the identical information in accordance with that ruling. *See* Tex. Att'y Gen. ORD-673 (2001) at 6-7 (stating that as long as law,

facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, the first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely the same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure).

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,

Charlotte M. Harper
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

CH/eb

Ref: ID# 819882

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)