



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 7, 2020

Mr. Reggie Hollins
Legal Technology Specialist
City of Plano
P.O. Box 860358
Plano, Texas 75086-0358

OR2020-10387

Dear Mr. Hollins:

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# 822043 (ORR No. R002411).

The City of Plano (the "city") received a request for documents regarding the search for a new police chief, including applications, resumes, and a specified withdrawal letter. You state the city will release some information. You state the city will redact information pursuant to section 552.1175(f) of the Government Code.¹ You claim some of 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 the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. The types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. This office

¹ Section 552.1175(f) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact under section 552.1175(b), without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office, the home addresses and telephone numbers, emergency contact information, social security number, date of birth, and family member information of certain individuals who properly elect to keep this information confidential. *See* Gov't Code § 552.1175(b), (f).

has also found the identities of victims of sexual abuse are excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy. See Open Records Decision Nos. 440 (1986), 393 (1983), 339 (1982). Upon review, we find the information you marked pertains to an unidentified individual whose privacy interests are, thus, protected, is not highly intimate or embarrassing information, or is of legitimate public interest. Therefore, none of the submitted information may be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. As no other exceptions are raised, the city must release the submitted 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,

Britni Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BR/rm

Ref: ID# 822043

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)