KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 17, 2020

Mr. John P. Beauchamp
General Counsel
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
6330 East Highway 290, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78723-1035

OR2020-11228

Dear Mr. Beachamp:

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# 825478 (ORR# 02 21 2020).

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (the "commission") received a request for specified F-5 Separation of Licensee forms. The commission claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception 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. This section encompasses section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code, which governs the public availability of information submitted to the commission under subchapter J of chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Section 1701.454 provides as follows:

> (a) All information submitted to the commission under this subchapter is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under [the Act], unless the person resigned or was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses.
>
> (b) Except as provided by this subchapter, a commission member or other person may not release information submitted under this subchapter.

Occ. Code § 1701.454. The submitted information consists of F-5 Separation of Licensee forms that were submitted to the commission pursuant to subchapter J of chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. The F-5 forms do not reflect the officer to whom these forms apply was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses. Therefore, the commission must withhold the submitted F-5 forms under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code.

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,

James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/mo

Ref: ID# 825478

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)