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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 19, 2020

Mr. Patrick Vollmer
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 4004
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2020-14015

Dear Mr. Vollmer:

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# 829010 (TDCJ OGC# JN0045).

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for the parole case summary relating to a named inmate. The department claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.134 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions the department claims 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 section 508.313(a) of the Government Code, which provides the following:

(a) All information obtained and maintained, including a victim protest letter or other correspondence, a victim impact statement, a list of inmates eligible for release on parole, and an arrest record of an inmate, is confidential and privileged if the information relates to:

- (1) an inmate of the institutional division [of the department] subject to release on parole, release to mandatory supervision, or executive clemency;
- (2) a releasee; or

(3) a person directly identified in any proposed plan of release for an inmate.

Id. § 508.313(a). The department states the submitted information consists of a case summary report prepared by a parole officer for review by the Board of Pardons and Paroles relating to an inmate subject to release on parole. The department also states the requestor is not authorized to obtain this information under section 508.313(c). *See id.* § 508.313(c). Further, there is no indication this information is made public under chapter 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure or section 552.029 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 508.313(e), (f). Accordingly, the department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 508.313 of the Government Code.¹

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.

Gerald Arismendez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

GAA/mo

Ref: ID# 829010

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹ As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the department's remaining argument against disclosure of the submitted information.