



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 20, 2020

Ms. Stacie S. White
Counsel for the City of Saginaw
Taylor Olson Adkins Sralla Elam, L.L.P.
6000 Western Place, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

OR2020-14165

Dear Ms. White:

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# 830985 (ORR# 208-2020).

The Saginaw Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for information related to a specified car crash. The department states it will withhold certain information pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).¹ The department claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 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 the doctrine of common-law privacy. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). Under the common-law right of privacy, an individual has a right to be free from the publicizing of private affairs in which the public has no legitimate concern. *Id.* at 682. The Third Court of Appeals has concluded public citizens' dates of birth are protected by common-law privacy pursuant to section 552.101. *See Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3 (Tex. App.—Austin May 22, 2015, pet. denied) (mem. op.). Thus, the department must withhold the public citizen's date of birth it marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

¹ Open Records Decision No. 684 is a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold certain information without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130. Accordingly, the department must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department also asserts, and we agree, the submitted video recordings contain confidential motor vehicle record information that is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130. In this instance, the department states it does not possess the technological capability to redact information from video files. Thus, we agree the department must withhold the entireties of the submitted video recordings under section 552.130 of the Government Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983).

In summary, the department must withhold the public citizen's date of birth it marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The department must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked, as well as the entireties of the submitted video recordings, under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining 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,

Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/gw

Ref: ID# 830985

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)