



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 01, 2020

Ms. Stephanie Neal
Assistant City Attorney
City of Mesquite
P.O. Box 850137
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

OR2020-15001

Dear Ms. Neal:

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# 834630.

The City of Mesquite (the "city") received a request for all information pertaining to a specified investigation. You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, such as section 143.090 of the Local Government Code. You state the city is a civil service city under chapter 143 of the Local Government Code. Section 143.090 provides as follows:

A department, [the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission], or municipality may not release a photograph that depicts a police officer unless:

- (1) the officer has been charged with an offense by indictment or by information;

- (2) the officer is a party in a civil service hearing or a case before a hearing examiner or in arbitration;
- (3) the photograph is introduced as evidence in a judicial proceeding;
or
- (4) the officer gives written consent to the release of the photograph.

Local Gov't Code § 143.090. You state some of the submitted photographs depict police officers. You do not inform us the police officers depicted in the photographs at issue have provided the city with written consent regarding the release of the photographs. You indicate none of the remaining exceptions under section 143.090 are applicable. Therefore, the city must withhold the submitted photographs of police officers under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 143.090.

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. We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. Thus, the requestor has a right of access to motor vehicle record information pertaining to the requestor's client and this information may not be withheld from this requestor under section 552.130 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (person or person's authorized representative has special right of access to records that contain information relating to the person that are protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect that person's privacy interests); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning himself). Accordingly, with the exception of the information belonging to the requestor, the city must withhold the driver's license and license plate information contained in the submitted photographs under section 552.130.

In summary, the city must withhold the submitted photographs of police officers under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 143.090. With the exception of the information belonging to the requestor, the city must withhold the driver's license and license plate information contained in the submitted photographs under section 552.130. The remaining information must be released.

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,

Melanie Villars
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MJV/mo

Ref: ID# 834630

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)