



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 10, 2020

Ms. Shannon C. Francis
Civil Division Chief
Williamson County Attorney's Office
405 M.L.K. Street #7
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2020-15750

Dear Ms. Francis:

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# 833960.

Williamson County (the "county") received a request for information related to a specified animal. The county claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.1177 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the county claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.1177(a) of the Government Code relates to the humane disposition by a municipality or county of an animal and provides the following:

Except as provided by Subsection (b), information is confidential and excepted from [required public disclosure] if the information relates to the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, driver's license number, social security number, or other personally identifying information of a person who obtains ownership or control of an animal from a municipality or county making a humane disposition of the animal under a municipal ordinance or an order of the commissioners court.

Gov't Code § 552.1177(a). The county asserts some of the submitted information, which it marked, identifies a person who adopted an animal from the county's animal shelter. The county represents its animal shelter made a humane disposition of the animal at issue. Upon review, however, we find the county has failed to demonstrate the information contains personally identifying information that is confidential under section 552.1177, and the

county may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on that ground. The county 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,

Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/be

Ref: ID# 833960

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)