



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 9, 2020

Mr. Bobby Preisler
Legal Counsel
Harris County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 920975
Houston, Texas 77292-0975

OR2020-17113

Dear Mr. Preisler:

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# 837246 (HCAD No. 20-3181).

The Harris County Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for the iFile number pertaining to a specified account. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note only the submitted iFile number is responsive to the request for information. Thus, the remaining information you have submitted is not responsive to this request. This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request, and the district is not required to release this information in response to this request.

Section 552.136(b) of the Government Code provides, "[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential." Gov't Code § 552.136(b). You state the submitted iFile number can be used to access confidential property information of value to property owners and third party professionals involved in the protests of property tax appraisals. Based on these representations, we conclude the iFile number at issue is an access device number for purposes of section 552.136(a). Accordingly, the district must withhold the responsive iFile number under section 552.136(b) of the Government 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,

Melanie Villars
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MJV/mo

Ref: ID# 837246

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)