



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 7, 2020

Ms. Judy Hickman  
Assistant Supervisor  
Beaumont Police Department  
P.O. Box 3827  
Beaumont, Texas 77704-3827

OR2020-19765

Dear Ms. Hickman:

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# 841754 (ORR# 2020004092).

The Beaumont Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to a specified accident involving the requestor's client.<sup>1</sup> The department states it is releasing some of the requested information. The department claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.130 and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the department claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure 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. The department asserts the submitted video recordings contain 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. Upon review, we find most of the submitted video recordings contain confidential motor vehicle record information. However, one of the video recordings, which we noted, does not contain motor vehicle record information, and the recording we noted may not be withheld under

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<sup>1</sup> The department states it sought and received clarification of the information requested. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222 (providing if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); *see also* *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (holding that when a governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification or narrowing of an unclear or overbroad request for information, the ten-day period to request an attorney general ruling is measured from the date the request is clarified or narrowed).

section 552.130. Thus, with the exception of the video recording we noted, the department must withhold the entireties of the submitted video recordings under section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>2</sup> *See* Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983).

Section 552.147(a) of the Government Code excepts the social security number of a living individual from public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.147(a). Upon review, we find the video recording we noted does not contain a social security number, and the department may not withhold the video recording we noted under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

In summary, with the exception of the video recording we noted, the department must withhold the entireties of the submitted video recordings under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must release the video recording we noted.

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/rm

Ref: ID# 841754

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>2</sup> As our ruling is dispositive for this information, we need not address the remaining argument against its disclosure and we do not address the applicability of section 1701.661(a) of the Occupations Code to the submitted video recordings. *See generally* Occ. Code § 1701.661(a), (e).