



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 24, 2020

Mr. Mario G. Perez, Jr.
Counsel for the United Independent School District
J. Cruz & Associates, LLC
216 West Village Boulevard, Suite 202
Laredo, Texas 78041

OR2020-21245

Dear Mr. Perez:

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# 841449.

The United Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for the recording pertaining to a specified grievance hearing. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim.

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. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 551.104 of the Open Meetings Act (the "OMA"), chapter 551 of the Government Code. Section 551.104 provides, in part, "[t]he certified agenda or tape of a closed meeting is available for public inspection and copying only under a court order issued under Subsection (b)(3)." *Id.* § 551.104(c). We note, and you acknowledge, the district is not required to submit a certified agenda or tape recording of a closed meeting to this office for review. *See* Open Records Decision No. 495 at 4 (1988) (attorney general lacks authority to review certified agendas or tapes of executive sessions to determine whether a governmental body may withhold such information from disclosure under statutory predecessor to section 552.101). Such information cannot be released to a member of the public in response to an open records request. *See* Attorney General Opinion JM-995 at 5-6 (1988) (public disclosure of certified agenda of closed meeting may be accomplished only under procedures provided in Open Meetings Act). Section 551.146 of the OMA makes it a criminal offense to disclose a certified agenda or tape recording of a lawfully

closed meeting to a member of the public. *See* Gov't Code § 551.146(a)-(b); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 495 at 4 (1988). You state the requested information at issue consists of a recording of a closed meeting of the district's Board of Trustees. Based on your representations, we agree the district must withhold the requested information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 551.104 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,

Blake Brennan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BBX/

Ref: ID# 841449

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)