



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 22, 2020

Mr. Tyrone Lin  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Houston  
P.O. Box 368  
Houston, Texas 77001

OR2020-26599

Dear Mr. Lin:

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# 850046 (COH GC No. 26867).

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for certain information pertaining to a specified city assistance program. The city claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.160 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the city claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.160 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the following information maintained by a governmental body is confidential:

- (1) the name, social security number, house number, street name, and telephone number of an individual or household that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds;
- (2) the name, tax identification number, address, and telephone number of a business entity or an owner of a business entity that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds; [and]
- (3) any other information the disclosure of which would identify or tend to identify a person or household that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds.

(c) The street name and census block group of and the amount of disaster recovery funds awarded to a person or household are not confidential after the date on which disaster recovery funds are awarded to the person or household.

Gov't Code § 552.160(b), (c); *see also id.* § 552.160(a); *id.* § 418.004(1) (defining "disaster" for purposes of section 552.160). The city states the submitted information consists of confidential information concerning individuals who applied for disaster recovery assistance. Based on the city's representations and our review, we find section 552.160 is applicable to some of the information at issue. Accordingly, the city must withhold the information we have marked and indicated under section 552.160 of the Government Code. However, we find the city failed to demonstrate the remaining information identifies or tends to identify a business entity, an owner of a business entity, a person, or household that applied for state or federal disaster recovery funds. Accordingly, the remaining information may not be withheld under section 552.160 of the Government Code, and the city must release it.

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,

Gerald A. Arismendez  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

GAA/be

Ref: ID# 850046

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)