



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 10, 2020

Mr. Thomas Royce Hansen
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-6311

OR2020-28215

Dear Mr. Hansen:

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# 853431 (PIR No. W104676).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for fourteen categories of information pertaining to a specified motor vehicle accident involving the requestor's client. You state the city has released some information to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

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 made confidential by other statutes. We note the submitted information consists of recordings from police officers' body worn cameras. Section 1701.661(a) of the Occupations Code states the information a requestor must provide when seeking a body worn camera recording. *See* Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). We note the requestor provides the requisite information for the body worn camera recordings at issue. However, section 1701.661(f) provides, in relevant part:

A law enforcement agency may not release any portion . . . of a recording involving the investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and does not result in arrest, without written authorization from the person who is the subject of that portion of the recording or, if the person is deceased, from the person's authorized representative.

Id. § 1701.661(f). You state the submitted recordings pertain to the investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and which did not result in an arrest. Upon review, we note the requestor's client is one of the subjects of the recordings. Thus, we find the requestor's client has consented to release of the recordings to the requestor for the purposes of subsection (f) and the city may not withhold the entireties of the recordings under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 1701.661(f). However, portions of the recordings involve other subjects and, based on your representations, we understand the city has not received written authorization for release from the remaining subjects. Accordingly, the city must withhold the portions of the recordings that involve the remaining subjects of the recordings, which we indicated, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations Code. The city must release the remaining information.

You also ask this office to issue a previous determination permitting the city to withhold body worn camera recordings involving the investigation of a motor vehicle accident that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and that does not result in arrest and that are without written authorization from all subjects of the recordings under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations Code without seeking a ruling from this office. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(a) (allowing governmental body to withhold information subject to previous determination); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). We decline to issue such a ruling at this time. Accordingly, 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/jxd

Ref: ID# 853431

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)