



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 24, 2020

Mr. M. Shelby Pearcy
Counsel for the City of Forest Hill
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, L.L.P.
1800 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2020-29447

Dear Mr. Pearcy:

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# 855069 (ORR# 117963).

The City of Forest Hill (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for credit card numbers pertaining to credit cards assigned to city employees and officials. The city claims the requested credit card numbers are excepted from disclosure under section 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception.¹

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). The city must withhold the requested credit card numbers under section 552.136 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.

¹ Although in this instance we can determine the extent to which this fungible information may be excepted from disclosure, we advise the city in the future to submit for review the actual information that it seeks to protect from disclosure and for which it seeks a ruling from this office. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301, .302.

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,

James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/jm

Ref: ID# 855069

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)