



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 10, 2020

Mr. Nico Arias
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2020-30850

Dear Mr. Arias:

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# 857876 (PIR# W105836).

The Fort Worth Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified accident. You state the department will release some of the requested information. 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. Body worn cameras are subject to chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. Chapter 1701 provides the procedures a requestor must follow when seeking a body worn camera recording. Occ. Code § 1701.661(a). We determine the requestor provided the requisite information required by section 1701.661(a) of the Occupations Code. 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 information consists of a body worn camera recording involving an investigation of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only and that did not result in an arrest. You do not indicate you have permission for release from the subject of the recording at issue. *See id.* Accordingly, we find the department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 1701.661(f) of the Occupations 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,

Emily Kunst
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

EK/rm

Ref: ID# 857876

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)