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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 17, 2022

Mr. Dustin L. Banks
In-House Counsel
Travis Central Appraisal District
P.O. Box 149012
Austin, Texas 78752

OR2022-07817

Dear Mr. Banks:

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# 934136 (R0002430).

The Travis Central Appraisal District (the "district") received a request for appraisal records pertaining to a specified property for the years 2006 and 2010 through 2015. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.103 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note you only submitted a single "appraisal card" for our review. Thus, to the extent any additional information responsive to the request for appraisal records pertaining to the specified property for the years designated in the request existed when the present request was received, we assume it has been released. If such information has not been released, then it must be released at this time. *See Gov't Code §§ 552.301(a), .302; see also Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body concludes that no exceptions apply to requested information, it must release information as soon as possible).*

Section 25.195(a) of the Tax Code provides:

After the chief appraiser has submitted the appraisal records to the appraisal review board as provided by Section 25.22(a), a property owner or the owner's designated agent is entitled to inspect and copy the appraisal records relating to property of the property owner, together with supporting data,

schedules, and, except as provided by Subsection (b), any other material or information held by the chief appraiser or required by Section 25.01(c) to be provided to the appraisal district under a contract for appraisal services, including material or information obtained under Section 22.27, that is obtained or used in making appraisals for the appraisal records relating to that property.

Tax Code § 25.195(a). Section 25.195(a) grants a property owner a specific right of access to appraisal records relating to the property of the property owner and supporting data, schedules, and other information obtained or used in making appraisals for the appraisal records relating to that property. We note the requestor is the representative of the property owner at issue. Therefore, section 25.195(a) provides the requestor with a right of access to the submitted information. Although you seek to withhold the information at issue under sections 552.103, we note exceptions to disclosure under the Act generally do not apply to information made public by other statutes, such as section 25.195(a). *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 623 at 3 (1994), 525 at 3 (1989). Thus, the district may not withhold the submitted information under section 552.103 of the Government Code. Accordingly, the district must release the submitted information to the requestor pursuant to section 25.195(a) of the Tax 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,

Jennifer Copeland
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JC/jm

Ref: ID# 934136

c: Requestor