



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 22, 2022

Mr. John C. Carlton
Counsel for Tanglewood Forest Limited District
The Carlton Law Firm, P.L.L.C.
4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746

OR2022-11746

Dear Mr. Carlton:

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# 943715.

Tanglewood Forest Limited District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for all invoices paid by the district to Armbrust & Brown and The Carlton Law Firm, P.L.L.C. during a certain time period. You state the district will release some of the requested information. You claim some of 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 the submitted information is subject to section 552.022 of the Government Code. Section 552.022(a) provides, in relevant part:

(a) [T]he following categories of information are public information and not excepted from required disclosure unless made confidential under this chapter or other law:

...

(16) information that is in a bill for attorney's fees and that is not privileged under the attorney-client privilege[.]

Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(16). The submitted information consists of attorney fee bills subject to section 552.022(a)(16). Thus, the submitted information must be released unless

it is made confidential under the Act or other law. *See id.* You seek to withhold the information at issue under section 552.103 of the Government Code. However, section 552.103 is a discretionary exception and does not make information confidential under the Act. *See Dallas Area Rapid Transit v. Dallas Morning News*, 4 S.W.3d 469, 475-76 (Tex. App.—Dallas 1999, no pet.) (governmental body may waive section 552.103); see also Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 663 at 5 (1999) (waiver of discretionary exceptions). Therefore, the district may not withhold any portion of the information at issue under section 552.103 of the Government Code. As you raise no further exceptions to the disclosure of the information at issue, the district must release the submitted information.

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/eb

Ref: ID# 943715

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)