



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 16, 2022

Ms. Judy Hickman  
Assistant Supervisor  
Beaumont Police Department  
P.O. Box 3827  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

OR2022-17354

Dear Ms. Hickman:

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# 954034.

The Beaumont Police Department (the "department") received a request for eight points of information pertaining to a specified incident involving the requestor's client. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We have considered your arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See id.* § 552.130. We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. Accordingly, the requestor has a right of access to her client's motor vehicle record information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld from her under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates or person's agent on ground that information is considered confidential by privacy principles); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning

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<sup>1</sup> We note, and the department acknowledges, the department did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting a ruling from this office. *See Gov't Code* § 552.301(b), (e). Nonetheless, because the exceptions the department claims can provide compelling reasons to overcome the presumption of openness, we will consider their applicability to the submitted information. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302, .352.

themselves). Upon review, we find the submitted video recording contains confidential motor vehicle record information that does not belong to the requestor's client. You state the department lacks the technological capability to redact information from video files. Accordingly, the department must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>2</sup> See Open Records Decision No. 364 (1983).

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,

Joseph Hoggatt  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JWH/jm

Ref: ID# 954034

c: Requestor

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<sup>2</sup> As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.