



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 26, 2022

Ms. Montana Anderson  
Paralegal  
City of Abilene  
P. O. Box 60  
Abilene, Texas 79604-0060

OR2022-21963

Dear Ms. Anderson:

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# 962188 (PIR No. 22-975).

The City of Abilene (the "city") received a request for two specified animal control cases. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.1177 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.<sup>1</sup>

Section 552.1177(a) of the Government Code relates to the humane disposition by a municipality or county of an animal and provides the following:

Except as provided by Subsection (b), information is confidential and excepted from [required public disclosure] if the information relates to the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, driver's license number, social security number, or other personally identifying information of a person who obtains ownership or control of an animal from a municipality or county making a humane disposition of the animal under a municipal ordinance or an order of the commissioners court.

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<sup>1</sup> We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

Gov't Code § 552.1177(a). You assert the submitted information identifies a person who adopted an animal from the city's Animal Services Department (the "department"). We understand the department made a humane disposition of the animal at issue under a municipal ordinance. Upon review, we find the city must withhold the information we marked under section 552.1177 of the Government Code. However, we conclude you have failed to establish section 552.1177 is applicable to the remaining information and may not withhold any of it on that ground. Therefore, the city must release the remaining 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,

Britni Ramirez  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

BR/jxd

Ref: ID# 962188

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)