



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 20, 2022

Ms. Vanessa Hoopingarner  
Records Manager  
Records Division  
North Richland Hills Police Department  
P.O. Box 820609  
North Richland Hills, Texas 76182-0609

OR2022-28901

Dear Ms. Hoopingarner:

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# 973146 (ORR# W011216).

The North Richland Hills Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to an incident involving a named individual on a specified date. The department claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception 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. This section encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in the *Industrial Foundation* decision. *Id.* at 683. The Third Court of Appeals has concluded public citizens' dates of birth are protected by common-law privacy pursuant to section 552.101. *See Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-

13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at \*3 (Tex. App.—Austin May 22, 2015, pet. denied) (mem. op.). Generally, only highly intimate information that implicates the privacy of an individual is withheld. However, in certain instances, where it is demonstrated the requestor knows the identity of the individual involved, as well as the nature of certain incidents, the entirety of the information must be withheld to protect the individual's privacy.

The department argues the submitted information must be withheld in its entirety on the basis of common-law privacy. However, the department has not demonstrated, nor does it otherwise appear, this is a situation in which the entirety of the submitted information must be withheld on that ground. Nevertheless, the department must withhold the submitted date of birth under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. We find some of the remaining information, which we have marked, also satisfies the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in the *Industrial Foundation* decision. Accordingly, the department must also withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The remaining information is not confidential under common-law privacy, and the department may not withhold it under section 552.101 on that ground.

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.<sup>1</sup> See Gov't Code § 552.130. The department must withhold the submitted driver's license number under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the submitted date of birth and the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The department must also withhold the submitted driver's license number under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department 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

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body. See Open Records Decision Nos. 481 at 2 (1987), 480 at 5 (1987).

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,

James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/pt

Ref: ID# 973146

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)