



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 30, 2022

Ms. Susan Camp-Lee
Counsel for the City of Round Rock
Sheets & Crossfield, P.L.L.C.
309 East Main Street
Round Rock, Texas 78664-5246

OR2022-36964

Dear Ms. Camp-Lee:

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# 987781 (ORR W016911-082322).

The City of Round Rock (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information related to specified court case numbers and specified dates. You state the city will release some of the requested information. You claim the submitted information is not subject the Act. We have considered the submitted argument and reviewed the submitted information.

You state the submitted information consists of grand jury subpoenas and information obtained through grand jury subpoenas. The judiciary is expressly excluded from the requirements of the Act. Gov't Code § 552.003(1)(B). This office has determined for purposes of the Act, a grand jury is a part of the judiciary and therefore not subject to the Act. *See* Open Records Decision No. 411 (1984). Further, records kept by a governmental body that is acting as an agent for a grand jury are considered records in the constructive possession of the grand jury and are also not subject to the Act. *See* Open Records Decisions Nos. 513 (1988), 411, 398 (1983). The fact that information collected or prepared by another person or entity is submitted to the grand jury does not necessarily mean such information is in the grand jury's constructive possession when the same information also is held in the other person's or entity's own capacity. Information held by another person or entity but not produced at the direction of the grand jury may well be protected under one of the Act's specific exceptions to disclosure, but such information is not excluded from the reach of the Act by the judiciary exclusion. *See* ORD 513. You represent the city holds the submitted information solely as an agent of the grand jury.

Based upon this representation, we conclude such information consists of records of the judiciary that are not subject to disclosure under the Act, and the city is not required to release the submitted information in response to this request.

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/pt

Ref: ID# 987781

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)