



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 21, 2022

Ms. Tiffany Bangs
Assistant County Attorney
Harris County
1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2022-39835

Dear Ms. Bangs:

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# 991921 (ORR# 22PIA1073).

The Harris County Budget Management Department (the "county") received a request for information pertaining to the requestor's client. The county claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.160 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the county only submitted a landlord enrollment form related to the county's Emergency Rental Assistant Program. We assume, to the extent any additional responsive information existed when the county received the request for information, the county has released it. If not, then the county must do so immediately. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.006, .301, .302; Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000).

Section 552.160 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the following information maintained by a governmental body is confidential:

(1) the name, social security number, house number, street name, and telephone number of an individual or household that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds;

(2) the name, tax identification number, address, and telephone number of a business entity or an owner of a business entity that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds; [and]

(3) any other information the disclosure of which would identify or tend to identify a person or household that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds.

(c) The street name and census block group of and the amount of disaster recovery funds awarded to a person or household are not confidential after the date on which disaster recovery funds are awarded to the person or household.

Gov't Code. § 552.160(b), (c); *see also id.* § 552.160(a); *id.* § 418.004(1) (defining “disaster” for purposes of section 552.160). The county states the submitted information concerns an individual who applied for disaster recovery assistance. Upon review, we conclude the county must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.160 of the Government Code. However, the remaining information is not confidential under section 552.160 and the county may not withhold it on that ground. Accordingly, the county 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,

James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/jxd

Ref: ID# 991921

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)