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June 17, 2026

VIA EMAIL:

Harold Wayne McKnight
103 Irwin Drive
Columbus, Texas 78934
wayne.mcknight@gmail.com

RE: Wayne McKnight's Public Information Act request to the Colorado County Sheriff's Office dated May 26, 2026 regarding records concerning former CCSO Deputy Tomas Ramirez

Dear Mr. McKnight:

As you are aware, our office represents the Colorado County Sheriff's Office in this matter. On May 27, 2026, Colorado County Sheriff's Office received a request pursuant to the Public Information Act (the Act) dated May 26, 2026 at 6:53PM. This request asked for "copies of the following records held by the Colorado County Sheriff's Office concerning former CCSO Deputy Tomas Ramirez and the conduct alleged to have occurred in or about September 2024 that resulted in his prosecution under Tex. Penal Code § 39.04 and deferred adjudication community supervision in or about 2025. Without limiting the foregoing, I specifically request:

1. All CCSO incident, offense, and supplemental reports;
2. All internal investigation files, supervisor reviews, and administrative investigation records;
3. All body-worn camera, in-car camera, jail surveillance, and audio recordings related to the conduct, the response, or the investigation;
4. All written, recorded, or transcribed witness statements, including those of inmates housed at the Colorado County Jail, CCSO personnel, and any third-party witnesses;
5. All personnel-file records concerning Ramirez's discipline, separation, suspension, or other employment action related to this conduct, including any TCOLE F-5 separation report;
6. All communications (including email, text, and memoranda) between CCSO personnel and any external investigating agency — including but not limited to the Texas Department of Public Safety / Texas Rangers and the Colorado County Attorney's Office — regarding Ramirez or the underlying conduct; [and]
7. All Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) screenings, intake records, complaint logs, investigative records, and reports related to the alleged conduct or the alleged victim;"

June 17, 2026

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The aforementioned items no. 1 through 7 have been submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for a determination.

Please find enclosed documents responsive to the following requested items:

“8. All policies, procedures, and training records in effect at CCSO at the time of the conduct regarding inmate-staff sexual contact, PREA compliance, supervision of female inmates, and reporting requirements;

9. All remedial measures, policy revisions, training, or other corrective actions undertaken by CCSO following the disposition of the criminal case.”

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that there are certain exceptions to the Public Information Act that apply concerning the release of the requested information. The Colorado County Sheriff's Office seeks to withhold the confidential information involving some of these documents pursuant to sections 552.101, 552.1175, 552.130, and 552.147 of the Texas Government Code. The Colorado County Sheriff's Office withdraws its request for a confidentiality ruling based on sections 552.107.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

Also attached to this response is a copy of the Request for Opinion addressed to the Attorney General. The portions of the request that would tend to reveal the nature of the withheld information has been redacted to preserve the Colorado County Sheriff's Office invocation of privilege or exception. TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 552.301(e-1).

Sincerely,



J. Eric Magee

JEM/jm

Enclosures

cc: Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas

Colorado County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual

Section 10 Ethics

Policy: Ethical behavior by employees of this department is imperative in maintaining the trust and respect of the citizens within this community. Should this trust or respect ever be compromised for allegations of unethical conduct, a full-scale internal investigation will be initiated and vigorously pursued. An internal investigation will serve to uncover any alleged law enforcement practices or behaviors, which are considered to be undesirable or to dispel any citizen speculation of its existence.

Procedures:

- A. Employees of this department will provide courteous and professional law enforcement services to citizens within this community, being ever mindful that our primary mission is to serve mankind, and to be civil and respectful in our contacts with all persons.
- B. Employees of this department will remember that he/she are public servants. Our conduct, therefore, in the presence of the public shall always be in accordance with the highest degree of morality which is required of the law enforcement profession.
- C. Law enforcement officers will remember that he/she are sworn to protect and serve all citizens of this community equally. Race, color, religion, age, sex, political beliefs or other personal opinions shall not interfere with the equal administration of justice to all citizens within this jurisdiction.
- D. Law enforcement officers will always remember that he/she has sworn to uphold the law, abide by the law, and protect the rights of all people as afforded by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Texas.
- E. Employees will be truthful in his/her conduct toward all persons.
- F. Each employee will assume the responsibility for his/her act or omission to act.
- G. Employees will not indulge in obscenity or profanity of speech or action in public, and will conduct his/her private life in a manner, which will not bring discredit to this agency.
- H. Employees will not intimidate, use or direct unjustifiable violence, force, or threats against any person.
- I. Employees will not accept anything of apparent or prospective value from any person which may influence him/her in the performance of official duties.
- J. Associations and Fraternalization – Except as necessary in the performance of official duties, members of the department shall avoid association with persons whom he/she knows, or should know, are racketeers, gamblers, convicted felons, drug or alcohol abusers, persons under criminal investigation or indictment, and persons with a reputation in the community for felonious or habitual misdemeanor criminal behavior. Except in the course of their official duties, members of the department shall not frequent establishments such as bars or anywhere the likelihood of encountering the above-described individuals is greatly increased.
- K. Employees will always be neat and clean in person and dress, and while on duty shall be attired and equipped according to the nature of his/her duties and environmental conditions.

Colorado County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual

- L. Employees will not use tobacco inside the Sheriff's Department building.
- M. Employees will not consume alcoholic beverages while on duty, except during the performance of official duties, and specifically authorized by the Sheriff.
- N. Employees will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to their scheduled work time which will render him/her unfit for duty. Employees are specifically prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages within eight hours of their assigned shift of duty.
- O. Employees will not use drugs other than over the counter medications or those prescribed by a reputable physician.
- P. Employees will report to their immediate supervisor, who will document and keep a record of, any permanent or long term prescription medications he/she is taking.
- Q. Employees will be respectful when addressing an officer with superior rank.
- R. Employees will promptly obey orders received from a superior officer.
 - 1. An exception to this rule will apply if the order given is in violation of a policy or procedure of this agency or in violation of any law.
 - a. If this situation should occur the subordinate officer will respectfully decline the order, bringing the violation to the attention of the superior officer.
 - b. Should the superior officer insist on the subordinate carrying out the order, the subordinate will respectfully decline and immediately contact a higher ranking officer to report the incident.
- S. Insubordination from any employee will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disciplinary action.
- T. Any violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics is reproduced as a part of this policy in order to stress the importance of ethical conduct and to provide further guidance for law enforcement officers of this department to follow.

The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

Colorado County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession.....Law Enforcement.

Colorado County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual

Section 11

Conduct Unbecoming an Employee

Policy: Honesty, efficiency, and integrity are the fundamental guidelines for an employee's conduct. All employees must remember that they are employed to serve the citizens of this jurisdiction. The public is entitled to courteous, efficient response to requests for law enforcement service, by public servants that preserve and uphold the trust and confidence bestowed upon them by the citizens of Colorado County.

Purpose: To provide guidance for all departmental personnel concerning proper behavior, either on or off duty, while communicating with, making contact with, or in the eye of the public.

Procedures:

- A. All departmental personnel shall be courteous at all times when interacting with the general public.
- B. All departmental personnel shall be constantly reminded that as a representative of this department it is imperative that he/she maintain a respectable lifestyle whether on or off duty.
- C. Non-sworn personnel, (dispatchers, secretaries, clerks, etc.), often interact with the public and do so in the performance of their official duties. It is therefore imperative that all contacts, regardless of the citizen attitude, be courteous and professional at all times.
- D. All employees when off duty, but in uniform, shall conduct themselves as though they were on duty. Members of the department will interact with the general public, regardless of citizen attitude, in a courteous and professional manner.
- E. Employees shall not make known to any person any order or information which they have knowledge of or have received, unless it is in the performance of official duty and given to a person entitled to have the information.
- F. Employees, whether on or off duty, shall be governed by ordinary and reasonable rules of good conduct and behavior. Members of the department will always display good morals and values and will not commit any act, which could adversely affect the trust and confidence of citizens.
- G. Department members are specifically prohibited from publicly criticizing or ridiculing the department, its policies, or employees by speech, writing or other expression, when such communication is defamatory, unlawful, or interferes with the maintenance of discipline and morale. Any conduct that discredits the department is considered to be unbecoming.
- H. Any law enforcement officer shall always remember that he/she has sworn to uphold the law, abide by the law, and protect the rights of all people as afforded by the Constitution of the United States of America and the laws of the state of Texas.

The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics is widely accepted as the professional code of ethics that is applicable to law enforcement personnel in Texas. Members of this department are

Colorado County Sheriff's Office Policy Manual

expected to abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics is reproduced as part of this policy manual in order to stress the importance of strict compliance.


The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

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	Colorado County Sheriff's Office	
	Sexual or Other Illegal Harassment	
	Effective Date: 01/01/2025	Replaces:
	Approved: Justin Lindemann Sheriff	
Policy Number: 4.09		

POLICY:

The department's policy is to provide a professional, businesslike work environment free from all forms of employee discrimination, including incidents of sexual or other forms of illegal harassment. No employee shall be subjected to unsolicited or unwelcomed sexual overtures or conduct, either verbal or physical. The harassing behavior, to be subject to this order, need not occur only during work hours on agency premises but may occur before or after work at other locations. Sexual or other unlawful harassment is misconduct and the department shall apply appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

PURPOSE:

To define and give examples of sexual harassment, outline prohibited behavior, and describe reporting procedures.

DEFINITIONS:

A. Sexual harassment

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on color, race, religion, age, national origin, and sex. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for favors, and other verbal or physical conduct that enters into employment decisions, or conduct that unreasonably interferes with an employee's work performance or which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Two kinds of sexual harassment apply; quid pro quo harassment and hostile work environment harassment, defined below. The two forms of harassment may overlap.

B. Quid pro quo harassment

This form of harassment occurs when an employee is being pressured to engage in sexual conduct or else lose a tangible job benefit. (Quid pro quo means "something for something.") This form of harassment usually occurs between a supervisor and a subordinate where the harasser has power to control the employee's work benefits or conditions. Note that this form of harassment is not

limited to express demands for sexual favors, but may be implied by circumstances (e.g., offering an employee sexually explicit magazines).

Examples of this form of harassment include a request for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning a person's employment status, or promise of preferential treatment in terms of benefits or status; granting job favors to those who participate in consensual sexual activity while penalizing those who refuse to participate; unwanted, intentional touching (patting, massaging, rubbing, hugging, pinching); telephoning or following an employee, during work hours or not, and either harassing the employee or requesting sexual favors.

C. Hostile work environment harassment

This form of harassment is unwelcome conduct that is so severe or pervasive as to change the conditions of the victim's employment, thus creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

A hostile environment exists when the employer tolerates unwelcome, pervasive conduct including sexual comments of a provocative or suggestive nature; jokes or innuendos intended for and directed to another employee; leaving sexually explicit books, magazines, photographs where employees will find them; unwelcome demeaning comments (such as talking about physical attributes), ridicule, offensive language, propositions or other similar actions; unwanted, unwarranted, unsolicited off-duty telephone calls and contact; signed or anonymous notes or drawings placed on or in desks, bulletin boards, or in lockers; deliberately singling out women in front of men co-workers (or vice versa) and subjecting them to demeaning or derogatory remarks.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT:

1. Employees shall not commit or participate in any form of sexual or other illegal harassment.
2. The department considers romantic relationships between supervisors and subordinates potentially non-consensual. Personal relationships between supervisors and subordinates should be brought to the attention of the Sheriff at the earliest point and determine a proper course of action. Failure to do so may result in discipline.
3. Supervisors shall ensure that pornographic or suggestive photographs, illustrations, or cartoons shall not be posted or kept in any area of the department, including locker rooms, desks, offices, or other locations. Materials of this kind used for investigative purposes shall be properly secured according to evidentiary standards.

4. Supervisors shall order employees on department premises who are making sexually hostile comments, or degrading remarks about other persons of the same or opposite sex to cease doing so or face discipline.
5. Employees shall avoid inappropriate physical contact with one another unless required by a training situation or police procedure. Kissing, back rubbing, embracing, and other unnecessary touching are prohibited on department premises or while on duty.
6. Personnel shall not retaliate against any person for reporting sexual harassment, giving testimony, or participating in the investigation. Retaliation in any form shall result in discipline.

PROCEDURES:

A. Employee Responsibilities

1. An employee who believes he or she has been sexually harassed should first tell the offender to cease the inappropriate behavior, although circumstances may not always allow the complainant to make this request. If the conduct does not stop, or if the complainant is unable to confront the offender, the complainant shall contact his or her own immediate supervisor. The employee or supervisor shall immediately submit a memorandum to the Sheriff through the chain of command detailing circumstances. Employees may also report incidents of harassment directly to the Sheriff or Chief Deputy if the offender is a higher-ranking member of the department. If a supervisor learns of an incident of harassment, he or she shall report the matter to the Sheriff even if the victim did not submit a complaint.
2. Employees must understand that sexual harassment can become a criminal matter. Allegations of stalking, assault, and sexual assault shall be handled immediately as criminal investigations.
3. Each employee of this agency is responsible for assisting in the prevention of harassment and discrimination by:
 - a. refraining from participation in or encouragement of action that could be perceived as harassment and discrimination;
 - b. reporting observed acts of harassment and discrimination to a supervisor, and
 - c. encouraging any employee who confides that he or she is being harassed or discriminated against to report these acts to a supervisor.

4. Failure of any employee to carry out their responsibilities as defined in this policy will be considered in any performance evaluation or promotional decision and may be grounds for discipline.

B. Supervisor Responsibilities:

5. Although all employees shall be responsible for preventing harassment and/or discrimination, supervisors shall be responsible for:
 - a. advising employees on the types of behavior prohibited and the agency procedures for reporting and resolving complaints of harassment and discrimination;
 - b. monitoring the work environment on a daily basis for signs that harassment and discrimination may be occurring; stopping any observed acts that may be considered harassment and discrimination, and
 - c. taking appropriate steps to intervene, whether or not the involved employees are within his/her line of supervision; and
 - d. utilizing all reasonable means to prevent a prohibited act from occurring when he or she knows or should know that an employee will or may perform such an activity.
 - e. taking immediate action to prevent retaliation towards the complaining party and to eliminate the hostile work environment where there has been a complaint of harassment and/or discrimination.
6. No supervisor shall make any employment decision that affects the terms, conditions, or privileges or responsibilities of an individual's employment based on the basis of that person's race, sex, religion, national origin, color, sexual orientation, age or disability.
7. If a situation requires separation of the parties, care should be taken to avoid action that punishes or appears to punish the complainant. Transfer or reassignment of any of the parties involved should be voluntary if possible and, if non-voluntary, should be temporary pending the outcome of the investigation.
8. Any proscribed conduct covered by this policy that comes to the attention of a supervisor shall result in an investigation.
9. Each supervisor has the responsibility to assist any employee of this agency who comes to that supervisor with a complaint of harassment and discrimination in documenting and filing a complaint.

- C. When an employee reports an allegation of sexual harassment, a confidential internal investigation shall begin immediately.
10. The Sheriff shall immediately take action to limit the concerned employees from any further work contact with the alleged offender.
 11. The Chief Deputy shall conduct an investigation.
 12. If the sexual harassment allegation is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, eligible employees may invoke the departmental grievance procedure.

TAB 1

From: Wayne McKnight <wayne.mcknight@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:53 PM
To: Eugenia Behrens <eugenia.behrens@co.colorado.tx.us>; Justin Lindemann <justin.lindemann@co.colorado.tx.us>
Cc: Eric Magee <e.magee@allison-bass.com>; Jay Johannes <jay.johannes@co.colorado.tx.us>
Subject: Texas Public Information Act Request — Records Concerning Former Deputy Tomas Ramirez

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Harold Wayne McKnight
103 Irwin Drive
Columbus, Texas 78934
wayne.mcknight@gmail.com
May 26, 2026

Sheriff Justin Lindemann
Colorado County Sheriff's Office
3122 Highway 71 South
Columbus, Texas 78934

Re: Texas Public Information Act Request — Records Concerning Former Deputy Tomas Ramirez

Sheriff Lindemann:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 552, I respectfully request copies of the following records held by the Colorado County Sheriff's Office concerning former CCSO Deputy Tomas Ramirez and the conduct alleged to have occurred in or about September 2024 that resulted in his prosecution under Tex. Penal Code § 39.04 and deferred adjudication community supervision in or about 2025. Without limiting the foregoing, I specifically request:

1. All CCSO incident, offense, and supplemental reports;
2. All internal investigation files, supervisor reviews, and administrative investigation records;
3. All body-worn camera, in-car camera, jail surveillance, and audio recordings related to the conduct, the response, or the investigation;
4. All written, recorded, or transcribed witness statements, including those of inmates housed at the Colorado County Jail, CCSO personnel, and any third-party witnesses;
5. All personnel-file records concerning Ramirez's discipline, separation, suspension, or other employment action related to this conduct, including any TCOLE F-5 separation report;
6. All communications (including email, text, and memoranda) between CCSO personnel and any external investigating agency — including but not limited to the Texas Department of Public Safety / Texas Rangers and the Colorado County Attorney's Office — regarding Ramirez or the

underlying conduct;

7. All Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) screenings, intake records, complaint logs, investigative records, and reports related to the alleged conduct or the alleged victim;
8. All policies, procedures, and training records in effect at CCSO at the time of the conduct regarding inmate-staff sexual contact, PREA compliance, supervision of female inmates, and reporting requirements;
9. All remedial measures, policy revisions, training, or other corrective actions undertaken by CCSO following the disposition of the criminal case.

PUBLIC-COURT-RECORD CATEGORY. To the extent any responsive record has been filed with, attached to, introduced before, or otherwise made part of any court proceeding in this matter, that record is public information under Tex. Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(17) and may not be withheld under § 552.108, § 552.103, or any other discretionary exception. See Open Records Decision Nos. 665 (2000), 664 (1999), and 177 (1977). The only exceptions that survive against subsection (a)(17) are mandatory confidentiality statutes (e.g., HIPAA, Tex. Code Crim. Proc. arts. 57 and 57A).

DEFERRED-ADJUDICATION CARVE-OUT, § 552.108(a)(2) AND (b)(2). The criminal investigation and prosecution of Mr. Ramirez resulted in deferred adjudication community supervision. By the plain text of Tex. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2) and § 552.108(b)(2), records of an investigation that resulted in deferred adjudication are not excepted from disclosure under those subsections.

INTERFERENCE REBUTTAL, § 552.108(a)(1) AND (b)(1). The investigation closed upon entry of judgment. Disclosure of records of a completed prosecution cannot interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime within the meaning of § 552.108(a)(1) or (b)(1). Probation enforcement and modification proceedings administered by the community supervision department are not "detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime" within the meaning of the statute. See Open Records Decision No. 549 (1990) (interference exception requires actual showing of interference with an ongoing matter, not speculative future enforcement). To the extent CCSO contends (a)(1) or (b)(1) applies, please specifically identify the ongoing matter and the manner in which release would interfere.

LITIGATION-EXCEPTION REBUTTAL, § 552.103. Mr. Ramirez is not a party, potential party, or claimant in any pending or anticipated litigation by Requestor. The records sought relate to a completed prosecution from 2024–2025 that pre-existed any communication of a potential claim by Requestor. The records are sought for public-accountability journalism, not as a substitute for civil discovery. See Open Records Decision No. 588 (1991) (§ 552.103 protects the agency's litigation posture against the adverse party in pending or anticipated litigation; it does not reach records that would be obtainable by any other member of the public through ordinary TPIA channels). The records sought here are equally subject to disclosure if requested by a journalist, civil-rights organization, or any unrelated citizen; the requestor's identity does not alter their public status.

REDACTION DEFERENCE. I acknowledge that responsive records may contain information the responding entity is required by law to withhold or redact, including victim identifying information under Tex. Code Crim. Proc. arts. 57 and 57A; personally identifying information of officers and employees under Tex. Gov't Code §§ 552.117, 552.130, and 552.147; medical information protected under federal HIPAA and Tex. Gov't Code § 552.101; mental-health records protected under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ch. 611; and other information specifically made confidential by statute. I request that such legally required redactions be applied and the remainder of the records be produced. If any responsive record is withheld in its entirety, I request an itemized index identifying the document, the statutory basis asserted, and a brief description.

PUBLIC-INTEREST FEE WAIVER AND BINDING PUBLIC-RELEASE COMMITMENT. Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code § 552.267(a), I respectfully request that the responding entity furnish the responsive records without charge or at a reduced rate, on the determination that providing the records is in the public interest because furnishing them primarily benefits the general public. Requestor commits, as a binding condition of this request, that all responsive records produced under this request will be made publicly available at aiether.info within seven (7) business days of receipt, with mandatory redactions applied. This commitment is binding and independent of any pending or anticipated claim by Requestor in any other forum. Requestor maintains ongoing publication of public information requests, agency responses, and related accountability commentary at the publicly accessible website aiether.info. If full waiver is not granted, I respectfully request the responding entity exercise its discretion under § 552.267(a) to reduce the charge as far as the public interest supports.

AG RULING AND SEVERABILITY. If CCSO seeks an Attorney General ruling under Tex. Gov't Code § 552.301, please provide the required notice and submission within the statutory 10-business-day period and provide me with a copy. If any single item is contested or denied, the remaining items are requested to be produced without delay pending resolution of any AG ruling on the contested item.

COST ESTIMATE. If full or partial waiver is denied, I am willing to pay reasonable charges as authorized by Tex. Gov't Code §§ 552.261–552.275 and the rules of the Office of the Texas Attorney General. Pursuant to § 552.2615, please provide an itemized cost estimate before production if charges are expected to exceed \$40.

Sincerely,

Harold Wayne McKnight

TAB 2

ALLISON, BASS & MAGEE, L.L.P.

Attorneys at Law

JAMES P. ALLISON
j.allison@allison-bass.com

ROBERT T. BASS
r.bass@allison-bass.com

J. ERIC MAGEE
e.magee@allison-bass.com

1301 Nueces Street, Suite 201
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
(512) 482-0701
FAX (512) 480-0902

June 9, 2026

VIA EMAIL:

Harold Wayne McKnight
103 Irwin Drive
Columbus, Texas 78934
wayne.mcknight@gmail.com

RE: Wayne McKnight's Public Information Act request to the Colorado County Sheriff's Office Sheriff's Office dated May 26, 2026 regarding records concerning former CCSO Deputy Tomas Ramirez

Dear Mr. McKnight:

Our office represents the Colorado County Sheriff's Office in this matter. The Colorado County Sheriff's Office received your request dated May 26, 2026 at 6:53PM pursuant to the Public Information Act (the Act) on May 27, 2026. Specifically, you ask for "copies of the following records held by the Colorado County Sheriff's Office concerning former CCSO Deputy Tomas Ramirez and the conduct alleged to have occurred in or about September 2024 that resulted in his prosecution under Tex. Penal Code § 39.04 and deferred adjudication community supervision in or about 2025. Without limiting the foregoing, I specifically request:

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June 9, 2026

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9. All remedial measures, policy revisions, training, or other corrective actions undertaken by CCSO following the disposition of the criminal case.”

The purpose of this letter is to timely provide you a response to your request. As you are probably aware, the Public Information Act requires that certain information remain confidential. In circumstances where such exclusions may apply, the governmental entity (the Colorado County Sheriff's Office) is required to submit the documents to the Texas Attorney General for a confidentiality determination. Therefore, the requested documents are being withheld pursuant to those exceptions and are being submitted to the Texas Attorney General for a decision on whether the PIA requires that these documents be withheld. This process is not to interfere with governmental transparency but to protect confidential information that may not be disclosed without approval from the Attorney General. Any responsive information that is not submitted for a determination to the Office of the Attorney General will be provided by June 17, 2026.

Specifically, section 552.101 of the Public Information Act provides for an exception to the disclosure of public records when information requested is confidential by law; section 552.107 which provides an exception for certain legal matters; section 552.1175 which provides an exception for certain personal identifying information of peace officers; section 552.130 which provides an exception for certain motor vehicle records; and section 552.147 which provides an exception to social security numbers.

SPECIAL NOTICE(S):

The Colorado County Sheriff's Office will forward its discussion of exceptions regarding the documents being withheld to the Attorney General within fifteen (15) business days from the date of the request. A copy will be forwarded to you at that time. The portions of the discussion that would tend to reveal the nature of withheld information will be redacted to preserve the invocation of privilege or exception. — TEX. GOVT. CODE ANN. § 552.301(d)(2).

Sincerely,



J. Eric Magee

JEM/jm

Enclosures

cc: Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas

TAB 3

[Documents Withheld]

TAB 4

DISCUSSION OF EXCEPTIONS TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT

The public information request from Wayne McKnight seeks “copies of the following records held by the Colorado County Sheriff's Office concerning former CCSO Deputy Tomas Ramirez and the conduct alleged to have occurred in or about September 2024 that resulted in his prosecution under Tex. Penal Code § 39.04 and deferred adjudication community supervision in or about 2025. Without limiting the foregoing, I specifically request:

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4. All written, recorded, or transcribed witness statements, including those of inmates housed at the Colorado County Jail, CCSO personnel, and any third-party witnesses;
5. All personnel-file records concerning Ramirez's discipline, separation, suspension, or other employment action related to this conduct, including any TCOLE F-5 separation report;
6. All communications (including email, text, and memoranda) between CCSO personnel and any external investigating agency — including but not limited to the Texas Department of Public Safety / Texas Rangers and the Colorado County Attorney's Office — regarding Ramirez or the underlying conduct;
7. All Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) screenings, intake records, complaint logs, investigative records, and reports related to the alleged conduct or the alleged victim;”

Specifically, portions of this current Public Information Act request, Items No. 1 through 7 above, is substantially similar to a previous request submitted by a different requestor. In the previous public information act request, the information sought included, but not limited to:

Incident reports, offense reports, and arrest reports
Internal affairs investigations and disciplinary records
Charging documents, indictments, informations, and plea agreements
Court filings, judgments, sentencing records, and probation terms
Correspondence between county officials, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and outside entities related to this case
Any records explaining or documenting the decision to pursue a civil rights violation rather than sexual assault charges.

Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. OR2026-014529 (2026). The informal letter ruling from the Office of the Attorney General, OR2026-014529, states that:

to the extent the requestor not is the authorized representative of the victim, the sheriff's office must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Id. at *3. Mr. Wayne McKnight, requestor in the current Public Information Act request has not asserted that he is the authorized representative of the victim.

§ 552.101: Exception: Confidentiality by Law

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” TEX. GOV’T CODE ANN. § 552.101. Section 552.101 excepts information that has been held to be confidential under common law. Common law confidentiality protections must contain “highly intimate or embarrassing facts about a person’s private affairs such that its release would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person” or if the disclosure of such information would “be of no legitimate concern to the public.” *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976), *cert. denied*, 430 U.S. 931 (1977).

As noted in the previous informal letter ruling,

[t]he submitted information pertains to a report of alleged sexual assault. In Open Records Decision No. 393 (1983), this office concluded generally, only information that either identifies or tends to identify a victim of sexual assault or other sex-related offense may be withheld under common-law privacy; however, because the identifying information was inextricably intertwined with other releasable information, the governmental body was required to withhold the entire report. Open Records Decision No. 393 at 2 (1983); *see* Open Records Decision No. 339 (1982); *see also Morales v. Ellen*, 840 S. W.2d 519 (Tex. App.-El Paso 1992, writ denied) (identity of witnesses to and victims of sexual harassment was highly intimate or embarrassing information and public did not have a legitimate interest in such information); Open Records Decision No. 440 (1986) (detailed descriptions of serious sexual offenses must be withheld).

Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. OR2026-014529 *2 (2026).

[REDACTED]

The Colorado County Sheriff’s Office seeks to withhold the entirety of the submitted information under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy and requests the same determination as Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. OR2026-014529 *2 (2026). (“To the extent the requestor is not an authorized representative of the victim, the sheriff’s office must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.”).

For these reasons, the requested information should be withheld pursuant to Texas Government Code §552.101.

In the alternative, Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. OR2026-014529 provides the following:

If the requestor is the authorized representative of the victim, the sheriff's office must withhold the date of birth we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy; must withhold the information we marked under 552.1175, to the extent the individual whose information at issue elects to restrict access to his information in accordance with section 552.1175(b) of the Government Code and the marked cellular telephone numbers are not paid for by a governmental body; must withhold the motor vehicle record information we marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code; may withhold the social security number we marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code; and must release the remaining information.

Id. at *3.

§ 552.1175: Exception: Confidentiality of Certain Personal Identifying Information of Peace Officers and Other Officials Performing Sensitive Governmental Functions

Section 552.1175 of the Government Code protects the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, date of birth, social security number, and family member information of certain individuals, when that information is held by a governmental body in a non-employment capacity and the individual elects to keep the information confidential. Gov't Code § 552.1175. Section 552.1175 applies, in part, to current or honorably retired county jailers as defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code; *Id.* § 552.1175(a)(2); *see id.* § 552.003(1-b) (defining "honorably retired" for purposes of the Act). We note section 552.1175 also encompasses a personal cellular telephone number, unless the cellular telephone service is paid for by a governmental body. *See* ORD 506 at 5-6. The remaining information contains information that may be subject to section 552.1175. Accordingly, to the extent the information we marked relates to an individual subject to section 552.1175 who elects to restrict access to his information in accordance with section 552.1175(b) of the Government Code, the sheriff's office must withhold such information under section 552.1175 of the Government Code; however, the marked cellular telephone numbers may be withheld only if a governmental body does not pay for the cellular telephone service. Conversely, if the individual whose information is at issue is not subject to section 552.1175 or does not elect to restrict access to the information in accordance with section 552.1175(b), then the sheriff's office may not withhold the information we marked under section 552.1175 of the Government Code.

§ 552.130: Exception: Confidentiality of Certain Motor Vehicle Records

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure 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. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130. We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. Accordingly, if the requestor represents the victim, the requestor has a right of access to her 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); ORD 481 at 4 (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). Accordingly, the sheriff's office must withhold the motor vehicle record information we marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

§ 552.147: Exception: Social Security Numbers

Section 552.147(a) of the Government Code excepts the social security number of a living individual from public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.147(a). Accordingly, the sheriff's office may withhold the social security number we marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

See Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. OR2026-014529 *2-3.

The following index is an overview of the documents requested and the exception or privilege asserted, except where redaction is necessary to protect the asserted exception or privilege. Pursuant to section 552.301(e)(1)(d) of the Texas Government Code, a governmental body must submit "a copy of the specific information requested, or submit representative samples of the information if a voluminous amount of information was requested;" therefore, the Colorado County Sheriff's Office is providing representative samples of the documents requested, as well as this summary of the exceptions deemed applicable. The following index is offered:

	DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS TO BE WITHHELD	BASIS OF EXCEPTION
Tab 1	Original Request	
Tab 2	Original Response to Requestor	
Tab 3	Copy of all responsive information	§ 552.101 § 552.1175 § 552.130 § 552.147
Tab 4	Legal rationale for withholding of documents	

The Colorado County Sheriff's Office withdraws its request for a confidentiality ruling based on section 552.107.