

Exhibit “A”



WINNIE STOWELL HOSPITAL DISTRICT
WWW.WSHD-TX.ORG

Chair: Edward Murrell
Vice Chair: Jeff Rollo
Sect.: Raul Espinosa

P.O. Box 1997
Winnie, Texas 77665

Phone: 409-296-1003

Dir. Sharon Burgess
Dir. Anthony Stramecki
Admin. Sherrie Norris
Indigent Dir. Yani
Jimenez

September 27, 2017

Via Hand Delivery

Mr. Bobby Way
President, Winnie Stowell Emergency Medical Services
Mr. Ron Nichols
Coordinator, Winnie Stowell Emergency Medical Services
249 Broadway
Winnie, Texas, TX 77665

Re: Public Information Request Dated September 27, 2017 to the Winnie Stowell
Emergency Medical Services (“WSEMS”)

Dear Bobby and Ron:

As President of the Winnie Stowell Hospital District (“District”), I am writing to make a request for documents pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 552 (i.e., the Public Information Act). I would appreciate your response to this request no later than October 9, 2017.

If there is any question as to whether the WSEMS is subject to the Public Information Act, in 2015, the Texas Supreme Court issued the *Greater Houston Partnership v. Paxton* case that states an entity is a governmental body if the entity is “supported . . . by public funds”. *See Greater Hous. P’ship v. Paxton*, 468 S.W.3d 51 (Tex. 2015). Furthermore, the Court stated, entities “[s]upported by public funds” is to be defined “to only include those entities ‘sustained’ by public funds—thereby ensuring that the statute encompasses only those private entities dependent on the public funds to operate as a going concern.” *See id.*

Put simply, if the entity cannot survive without the public funds, the entity is subject to the Public Information Act set forth in Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code. In the case of the WSEMS, given that nearly 70% of the WSEMS revenue is generated by tax funds received by Chambers County, Texas, there should be no doubt as to whether you are subject to the act.

Therefore, pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code (see also Section 552.003(1)(A)(xii) of the Texas Government Code), please provide copies of following records:


- a. The minutes of the Board meetings for the last two years and any attachments to the minutes;
- b. Financials for the WSEMS going back to the WSEMS's last audit;
- c. Copies of bank statements going back to the last audit of the WSEMS;
- d. Current set of Bylaws;
- d. Check register going back to the last audit of the WSEMS;
- e. List of qualified volunteers for the last two year;
- f. Document retention policy;
- g. Any video or audio recordings of meetings for the last two years;
- h. Investment policies or investment procedures;
- i. Personnel policies;
- j. Employment agreements;
- k. Agreements with any payroll company; and
- l. Creation documents and tax records for the last five years relating to Winnie Stowell Emergency Medical Services organization 501(c)(3)

Lastly, it is our understanding that there is a Special Meeting of the WSEMS on September 28, 2017. Rest assured, the WSEMS will be receiving a second Public Information request on September 29, 2017 requesting copies of any board minutes and recordings of the minutes as well as any documents discussed at this Board meeting. We assuming that if an employee that is the subject of the meeting request that the meeting be conducted in an open session, the WSEMS will follow the rules set forth in the Open Meetings Act and comply with the employee's request.

In the event that there is an issue, question, or concern about this letter or the requests made herein, please respond to me in writing. Otherwise, we look forward to receiving the requested documents.

Sincerely,

Winnie Stowell Hospital District

By: 
Edward Murrell
President

cc:

The Honorable Jimmy Sylvia (via e-mail)
The Honorable Jimmy Gore (via e-mail)