6-3-2008

Confidentiality of Municipal Employees' Personal Information

Josh Jones
Municipal Technical Advisory Service, jonesj@tennessee.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtastop

Part of the Public Administration Commons

The MTAS publications provided on this website are archival documents intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered as authoritative. The content contained in these publications may be outdated, and the laws referenced therein may have changed or may not be applicable to your city or circumstances.

For current information, please visit the MTAS website at: mtas.tennessee.edu.

Recommended Citation
http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtastop/55

This Bulletin is brought to you for free and open access by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in MTAS Publications: Hot Topics by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.
Among all the issues debated this legislative session, few garnered more public attention than the proposed amendments to the Open Records Act. This attention resulted in last year’s open government committee, a bicameral group composed of legislators and representatives from the press, local governments and other concerned citizen groups. Numerous proposals were made by the committee. A comprehensive bill has recently passed; however, this writing is limited to the earlier Public Chapter No. 853.

Public Chapter No. 853 amends T.C.A. Title 10, Chapter 7, Part 5, relative to public records. The act expands the scope of the confidentiality of municipal employee personal information to include home telephone numbers, personal cell phone numbers and residential street addresses.

The aforementioned information, found in many municipal records, often is included in open records requests. Municipal records custodians must protect the confidentiality of this information. It is important to remember, however, that the mere presence of this information in an otherwise public document will not prevent the release of the entire record. Instead, the now confidential information must be redacted before production.

This bill became effective May 1, 2008.

MTAS will soon publish a summary of the public act containing comprehensive changes to the Open Records Act. For further information on Tennessee’s open records laws consult Open Records: A Guide for Municipal Officials, available at www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or contact your MTAS management consultant.
June 3, 2008

CONFIDENTIALITY OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES’ PERSONAL INFORMATION

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is a statewide agency of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service. MTAS operates in cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League to provide technical assistance services to officials of Tennessee’s incorporated municipalities. Assistance is offered in areas such as accounting, administration, finance, public works, ordinance codification, and water and wastewater management.

MTAS Hot Topics are information briefs that provide a timely review of current issues of interest to Tennessee municipal officials. Hot Topics are free to Tennessee local, state, and federal government officials and are available to others for $2 each. Photocopying of this publication in small quantities for educational purposes is encouraged. For permission to copy and distribute large quantities, please contact the MTAS Knoxville office at (865) 974-0411.

www.mtas.tennessee.edu

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution.

MTAS1281 • E14-1050-000-058-08