



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 31, 1991

Mr. Robert J. Provan
General Counsel
Texas State University System
Board of Regents
505 Sam Houston Building
Austin, Texas 78701

OR91-660

Dear Mr. Provan:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 14176.

You have received a request for "daily incident and arrest reports" of the Sam Houston State University Police Department. You assert that you are willing to make front page offense report information available except where such information identifies or would tend to identify a student. You claim that such information is excepted from required public disclosure under sections 3(a)(1), 3(a)(14), and 14(e) of the Open Records Act. You also claim that the request for information was improper.

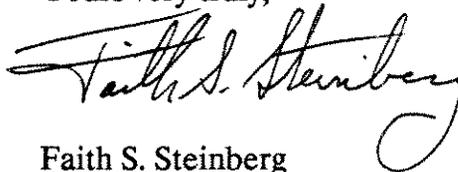
A governmental body is obligated to make a good faith effort to relate a request to information which it holds. Open Records Decision No. 561 (1990) at 8. When a governmental body is presented with an unclear request for information rather than for specific records, it should advise the requestor of the types of information available so that he may narrow his request. *Id.* at 9. Once the governmental body has clarified the contents of the request, it must release the requested information within ten days or request an open records decision from this office. A governmental body need not comply with a standing request to provide information "on a periodic basis." Open Records Decision No. 465 (1987) at 1.

Similarly, a governmental body need not treat a request as embracing information prepared after the request was made, or to inform the requestor subsequently when the information does come into existence. Open Records Decision No. 452 (1986) at 3.

You advise us that "[n]o specific records or time period is mentioned in the request." You assert that you sought clarification from the requestor and that he has communicated to you that he seeks all records "from this time forward without limit" and "*ad infinitum*." Accordingly, you may withhold the requested information from required public disclosure. As we resolve your question in this manner, we need not address the applicability of sections 3(a)(1), 3(a)(14), and 14(e) at this time.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR91-660.

Yours very truly,



Faith S. Steinberg
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

FS/GK/lcd

Ref.: ID# 14176

cc: Mr. Robert Wernsman
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The Huntsville Item
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