



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

May 22, 1992

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Mark E. Dempsey
Assistant City Attorney
City of Garland
P. O. Box 469002
Garland, Texas 75046-9002

OR92-249

Dear Mr. Dempsey:

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# 15664.

The City of Garland Police Department (the "department") received a request dated November 7, 1991, for a copy of the department's jail log and inventory report. The requested information was released to the requestor. Subsequently, the department received a second request for additional information, specifically, the mailing address of each individual listed in the department's jail log and inventory report. You do not object to release of the requested information, except when made confidential by law, *i.e.*, in cases involving juveniles. You object, however, to the requestor's demand that the requested information be disclosed in the manner sought by the requestor.

In his second request letter, dated February 19, 1992, the requestor objects to the fact that no "hard copy" of the requested information is maintained by the department "which [he] can inspect or purchase copies of." According to the requestor's letter, the requested information is entered directly into the department's computer system without a "hard copy" being generated. The requestor states that it would be inefficient for him to obtain mailing address information for each person on an individual basis and therefore asks that the requested information be added to the jail log and inventory report.

The Open Records Act does not ordinarily require the preparation of information in a form requested by a member of the public. Attorney General Opinion JM-672 (1987); Open Records Decision No. 483 (1987). A governmental body is not required to compile or extract information if it can be made available by giving the requestor access to the information itself. Open Records Decision No. 465 (1987). In Attorney General Opinion DM-41 (1991), this office held that a governmental body was not required under the Open Records Act to format information on computer tape because the same information was already available through other media. *See also* Attorney General Opinion DM-30 (1991). Accordingly, you are under no obligation under the Open Records Act to add the requested address information to the jail log and inventory report.

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 OR92-249.

Yours very truly,



Mary R. Crouter
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

MRC/GK/lmm

Ref.: ID# 15664

cc: Mr. Patrick Bender
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