



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 21, 1997

Mr. John Steiner
Division Chief
City of Austin Law Department
P.O. Box 1546
Austin, Texas 78767-1546

OR97-1180

Dear Mr. Steiner:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 106183.

The Austin Police Department (the "department") received a request for "the names of the officers in the Austin Police Department, the units they are in and their telephone numbers at the Austin Police Department." You assert that the requested information is exempted from required public disclosure based on Government Code section 552.108.

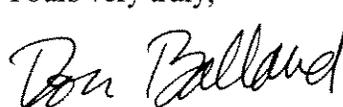
Section 552.108 of the Government Code exempts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime," and "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution. Gov't Code § 552.108. You argue that if the requested information were released, it would interfere with the department's law enforcement efforts. This office has applied the section 552.108 exception to the cellular mobile phone numbers of county officials and employees with specific law enforcement responsibilities. Open Records Decision No. 506 (1988). We reasoned that if these numbers were publicly released, the purpose of the telephone, which is to insure immediate access to designated county officials and employees with specific law enforcement responsibilities, would be defeated. *See id.* at 2.

We agree that most of the requested information may be withheld. We find that the officers' unit assignments and telephone numbers may be withheld. However, we do not believe that section 552.108 generally exempts the officers' names as employees of the department. Consequently, based on section 552.108, the department may withhold from disclosure the officers' unit assignments and telephone numbers.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue

under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don Ballard
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JDB/ch

Ref: ID# 106183

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Claire Osborn
Metro Reporter
Austin American Statesman
P.O. Box 670
Austin, Texas 78767-0670
(w/o enclosures)