



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 12, 1997

Ms. Barbara G. Heptig  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Arlington  
P.O. Box 231  
Arlington, Texas 76004-0231

OR97-1805

Dear Ms. Heptig:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 107764.

The City of Arlington Police Department (the "department"), which your office represents, received a request for "a list of Block Coordinators for [the] crime watch program in the City of Arlington." In response to the request, you submitted to this office for review a representative sample of the information which you assert is responsive.<sup>1</sup> You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

Section 552.108 excepts 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; *see Holmes v. Morales*, 924 S.W.2d 920 (Tex. 1996). The submitted information appears to deal with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. Since the records at issue come within the purview of section 552.108, we conclude that the information in its entirety may be withheld under this section.

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<sup>1</sup>We assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). Here, we do not address any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

Finally, we address the specific questions you have asked with regards to the withholding of "names and addresses of the Block Coordinators." We note that sections 402.042 and 402.043 of the Government Code, which authorize this office to issue opinions, set out the public officials who may request opinions. We are prohibited by section 402.045 of the Government Code from giving legal advice or a written opinion to any other person. Thus, we cannot respond to the questions you have raised.

As we resolve your request under section 552.108, we need not specifically address your other claimed exception at this time.<sup>2</sup> 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 on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Sam Haddad  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

SH/glg

Ref.: ID# 107764

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Rob Walker  
206 S. Davis Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76013  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>2</sup>Please note that in the recent legislative session, the 75th Legislature amended the Open Records Act by adding section 552.127 of the Government Code, which addresses the withholding of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of Crime Watch participants. *See* Act of May 20, 1997, H.B. 273, 75th Leg., R.S. (act effective September 1, 1997). Section 552.127 provides in the pertinent part:

(a) Information is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if the information identifies a person as a participant in a neighborhood crime watch organization and relates to the name, home address, business address, home telephone number, or business telephone number of the person.