



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 24, 1997

Ms. Dianne Eagleton
Supervisor, Records Division
City of North Richland Hills
Police Department
P.O. Box 820609
North Richland Hills, Texas 76182-0609

OR97-2162

Dear Ms. Eagleton:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 109908.

The City of North Richland Hills (the "city") received a request for criminal arrest records and traffic citations concerning certain individuals. You have informed the requestor that he will need to contact the Municipal Court to obtain the requested citation information. You ask whether the requested information is excepted from required public disclosure based on section 552.108 of the Government Code.

The release of a compilation of arrest reports in which an individual is listed as the suspect implicates that individual's common-law right to privacy. See *United States Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. For Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749 (1989); *Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co.*, 531 S.W.2d 177, 179 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ *ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Accordingly, the city must not release such a compilation. Gov't Code § 552.101; see also *Industrial Found. of the S. v. Texas Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668 (Tex. 1976), *cert. denied*, 430 U.S. 931 (1977).

We are resolving this matter with this 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 may 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 cursive script that reads "Kay Hastings".

Kay Hastings
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KHH/rho

Ref.: ID# 109908

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Geoffrey M. Tait
Cat's Eye Intelligence Service
P.O. Box 473
Euless, Texas 76039-0473
(w/o enclosures)