



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 29, 1997

Ms. Roxann Pais
Assistant City Attorney
Municipal Building
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR97-2831

Dear Ms. Pais:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 111510.

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for a copy of police report number 801600-F along with the photographs taken at the crime scene. You claim that the requested records are excepted from required public disclosure by section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

Section 552.108, the "law enforcement exception," provides in part:

(a) [i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of 552.021 if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation or prosecution of crime; (2) it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication; or (3) it is information that: (A) is prepared by an attorney representing the state in anticipation of or in the course of preparing for criminal litigation; or (B) reflects the mental impressions or legal reasoning of an attorney representing the state.

...

(c) This section does not except from the requirements of Section 552.021 information that is basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime.

You state that "the requested information deals with an open record of prosecution in which there is further pending investigation." As the requested information relates to a pending criminal investigation, we therefore find that release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime and thus, it is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1).

However, we note that "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime" is not excepted from required public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information is the type of information that is considered to be front page offense report information even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. *See generally Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.3d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Thus, you must release basic information from the documents requested. Although section 552.108 authorizes you to withhold the remaining requested information from disclosure, you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. *See* Gov't Code § 552.007.

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,



Michael A. Pearle
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MAP/ch

Ref: ID# 111510

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Michele Maschek
2625 N. Josey Lane
Carrollton, Texas 75007
(w/o enclosures)