



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 20, 1998

Mr. Kevin D. Pagan  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of McAllen  
P.O. Box 220  
McAllen, Texas 78505-0220

OR98-0190

Dear Mr. Pagan:

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# 111767.

The City of McAllen (the "city") received a request for a copy of two incident reports numbered 97-21031 and 97-22421. You state that "if appropriate, the City has already released the 'front page' offense report information," but assert that the remainder of the requested information is excepted from disclosure pursuant to section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered your argument and have reviewed the information submitted.

As amended, 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 "in this particular case, the case investigation is ongoing and therefore release of information related to the investigation would interfere with the department's ability to properly investigate and/or prosecute the criminal activity involved in the records." As the requested information relates to an ongoing investigation, we conclude 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.

We note, however, that information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. *See generally* Gov't Code § 552.108(c); *Houston Chronicle Publ'g. Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 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 the types of information that are considered to be front page offense report information, including a detailed description of the offense, even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. Although section 552.108 authorizes you to withhold the remaining 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# 111767

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Dotti Shelton  
505 Bluebird  
McAllen, Texas 78504  
(w/o enclosures)