



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 9, 1998

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

OR98-0932

Dear Mr. Steiner:

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# 114163.

The Austin Police Department (the "department") received a request for a recording of a specific 911 call. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.103 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted recording.

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

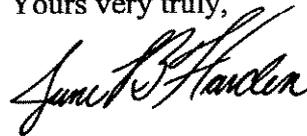
(a) [i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of 552.021 if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation or prosecution of crime; [or] (2) it 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. . . .

Generally, a governmental body claiming an exception under section 552.108 must reasonably explain, if the information does not supply the explanation on its face, how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. See Gov't Code §§ 552.108(a)(1), (b)(1), .301(b)(1); see also *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706

(Tex. 1977). You explain that the requested information relates to a case that has been forwarded to the District Attorney for review and possible presentation to the Grand Jury. Based on your representations, we find that release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See 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) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases). Therefore, the department may withhold the requested information from disclosure under section 552.108(a).

Because we are able to make a determination under section 552.108, we do not address your section 552.103 claim. 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,



June B. Harden  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JBH/alg

Ref.: ID# 114163

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Bruce S. Fox  
Attorney at Law  
404 W. 13th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(w/o enclosures)