



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 20, 1998

Mr. Robert F. Maxfield
Legal Advisor
Dallas County Sheriff's Office
Frank Crowley Courts Building
133 North Industrial Boulevard
Dallas, Texas 75207-4313

OR98-0999

Dear Mr. Maxfield:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 114658.

The Dallas County Treasurer received a request for "all public records of employment of John Weddle who I believe is or may have been employed by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office." The request was forwarded to the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and you seek a decision from this office concerning the request. You state that "[i]t is my understanding that Mr. Weddle has never been an employee of the District Attorney's Office. However, Mr. Weddle is a former employee of the Sheriff's Department, having been employed in the capacity of Deputy Sheriff and Legal Advisor to the Sheriff's Department." Thus, you have no information responsive to the request as posed. You also object to responding to the request because it is not directed to the Sheriff's Department.

The Open Records Act designates the chief administrative officer and each elected county officer as the officer for public information for a governmental body. Section 552.201 of the Government Code provides:

- (a) The chief administrative officer of a governmental body is the officer for public information, except as provided by Subsection (b).
- (b) Each elected county officer is the officer for public information and the custodian, as defined by Section 201.003, Local Government Code, of the information created or received by that county officer's office.

Gov't Code § 552.201; *see* Gov't Code § 552.202 (identifying department heads as agents for public information officer), .203 (listing general duties of officer of public information).

Because the request for information is directed to a different public information officer, you need not comply with this request. The Sheriff's Office has not received a written request for information. Gov't Code § 552.301. Consequently, if the requestor seeks information maintained by the Sheriff's Office, she should direct her request to your office. *See, e.g.,* Open Records Decision No. 576 (1990), 497 (1988). If she seeks information held by the District Attorney, she should direct her request to the District Attorney's Office. The Dallas County Treasurer's Office is responsible for responding to the request at issue concerning those records created or received by the Treasurer's Office. Gov't Code § 552.201.

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,



Don Ballard
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JDB/ch

Ref: ID# 114658

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Barbara Jones
7117 Holly Hill Drive # 212
Dallas, Texas 75231
(w/o enclosures)

The Honorable Bill Melton
Dallas County Treasurer
Dallas County Records Building
500 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75202
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. John Dahill
Assistant District Attorney
Dallas County
Frank Crowley Courts Building, LB 19
Dallas, Texas 75207-4399
(w/o enclosures)