



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 14, 2009

Mr. Mack Reinwand
Assistant City Attorney
Arlington Police Department
P.O. Box 1065
Arlington, Texas 76004-1065

OR2009-14494

Dear Mr. Reinwand:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 362694 (APD Reference No. 2009-09-073).

The Arlington Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note that the information you have submitted includes the breath test results of an arrestee's blood alcohol content. Full information concerning the analysis of the specimen must be made available upon the request of the person who has given specimens at the request of a peace officer. Transp. Code § 724.018. Here, one of the requestors is the individual who submitted the specimen. Thus, the department must release the breath test results to this requestor.

Section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental

body must reasonably explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state that the submitted information is related to a pending criminal case. Based on your representation, we conclude that section 552.108(a)(1) is generally applicable to the submitted information. *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).

However, section 552.108 does not except from required public disclosure “basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime.” Gov’t Code § 552.108(c). Thus, the department must release the types of basic information listed in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-88. Thus, with the exception of basic information, the department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must release the breath test results pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code. With the exception of basic information, the department may withhold the remaining information pursuant to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Paige Lay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PL/eeg

Mr. Mack Reinwand - Page 3

Ref: ID# 362694

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)