



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

GREG ABBOTT

August 5, 2010

Mr. Jose Hernandez  
Records Clerk  
Edinburg Police Department  
1702 South Closner Boulevard  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

OR2010-11894

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

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# 394045 (Reference No. 11408).

The Edinburg Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified report. You indicate that some of the requested information has been released. You claim that the rest of the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108, 552.130, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the information you submitted.

Section 552.108(a)(1) 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 indicate that release of the information you have marked would interfere with the detection and investigation of crime. Based on your representation, we conclude that the department may withhold the marked information under section 552.108(a)(1). *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).

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit or a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state. *See Gov't Code* § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). Because this exception protects personal privacy, the requestor has a right of access to her own Texas driver's license information under section 552.023 of the Government Code. *See id.*

§ 552.023(a); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning herself). With the exception of that information, which we have marked for release, we agree that the department must withhold the Texas driver's license and motor vehicle information you have marked under section 552.130.<sup>1</sup>

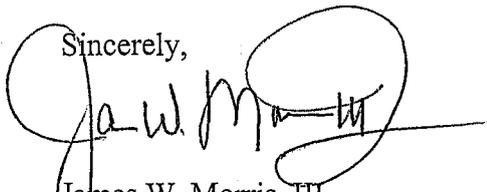
Section 552.147 of the Government Code provides that "[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from" required public disclosure under the Act.<sup>2</sup> Gov't Code § 552.147(a). The department may withhold the social security number you have marked under section 552.147.

In summary: (1) the information you have marked under section 552.108 of the Government Code may be withheld under section 552.108(a)(1); (2) except for the information we have marked for release, the Texas driver's license and motor vehicle information you have marked must be withheld under section 552.130 of the Government Code; and (3) the social security number you have marked may be withheld under section 552.147 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](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,



James W. Morris, III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JWM/em

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<sup>1</sup>We note that this office recently issued Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009), a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold ten categories of information, including a Texas driver's license number and a Texas license plate number under section 552.130, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

<sup>2</sup>We note that section 552.147(b) authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act.

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Ref: ID# 394045

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)