



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

March 24, 2011

Ms. Linda M. Champion  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Victoria  
P.O. Box 1758  
Victoria, Texas 77902-1758

OR2011-04067

Dear Ms. Champion:

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# 417099.

The City of Victoria (the "city") received a request for a specified incident report. You state the city will release some of the requested information upon payment. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information contains a court-filed document. Section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code provides for required public disclosure of "information that is also contained in a public court record," unless the information is expressly confidential under other law. Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(17). The court document we marked is subject to section 552.022(a)(17). You seek to withhold this document under section 552.108 of the Government Code, which is a discretionary exception to disclosure that protects a governmental body's interests and may be waived. *See id.* § 552.007; Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 177 at 3 (1977) (statutory predecessor to section 552.108 subject to waiver). As such, section 552.108 is not other law that makes information expressly confidential for purposes of section 552.022(a)(17). Therefore, the city may not withhold the marked court-filed document under section 552.108.

We note the court document contains a Texas license plate number. Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state.<sup>1</sup> See Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(2). The city must withhold the Texas license plate number we marked in the court-filed document under section 552.130. As you raise no further exceptions against disclosure of the court-filed document, the city must release the remaining information in the court-filed document pursuant to section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code.<sup>2</sup>

Next, we address your claim under section 552.108 of the Government Code for the rest of the submitted information. Section 552.108(a)(1) 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[.]” *Id.* § 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 the information at issue relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based on your representation, we conclude section 552.108(a)(1) is generally applicable to the remaining information. See *Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (court delineates law enforcement interests present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976).

We note section 552.108 does not except from disclosure “basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime.” Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Section 552.108(c) refers to the basic front-page information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. See 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Accordingly, except for basic information, the city may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(1).

In summary, the city must withhold the Texas license plate number we marked from the marked court-filed document under section 552.130 of the Government Code and release the remaining information in the court-filed document pursuant to section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code. Except for basic information, the city may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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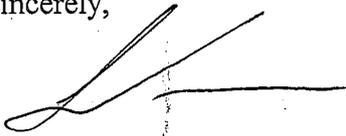
<sup>1</sup>The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception such as section 552.130 on behalf of a governmental body. See Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

<sup>2</sup>We note Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009) is a previous determination issued by this office to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold ten categories of information without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision, including a Texas license plate number under section 552.130 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,



Ana Carolina Vieira  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

ACV/eeg

Ref: ID# 417099

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)