



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 3, 2012

Captain Greg Minton
Leander Police Department
705 Leander Drive
Leander, Texas 78641

OR2012-06439

Dear Captain Minton:

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# 452338.

The Leander Police Department (the "department") received a request for all records related to the investigation of the alleged theft of the requestor's automobile. You state you have released some of the requested information. You state you have redacted social security numbers other than the requestor's under section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.¹ You state the department has redacted information subject to sections 552.136 and 552.130(a)(1)

¹Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code 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.

of the Government Code pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).² You claim the remaining 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.

Section 552.108(a) 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: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]” Gov’t Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(1) must reasonably explain how and why release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state the submitted report pertains to a criminal case that is pending investigation by the department. Based upon your representation and our review, we conclude release of the information at issue 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) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases), *writ ref’d n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Thus, section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to the information at issue.

As you acknowledge, 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). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*, a detailed description of the offense. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing the types of information considered to be basic information). Thus, with the exception of the basic front page offense and arrest information, the department may withhold the information at issue under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.³

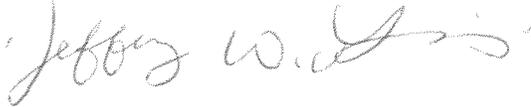
²Although you cite Open Records Decision No. 648, we understand you to mean Open Records Decision No. 684, which is a previous determination issued by this office authorizing all governmental bodies to withhold ten categories of information, including credit card numbers under section 552.136 of the Government Code and Texas driver’s license numbers under section 552.130(a)(1), without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision. *See* ORD 684 at 14-15. However, on September 1, 2011, the Texas legislature amended section 552.130 to allow a governmental body to redact the information described in subsections 552.130(a)(1) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Gov’t Code § 552.130(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See id.* § 552.130(d)-(e). Thus, the statutory amendments to section 552.130 of the Government Code superceded Open Records Decision No. 684 on September 1, 2011. Therefore, a governmental body may redact information subject to section 552.130(a)(1), including driver’s license numbers, only in accordance with section 552.130, not Open Records Decision No. 684.

³As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.

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,



Jeffrey W. Giles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JWG/dls

Ref: ID# 452338

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestpr
(w/o enclosures)