



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 9, 2013

Mr. John R. Batoon
Assistant City Attorney
City of El Paso
P.O. Box 1890
El Paso, Texas 79950-1890

OR2013-13881

Dear Mr. Batoon:

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# 495939 (El Paso ID# 13-1026-2757).

The El Paso Police Department (the "department") received a request for transcripts of 9-1-1 calls for a specified case number. You claim the submitted 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)(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 that claims an exception to disclosure under section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why this exception is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). In response to this request, you have submitted events reports and calls for service reports. You assert, and provide a representation from the District Attorney for the 34th Judicial District stating, the submitted information relates to pending criminal investigations and prosecutions. Based on these representations and our review of the information at issue, we conclude the release of the submitted information 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), *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); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 474 at 4-5 (1987) (section 552.108 may be invoked by any proper custodian of information relating to pending

investigation or prosecution of criminal conduct). Accordingly, section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to this information.

We note, however, 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*. See 531 S.W.2d at 186-87; Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information made public by *Houston Chronicle*). We note in Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996), this office concluded information contained in a computer-aided dispatch report is substantially the same as basic information and, thus, is not excepted from public disclosure under section 552.108. See ORD 649 at 3; see also Open Records Decision No. 394 at 3 (1983) (no qualitative difference between information contained in police dispatch records or radio logs and front-page offense report information expressly held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*). Therefore, with the exception of basic information, the department may withhold the submitted information under 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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Sean Nottingham
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SN/tch

Ref: ID# 495939

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)