



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 14, 2014

Mr. JD Lambright
Montgomery County Attorney
207 West Phillips, Suite 100
Conroe, Texas 77301

OR2014-04330

Dear Mr. Lambright:

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# 516639 (ORR# 2013-7285).

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for a specified police report. You inform us you have released some information to the requestor. You also inform us you have redacted motor vehicle record information in accordance with section 552.130(c) of the Government Code and social security numbers in accordance with section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.¹ You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code.² 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). Generally, a governmental body claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the

¹Section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in subsection 552.130(a) 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). Section 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. *Id.* § 552.147(b).

²Although you also raised section 552.101 of the Government Code, you have not submitted arguments explaining how this exception applies to the submitted information. Therefore, we assume you have withdrawn it. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301, .302.

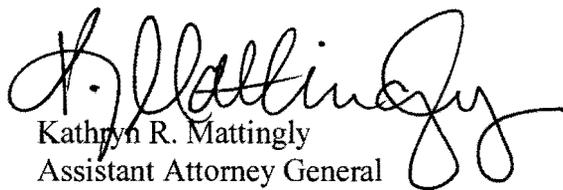
release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state the requested police report relates to a pending criminal investigation and prosecution. Based upon this representation, we conclude section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable, and the release of the police report 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).

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 186-88; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered basic information). Thus, with the exception of the basic information, which you state you have released, the sheriff’s office may withhold the submitted information from disclosure based on 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,



Kathryn R. Mattingly
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KRM/bhf

Ref: ID# 516639

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)