



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 27, 2014

Ms. Linda Pemberton
Paralegal
City of Killeen
P.O. Box 1329
Killeen, Texas 76540-1329

OR2014-15132

Dear Ms. Pemberton:

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# 539337 (KPD ID# W014023).

The Killeen Police Department (the “department”) received a request for a copy of police report number 14-008561. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim the remaining 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 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).

We note the information at issue includes a statutory warning, form DIC-24, and a notice of suspension, form DIC-25. Because copies of those forms were provided to the person who is the subject of the warning and the notice, we find release of the statutory warning and

notice of suspension will not interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). Therefore, the department may not withhold the statutory warning or notice of suspension under section 552.108 of the Government Code.

You state the submitted information pertains to an on-going investigation by the department. Based on this representation and our review, we find release of the remaining information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of a 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).

We note, and 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). 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; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the statutory warning, and the notice of suspension, the department may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

Lastly, the statutory warning and the notice of suspension contain motor vehicle record information. Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license, title, or registration issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country, is excepted from public release. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). The department must withhold the motor vehicle record information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, except for the statutory warning, the notice of suspension, and basic information, the department may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. In releasing the statutory warning and the notice of suspension, the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

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/ori_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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Nettles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/ds

Ref: ID# 539337

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)