



January 12, 2015

Mr. James Kopp  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of San Antonio  
P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas 78283

OR2015-00533

Dear Mr. Kopp:

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# 555696 (COSA File No. W044808).

The City of San Antonio (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified motor vehicle accident. 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.

Initially, we note the submitted information contains a CR-3 accident report form. Section 550.065(b) of the Transportation Code states that except as provided by subsection (c) or (e), accident reports are privileged and for the confidential use of certain specified entities. Transp. Code § 550.065(b). The submitted CR-3 crash report was completed pursuant to chapter 550 of the Transportation Code. *See id.* § 550.064 (officer's accident report). Section 550.065(c)(4) provides for the release of accident reports to a person who provides two of the following three pieces of information: (1) the date of the accident; (2) the name of any person involved in the accident; and (3) the specific location of the accident. *Id.* § 550.065(c)(4). Under this provision, a governmental entity is required to release a copy of an accident report to a person who provides two or more pieces of information specified by the statute. *Id.* In this instance, the requestor has provided the city with the requisite information for the CR-3 crash report. Although you seek to withhold this information under section 552.108 of the Government Code, we note information that is specifically made public by statute may not be withheld from the public

under the general exceptions to public disclosure under the Act. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 544 (1990), 378 (1983), 161 (1977), 146 (1976). Accordingly, the city must release this report in its entirety to the requestor.

We also note the submitted information includes court-filed documents. 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 it is "made confidential under [the Act] or other law[.]" Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(17). We have marked the documents that are subject to section 552.022(a)(17). Although you seek to withhold this information under section 552.108 of the Government Code, as noted above, this section is a discretionary exception and does not make information confidential under the Act. *See* Gov't Code. § 552.007; Open Records Decision No. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally). As such, section 552.108 does not make information confidential for the purposes of section 552.022. Accordingly, the court-filed documents we have marked may not be withheld under section 552.108. We note the court-filed documents we have marked contain information subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> As section 552.130 can make information make information confidential under the Act, we will address the applicability of this exception to the marked court-filed documents.

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 claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the 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 that release of the remaining submitted information will interfere with a pending criminal investigation. Based on this representation, we conclude that section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to the information at issue. *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 curium*, 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." *Id.* § 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 186-187; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Accordingly, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the remaining submitted 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 like section 552.130 on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides that information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1). Accordingly, the city must withhold the information we have marked in the marked court-filed documents under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city must release the submitted CR-3 accident report under section 550.065(c) of the Transportation Code. Except for the information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code, which must be withheld, the court-filed documents we have marked must be released under section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code. Except for basic information, which must be released, the city may withhold the remaining 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](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,



Nicholas A. Ybarra  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

NAY/cbz

Ref: ID# 555696

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)