



January 15, 2015

Ms. Jacqueline Cullom
Assistant City Attorney
City of San Marcos
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666

OR2015-00889

Dear Ms. Cullom:

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# 550250.

The City of San Marcos (the "city") received two requests from the same requestor for information pertaining to two specified incidents. You state you have released some information to the requestor. 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)(2) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that concluded in a final result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (providing that a governmental body must provide written comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state, and have submitted an affidavit from the Hays County Criminal District Attorney's Office stating, the submitted information relates to matters that "*will not result* in a conviction or deferred adjudication" (emphasis added). We note, however,

section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable only if the information at issue is related to a concluded criminal case that “*did not result* in conviction or deferred adjudication” (emphasis added). *See id.* § 552.108(a)(2). Therefore, we find you have not shown the case has concluded, and thus, you have failed to demonstrate the applicability of section 552.108(a)(2) to the submitted information. Accordingly, the city may not withhold any of the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator’s license, driver’s license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release.¹ *See id.* § 552.130. Thus, the city must withhold the motor vehicle record information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.137 of the Government Code provides, “an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body is confidential and not subject to disclosure under [the Act],” unless the owner of the e-mail address has affirmatively consented to its release or the e-mail address is specifically excluded by subsection (c). *Id.* § 552.137(a)–(c). The e-mail addresses we have marked are not types excluded by subsection (c). Thus, the city must withhold the e-mail addresses we have marked under section 552.137 of the Government Code, unless their owners affirmatively consent to their public disclosure.

In summary, the city must withhold the motor vehicle record information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The city must also withhold the e-mail addresses we have marked under section 552.137 of the Government Code, unless their owners affirmatively consent to their public disclosure. The remaining information must be released.²

¹The Office of the Attorney General will raise mandatory exceptions on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

²We note the information being released includes social security numbers. 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. *See* Gov’t Code § 552.147(b). We also note the requestor has a right of access to some of the information being released in this instance. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (person or person’s authorized representative has special right of access, beyond right of general public, to information held by governmental body that relates to person and is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect person’s privacy interests); ORD 481 at 4 (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning herself). Thus, if the city receives another request for this information from a different requestor, the city must seek another ruling from this office.

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,



Alley Latham
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

AKL/dls

Ref: ID# 550250

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)