



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 11, 2015

Mr. John A. Haislet
Assistant City Attorney
City of College Station
P.O. Box 9960
College Station, Texas 77842

OR2015-04577

Dear Mr. Haislet:

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# 556754.

The City of College Station (the "city") received a request for incident/offense reports related to twenty cases.¹ You state the city has released some of the requested information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.142 of the Government Code.² We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

You assert the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. 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: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code

¹We note the requestor amended her request. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222 (providing if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); *see also City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (holding that when a governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification or narrowing of an unclear or overbroad request for information, the ten-day period to request an attorney general ruling is measured from the date the request is clarified or narrowed).

²Although you do not raise section 552.142 of the Government Code in your brief, we understand you to raise this exception based on your markings.

§ 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the release of the information at issue 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, 710 (Tex. 1977). You state the information submitted as Exhibit 2 relates to pending criminal prosecutions. Based on this representation, we conclude the release of this 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, 186-87 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (delineating law enforcement interests present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Therefore, we agree section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to this information.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the information at issue relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(2), .301(e)(1)(A). You inform us the information submitted as Exhibit 3 pertains to criminal cases that concluded in results other than convictions or deferred adjudications. Therefore, we agree section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to this information.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold Exhibit 2 under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code and Exhibit 3 under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.³

Section 552.142 of the Government Code is applicable to records of certain deferred adjudications. Section 552.142 provides as follows:

(a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if an order of nondisclosure with respect to the information has been issued under Section 411.081(d).

(b) A person who is the subject of information that is excepted from [required public disclosure] under this section may deny the occurrence of the arrest

³We note the basic information includes the arrestee's social security number. 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. Gov't Code § 552.147. As our ruling is dispositive, we need not consider your remaining arguments against disclosure of this information.

and prosecution to which the information relates and the exception of the information under this section, unless the information is being used against the person in a subsequent criminal proceeding.

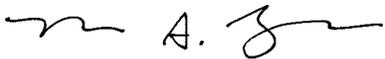
Gov't Code § 552.142. Section 411.081(d) of the Government Code authorizes a person placed on deferred adjudication for certain offenses to petition the court for an order of nondisclosure, which prohibits criminal justice agencies from disclosing to the public criminal history record information related to the offense giving rise to the deferred adjudication. *Id.* § 411.081(d). Under this provision, a criminal justice agency may only disclose criminal history record information that is the subject of the order to other criminal justice agencies, for criminal justice or regulatory purposes; non-criminal justice agencies listed in section 411.081(i); or the person who is the subject of the order. *Id.* We understand you to assert the basic information in report number 13-001242 is excepted from public disclosure pursuant to section 552.142. However, you have not explained, or provided any documentation showing, an order of nondisclosure was issued pursuant to section 411.081(d) of the Government Code prohibiting the release of the information at issue. Thus, we find you have failed to demonstrate the applicability of section 552.142 to the basic information in report number 13-001242, and the city may not withhold it on that basis.

In summary, with the exception of basic information, which must be released, the city may withhold Exhibit 2 under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code and Exhibit 3 under section 552.108(a)(2) 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,



Nicholas A. Ybarra
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NAY/cbz

Mr. John A. Haislet - Page 4

Ref: ID# 556754

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)