



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 19, 2015

Mr. J. Eric Magee  
Counsel for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office  
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.  
402 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2015-17182

Dear Mr. Magee:

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# 576610.

The Victoria County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office"), which you represent, received a request for the names of the employees in the Special Crimes Unit and the Interdiction Unit. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.152 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.152 of the Government Code provides:

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm.

Gov't Code § 552.152. You state the employees of the Special Crimes and Interdiction Units "work undercover and require confidentiality of their identities to adequately perform their duty and protect them from physical harm." You assert release of this information would subject these officers to a substantial threat of physical harm. Based on your representations

and our review, we find you have demonstrated the release of the submitted information would subject the officers at issue to a substantial threat of physical harm. Thus, the sheriff's office must withhold the submitted information under section 552.152 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,



Cristian Rosas-Grillet  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CRG/cbz

Ref: ID# 576610

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)