



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 2, 2015

Ms. Crystal Koonce  
Open Records  
County of Williamson  
508 South Rock Street  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2015-18378

Dear Ms. Koonce:

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# 577881.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for all information pertaining to a specified case number. The sheriff's office claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions the sheriff's office claims 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 claiming section 552.108(a)(1) 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). The sheriff's office states the submitted information relates to an ongoing criminal investigation and release of the information would interfere with that investigation. *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). Based on these representations and our review, we conclude section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code is applicable.

However, 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). 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 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Thus, with the exception of the basic front-page offense and arrest information, which must be released, the sheriff's office may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup>

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,



Rahat Huq  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

RSH/som

Ref: ID# 577881

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup>As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the sheriff's office's remaining argument against disclosure, except to note the requestor has a special right of access under section 552.023 of the Government Code to some of the information being released. See Gov't Code § 552.023(a). Therefore, if the sheriff's office receives another request for this information from a person who does not have a special right of access to this information, the sheriff's office should resubmit this same information and request another decision from this office. See *id.* §§ 552.301(a); .302; Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001).