



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 21, 2015

Mr. Nicholas Toulet
Assistant City Attorney
City of Midland
P.O. Box 1152
Midland, Texas 79702-1152

OR2015-19711

Dear Mr. Toulet:

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# 580090 (city ID# 17061).

The Midland Police Department (the "department") received a request for all information from a specified incident. You state the department has released some of the requested information to the requestor, including a DIC-24 statutory warning, a CR-3 accident report, and basic information. *See* Act of June 1, 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., ch. 936, § 1, 2015 Tex. Sess. Law. Serv. 3256, 3256-57 (Vernon) (to be codified at Transp. Code. 550.065(c)); Gov't Code § 552.108(c) (basic information about an arrest, arrested person, or crime not excepted from disclosure under section 552.108). You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108 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). Generally, 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), 552.301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977).

You state the information in Exhibit B relates to a pending criminal investigation and prosecution. 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 (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). Accordingly, the department may withhold the information in Exhibit B under section 552.108(a)(1).

Section 552.101 of the Government Code exempts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, such as chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code, which authorizes the development of local emergency communication districts. Section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 20,000 and makes confidential the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers that are furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier. *See Open Records Decision No. 649* (1996).

You state the City of Midland is part of an emergency communication district subject to section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. You have marked telephone numbers the department seeks to withhold, which you represent are originating telephone numbers furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier. We conclude the department must withhold the marked telephone numbers in Exhibit C under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code.

In summary, the department may withhold the information in Exhibit B under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The department must withhold the marked telephone numbers in Exhibit C under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. The department must release the remaining information.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramsey Abarca". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'R'.

Ramsey A. Abarca
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RAA/dls

Ref: ID# 580090

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)