



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 15, 1996

Mr. John D. Gilliam  
City Attorney  
City of Sherman  
P.O. Box 1106  
Sherman, Texas 75091-1106

OR96-0721

Dear Mr. Gilliam:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 39847.

The City of Sherman (the "city") received an open records request for the city police department's daily dispatch logs for the date of March 27, 1996, but only with respect to "the date and specific location of each automobile collision handled by the police department."<sup>1</sup> Acknowledging prior open records decisions from this office, you do not contend that the requested logs are excepted from required public disclosure but for the fact that the requestor has made an *unsolicited* admission that the requested information will be used "to circumvent the restrictions and intent of House Bill 391." You contend that the dispatch logs are not releasable when the city knows that the logs will be used to obtain accident reports not otherwise releasable under House Bill 391.

The Open Records Act prohibits consideration of the motives of the requesting party. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.222(b) (governmental body may not inquire into purpose of open records request); 552.223 (uniform treatment of requests for information). *See also* Open Records Decision Nos. 542 (1990), 508 (1988). Consequently, the requestor's admissions as to how he intends to use the dispatch logs is not a factor in our determination as to whether the city must release the information at issue. Generally speaking, information that is open to one member of the public is open to all. *See also* Gov't Code § 552.001(b) (Open Records Act to be liberally construed in favor of granting a request for information).

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<sup>1</sup>We therefore do not address whether or to what extent any other types of information contained in the dispatch logs are subject to required public disclosure.

Because you have raised none of the act's exceptions to required public disclosure, the city must release the requested dispatch logs. We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Loretta R. DeHay  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

LRD/RWP/rho

Ref.: ID# 39847

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Russell S. Carter  
President  
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(w/o enclosures)