



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 29, 1996

Ms. Y. Qiyamah Taylor
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
Legal Department
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR96-1993

Dear Ms. Taylor:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 102223.

The City of Houston Police Department (the "department") received a request for an offense report which you assert is excepted from required public disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108 excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime," and "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution." Gov't Code § 552.108; *see Holmes v. Morales*, 924 S.W.2d 920 (Tex. 1996). We note, however, that information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Thus, you must release the type of information that is considered to be front page offense report information, even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. As we understand that you have already provided the requestor with the public release portion of the offense report, we conclude that you may withhold the remaining information from disclosure under section 552.108, although you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. Gov't Code § 552.007.

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 may 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Reese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd Reese
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RTR/rho

Ref.: ID# 102223

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Sean L. Sutton
2205 Hayes #4913
Houston, Texas 77077
(w/o enclosures)