



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 25, 1996

Ms. Detra G. Hill
Assistant City Attorney
Supervisor, Criminal Law and Police Division
City of Dallas
City Hall
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR96-2208

Dear Ms. Hill:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 30508.

The City of Dallas (the "city") received a request for a witness statement given in the course of a murder investigation. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

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 or an arrest report is generally considered public.¹ *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). We therefore conclude that, except for front page offense report information, section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts the requested record from required public disclosure. You may choose to release all or part of the information that is not otherwise confidential by law. Gov't Code § 552.007.

¹The content of the information determines whether it must be released in compliance with *Houston Chronicle*, not its literal location on the first page of an offense report. Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) contains a summary of the types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*.

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 on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/rho

Ref.: ID# 30508

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Michael E. Schmidt
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Dallas, Texas 75219
(w/o enclosures)