



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 14, 1997

Mr. John Steiner
Division Chief
City of Austin Law Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-1088

OR97-0052

Dear Mr. Steiner:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 102972.

The City of Austin Police Department (the "department") received a request¹ for a copy of all department documents relating to a particular incident. You assert that the requested information 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. Section 552.108 provides that you may withhold the remaining information from disclosure, 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.

¹We note that the department received the request as a subpoena duces tecum. However, as the requestor did not identify any litigation to which the subpoena may be connected, we understand that the department is treating this request as one made under the Open Records Act.

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,



Karen E. Hattaway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KEH/RTR/ch

Ref.: ID# 102972

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Susan Chapman
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(w/o enclosures)