



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 17, 1997

Mr. G. Chadwick Weaver
First Assistant City Attorney
City of Midland
P.O. Box 1152
Midland, Texas 79702-1152

OR97-0548

Dear Mr. Weaver:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 104426.

The City of Midland (the "city") received a request for information relating to an incident on December 14, 1996.¹ You claim that, with the exception of certain information, 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 is generally considered public.² *Houston Chronicle Publ'g 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

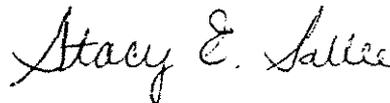
¹You state that the request may be vague. Section 552.222(b) provides that a governmental body may ask a requestor to clarify a request for information if the request is unclear to the governmental body. Gov't Code § 552.222(b).

²The 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*.

report information, section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts the requested records from required public disclosure. On the other hand, you may choose to release all or part of the information 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 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,



Stacy E. Sallee
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SES/alg

Ref.: ID# 104426

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Macario López
701 West Ohio, Apartment 3
Midland, Texas 79702
(w/o enclosures)