



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 27, 1997

Mr. Kevin D. Pagan
Assistant City Attorney
City of McAllen
P.O. Box 220
McAllen, Texas 78505-0220

OR97-1913

Dear Mr. Pagan:

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# 109803.

The City of McAllen (the "city") received a request for information concerning five specific offense reports. You have provided this office with a letter to the requestor which states that the city is releasing the front page information. You claim, however, that the remaining 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). Because the documents at issue come within the purview of section 552.108, we conclude that most of the requested information may be withheld under this section.

Although you indicate that the city is releasing the front page information, we note that you must also 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.¹ Section 552.108 provides that you may withhold the remaining information

¹The content of the information determines whether it must be released in compliance with *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975),

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.

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,



Vickie Prehoditch
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VDP/alg

Ref.: ID# 109803

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Dora Rodriguez
c/o Law Office of Abel Hinojosa
918 West Nolana
Pharr, Texas 78577
(w/o enclosures)

writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976), 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*.