



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 26, 1998

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

OR98-0253

Dear Mr. Pagan:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 112474.

The City of McAllen (the "city") received a request for offense report number 97-26961. You contend that the requested offense report is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

Section 552.108 of the Government Code provides in part:

(a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if:

(1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime;

(2) it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication.

You state that the requested offense report relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based upon this representation, we conclude that the release of offense report would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See 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) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases).

We note, however, that information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. *See generally* Gov't Code § 552.108(c); *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). 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. You state that you have released "front page" information, but the information you released does not include a detailed description of the offense. *Houston Chronicle* requires you to include a detailed description of the offense in the front page offense report information that you release. Although section 552.108(a)(1) authorizes you to withhold the remaining information from disclosure, you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. *See* 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 upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Karen E. Hattaway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KEH/ch

Ref: ID# 112474

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Dotti Shelton
505 Bluebird
McAllen, Texas 78504
(w/o enclosures)