



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 16, 1998

Mr. William M. Toles
Assistant City Attorney
City of Dallas
Criminal Law and Police Division
Municipal Building
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR98-1490

Dear Mr. Toles:

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# 116898.

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for copies of offense and arrest reports related to service numbers 227658-G, 227571-G, and 227762-G. 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 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 [required public disclosure] if:

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

...

(c) This section does not except from the requirements of Section 552.021 information that is basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime.

In this instance, you inform this office that criminal charges are pending as a result of the investigation of the case which is the subject of this request for information and additionally include a letter from the prosecutor assigned the case, Donald G. Davis, an Assistant District Attorney. Because the requested information relates to a pending criminal prosecution, we conclude that the release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime and thus, it is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1). *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 "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime" is not excepted from required public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information is 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. *See generally Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co.; Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976)*. Therefore, we conclude that, except for the front page information, the department may withhold the requested information from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1). Although section 552.108 authorizes you to withhold the remaining requested 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 on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Janet I. Monteros
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JIM/alg

Ref.: ID# 116898

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Jim Brothers
Claim Specialist
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(w/o enclosures)