



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 24, 1998

Ms. Sharon R. Sela
Assistant City Attorney
Criminal Law and Police Division
Dallas City Attorney's Office
2014 Main Street, Room 206
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR98-1524

Dear Ms. Sela:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 116166.

The City of Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for offense report number 0923015-B. You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the representative sample of documents submitted.¹

Section 552.108, the "law enforcement exception," excepts from public disclosure information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime if release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation or prosecution of crime. Generally, a governmental body claiming an exception under section 552.108 must reasonably explain, if the information does not supply the explanation on its face, how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. See Gov't Code §§ 552.108(a)(1), (b)(1), .301(b)(1); see also *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You submit a letter from the Dallas District Attorney's Office that states that the requested information relates to cases pending in the district court. Because you have shown that release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation or prosecution of crime, we conclude that most of the requested information may be withheld 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

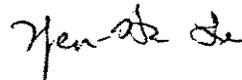
¹In reaching our conclusion here, we assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases); Open Records Decision No. 216 (1978) at 3 (release of information during pending criminal case would interfere with prosecution of crime and law enforcement interests).

However, we note 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. 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, except for basic information, the remaining requested information is excepted 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 upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/nc

Ref: ID# 116166

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Len Baxley
2800 N. Henderson, Suite 206
Dallas, Texas 75206
(w/o enclosures)