



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 23, 1998

Ms. Barbara Heptig
Assistant City Attorney
City of Arlington
Mail Stop 04-0200
620 Division Street
Arlington, Texas 76004-1065

OR98-2282

Dear Ms. Heptig:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 118288.

The City of Arlington (the "city") received a request for release of compiled data regarding reports of felonies. You indicate that you have released the requested information with the exception of the street name and block number of the locations of reported sexual offenses. You contend that the withheld information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. You have supplied representative information. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the information presented.

Section 552.101 excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." This section encompasses common-law privacy and excepts from disclosure private facts about an individual. *Industrial Found. v. Texas Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668 (Tex. 1976), *cert. denied*, 430 U.S. 931 (1977). Information may be withheld from the public when (1) it is highly intimate and embarrassing such that its release would be highly objectionable to a person of ordinary sensibilities, and (2) there is no legitimate public interest in its disclosure. *Id.* at 685; Open Records Decision No. 611 at 1 (1992). Applying that standard, our office opined that the identity of juvenile victims of serious sexual offenses is confidential. Open Records Decision Nos. 629 (1994) and 339 (1982). We have also held that the identities of all victims of serious sexual offenses is confidential. Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Also, as "other information, such as the location of the crime, might furnish a basis for identification of the victim" such information is not subject to disclosure. *Id.* at 3 *accord* Open Records Decision No. 181 (1977).

We are of the opinion that the street name and block number of serious sexual offense crime locations, or that of the residence addresses of victims of such crimes, is information that furnishes a basis for identification of these victims. That information is therefore confidential, and the city must not release this information.

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,



Michael Jay Burns
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MJB/ch

Ref: ID# 118288

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Cathy L. Lucas
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(w/o enclosures)