January 21, 1999

OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF TEXAS

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Ms. Dianne Eagleton, Supervisor
Records Division
North Richland Hills Police Department
P.O. Box 820609
North Richland Hills, Texas 76182-0609

OR99-0157

Dear Ms. Eagleton:

You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 123169.

You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure based on section 552.108 of the Government Code. Section 552.108 of the Government Code states that 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 release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). You inform us that the requested information pertains to a pending case. We therefore believe that the release of the information "would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." *Id.*

However section 552.108 is inapplicable to basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). We believe such basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle Publishing 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). Thus, with the exception of the basic front page offense and arrest information, the department may withhold the requested information from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(1).

We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the

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particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and may 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,

Ruth H. Soucy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RHS/ch

Ref.: ID# 123169

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Vicki Lynn Worley
5817 Rockport Lane
Haltom City, Texas 76137
(w/o enclosures)