



December 28, 2001

Ms. Lisa Salinas  
Custodian of Records  
Baytown Police Department  
3200 North Main Street  
Baytown, Texas 77521

OR2001-6117

Dear Ms. Salinas:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 158748.

The Baytown Police Department (the "department") received a request for information regarding a particular arrest. You claim that portions of the requested information are excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note that the requestor has submitted a specimen to a peace officer for an intoxilyzer test. A person who has given a specimen at the request of a peace officer is entitled to full information concerning the analysis of the specimen. *See* Transp. Code § 724.018. Where a statute provides an individual with a special right of access to information, that information may not be withheld from that individual pursuant to section 552.108, the law-enforcement exception. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 623 (1994), 613 (1993). Therefore, the department must release the results of the intoxilyzer test to the requestor.

You contend that the information you have highlighted in orange is excepted under 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.* Thus, with the exception of the intoxilyzer test results, the department may withhold the information you have highlighted in orange under section 552.108(a)(1).

You also contend that the information you have highlighted in pink is excepted under section 552.130 of the Government Code. Section 552.130 provides in relevant part:

(a) Information is excepted from the requirement of Section 552.021 if the information relates to:

(1) a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state; [or]

(2) a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state[.]

Thus, we agree that the license plate number and the vehicle identification number you have highlighted in pink are subject to section 552.130. We note, however, that information protected under section 552.130 is intended to protect a person's privacy. Therefore, under section 552.023 of the Government Code, a person who is the subject of the information or the person's authorized representative has a special right of access to such information. Accordingly, the requestor here has a special right of access to his license plate number and vehicle identification number, which you have highlighted in pink. The department must therefore release the information you have highlighted in pink to the requestor.

To summarize, we conclude that: (1) with the exception of the intoxilyzer test results, the department may withhold the information you have highlighted in orange under section 552.108(a)(1); and (2) the department must release the information you have highlighted in pink to the requestor.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, within 10 calendar days of this ruling,

the governmental body will do one of the following three things: 1) release the public records; 2) notify the requestor of the exact day, time, and place that copies of the records will be provided or that the records can be inspected; or 3) notify the requestor of the governmental body's intent to challenge this letter ruling in court. If the governmental body fails to do one of these three things within 10 calendar days of this ruling, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at 877/673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Department of Public Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.--Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Texas Building and Procurement Commission at 512/475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Eckerle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KAE/seg

Ref: ID# 158748

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Mr. Norris Helms  
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(w/o enclosures)