



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 14, 2004

Ms. Meredith Ladd
Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P.
1717 Main Street, Suite 4300
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2004-4803

Dear Ms. Ladd:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 203519.

The City of McKinney (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to individuals who resided at a specified address for a certain period of time. You claim that the requested information, or portions thereof, is excepted from disclosure pursuant to sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and have reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108 of the Government Code provides in pertinent part:

(a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime... if:

...

(2) it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication[.]

Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body that claims an exception to disclosure under section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable

to the information at issue. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977); Open Records Decision No. 434 at 2-3 (1986). A governmental body claiming that information requested of it is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate that the information relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. You indicate that the submitted information is associated with a criminal investigation that has been closed. Based on your representation and our review of the submitted information, we agree that section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable in this instance.

We note, however, that basic information, which is normally found on the front page of an offense report, is generally considered public and not excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(c). *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *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); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*, to include detailed description of offense). Thus, with the exception of basic information that must generally be released from the submitted information, the city may withhold the submitted information pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

However, you also claim that a portion of the basic information is excepted from disclosure pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code.¹ Chapter 772 authorizes the development of local emergency communications districts. Sections 772.118, 772.218, and 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code apply only to an emergency 9-1-1 district established in accordance with chapter 772. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). These statutes make confidential the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers that are furnished by a service supplier. *See id.* at 2. Section 772.118 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than two million. Section 772.218 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 860,000. Section 772.318 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 20,000.

We assume that any emergency 9-1-1 district associated with the submitted information was established in accordance with chapter 772. We understand you to assert that the submitted information may not be released to the extent it contains the originating address of a 9-1-1 caller because such information is confidential under chapter 772. Thus, to the extent that the originating address of any 9-1-1 caller within the basic information was supplied by a 9-1-1 service supplier to a 9-1-1 district that is subject to section 772.118, 772.218,

¹ Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information that is protected from disclosure by other statutes.

or 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code, it must be withheld pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code as information deemed confidential by statute.

In summary, with the exception of basic information that must generally be released from the submitted information, the city may withhold the submitted information pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. To the extent the originating address of a 9-1-1 caller contained within the basic information was supplied by a 9-1-1 service supplier to a 9-1-1 district that is subject to section 772.118, 772.218, or 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code, it must be withheld pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code.

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 Dep't of Pub. 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. We note that a third party may challenge this ruling by filing suit seeking to withhold information from a requestor. Gov't Code § 552.325. 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,



Ronald J. Bounds
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RJB/krl

Ref: ID# 203519

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Ms. Wanda Houston
Property Manager
Park On the Creek Apartments
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(w/o enclosures)