



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 14, 2009

Ms. Pamela Smith  
Assistant General Counsel  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

OR2009-06534

Dear Ms. Smith:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 343132 (DPS RFR 09-0410ag).

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the "department") received a request for information on any Texas Crime Information Center ("TCIC") checks performed on the requestor for the past three months. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information. We have also considered comments submitted by the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released).

Section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code excepts from required public disclosure "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution . . . if . . . release of the internal record or notation would interfere with law enforcement or prosecution[.]" *Id.* § 552.108(b)(1). A governmental body that claims an exception to disclosure under

section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why this section is applicable to the information that the governmental body seeks to withhold. *See id.* § 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). This office has concluded that section 552.108(b)(1) protects certain kinds of information, the disclosure of which might compromise the security or operations of a law enforcement agency. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 531 (1989) (detailed guidelines regarding police department's use of force policy), 508 (1988) (information relating to future transfers of prisoners), 413 (1984) (sketch showing security measures for forthcoming execution), 211 (1978) (information relating to undercover narcotics investigations), 143 (1977) (log revealing use of electronic eavesdropping equipment).

You inform us that the submitted information consists of a log of inquiries made via the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System ("TLETS"), which provides local access to information maintained by the TCIC and the National Crime Information Center. You explain that the TLETS logs are created and maintained by the department for purposes of monitoring use of the system and assuring that unauthorized individuals do not have access to confidential law enforcement information available through TLETS. You assert that the release of TLETS logs "could easily give a criminal sufficient warning to evade detection and/or prosecution." You state that "a records check might be run well before the time an individual is officially or openly identified as a suspect in a case and before the individual has even been contacted by police." You contend that "an individual engaged in illegal activity who can find out whether any law enforcement agency has run checks on him/her . . . can obviously gain valuable knowledge in terms of concealing his/her activities from law enforcement scrutiny." Thus, you assert that release of the submitted information would interfere with law enforcement activities. Based on your arguments and the information that you have provided, we agree that release of the submitted information would interfere with law enforcement. We therefore conclude that the department may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code.

We also understand you to request that this office issue a previous determination that would permit the department to withhold law enforcement inquiries on the TLETS system under section 552.108 from public disclosure without the need of requesting a ruling from us. We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, 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 letter ruling is limited to the particular information 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 information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and

responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\\_orl.php](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Ream  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

LER/dls

Ref: ID# 343132

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)