



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

January 27, 2010

Ms. Evelyn Njuguna  
Assistant City Attorney  
Legal Department  
City of Houston  
P.O. Box 368  
Houston, Texas 77001-0368

OR2010-01308

Dear Ms. Njuguna:

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# 373023.

The Houston Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to a specified incident. You state that some responsive information will be provided to the requestor. You claim that the remaining requested 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 first note that the submitted information includes the results of an analysis of a breath specimen. Section 724.018 of the Transportation Code provides that on the request of the person who has given a specimen at the request of a peace officer, full information concerning the analysis of the specimen must be made available to that person or the person's attorney. Transp. Code § 724.018. As a general rule, the exceptions to disclosure found in the Act do not apply to information that other statutes make public. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 623 at 3 (1994), 525 at 3 (1989). In this instance, the requestor is the person who provided the breath specimen at the request of a peace officer. Therefore, the submitted results of the analysis of the breath specimen must be released to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code.

You claim that the remaining information is excepted from public disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. Section 552.108(a)(2) excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate that the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e) (governmental body must provide comments explaining

why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You explain that the remaining information relates to a closed investigation that did not result in a conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude that section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the remaining information.

However, as you acknowledge, section 552.108 of the Government Code does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 552.108(c). 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); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Thus, with the exception of basic information, which you indicate has been released, the department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(2).

In summary, pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code, the department must release the submitted results of the analysis of the breath specimen to the requestor. With the exception of basic information, which you indicate has been released, the department may withhold the remaining submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

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, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Cindy Nettles  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CN/jb

Ref: ID# 373023

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)