



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 30, 2010

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

OR2010-09676

Dear Ms. Chang:

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# 390136.

The Houston Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to the requestor and information pertaining to three named complainants. You state the department will release basic information. *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(c) (basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime is not excepted under section 552.108); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). You claim 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.

You claim that Exhibit 4 is excepted under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. Section 552.108(a)(1) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). Generally, a governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(1) must reasonably explain how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state that the Exhibit 4 relates to an inactive criminal investigation that is pending additional leads, but that the statute of limitations has not run and "the investigation may be reactivated once additional leads are developed." Based upon your representation and our review, we

conclude that release of Exhibit 4 would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See 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) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases). Thus, the department may withhold Exhibit 4 under section 552.108(a)(1).

Next, you claim that Exhibits 2, 3, 5, and 6 are excepted under section 552.108(a)(2), which excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. *See 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)(1)(A) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state that Exhibits 2, 3, 5, and 6 pertain to criminal investigations by the department that have been closed and that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representations and our review, we find that section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to Exhibits 2, 3, 5, and 6. Thus, the department may withhold Exhibits 2, 3, 5, and 6 under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

In summary, the department may withhold Exhibit 4 under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code and Exhibits 2, 3, 5, and 6 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, 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,


Laura Ream Lemus
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LRL/jb

Ref: ID# 390136

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)