



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

September 27, 2010

Ms. Jordan Hale  
Assistant Attorney General  
Assistant Public Information Coordinator  
General Counsel Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

OR2010-14672

Dear Ms. Hale:

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# 397682 (PIR No. 10-28637).

The Office of the Attorney General (the "OAG") received a request for information concerning the properties with the requestor named as the real estate appraiser. The OAG asserts the information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the OAG's claimed exception to disclosure and have reviewed the submitted sample of information.<sup>1</sup> We have also received and considered the requestor's comments. See Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit written comments regarding availability of requested information).

Section 552.108(a) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." *Id.* § 552.108(a)(1). Generally, a governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(1) must reasonably explain how and why 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).

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<sup>1</sup>We assume the representative sample of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

The OAG argues section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable because the information relates to a pending criminal investigation conducted by its Criminal Investigations Division. Based upon this representation, we conclude release of the information 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 information is subject to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co.* Thus, with the exception of the basic front page offense and arrest information, the OAG may withhold the information from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(1).

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,



Yen-Ha Le  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

YHL/sdk

Ref: ID# 397682

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)