



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

December 8, 2010

Ms. Jerris Penrod Mapes  
Assistant City Attorney  
Killeen Police Department  
3304 Community Boulevard  
Killeen, Texas 76542

OR2010-18408

Dear Ms. Mapes:

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# 402559 (Killeen ID# W004298).

The Killeen Police Department (the "department") received a request for all reports or records of domestic violence disturbances at a specified address from 2009 to 2010. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim.

We must address the department's procedural obligations under the Act. Section 552.301 of the Government Code prescribes the procedures that a governmental body must follow in asking this office to decide whether requested information is excepted from public disclosure. Pursuant to section 552.301(e), a governmental body is required to submit to this office within fifteen business days of receiving an open records request (1) general written comments stating the reasons why the stated exceptions apply that would allow the information to be withheld, (2) a copy of the written request for information, (3) a signed statement or sufficient evidence showing the date the governmental body received the written request, and (4) a copy of the specific information requested or representative samples, labeled to indicate which exceptions apply to which parts of the documents. Gov't Code § 552.301(e)(1)(A)-(D). As of this date, you have not submitted to this office a copy or representative sample of the information requested or written comments stating the reasons your claimed exceptions apply to the requested information. Accordingly, we conclude the department failed to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301.

Pursuant to section 552.302 of the Government Code, a governmental body's failure to submit to this office the information required in section 552.301(e) results in the legal presumption that the information is public and must be released. Information that is presumed public must be released unless a governmental body demonstrates a compelling

reason to withhold the information to overcome this presumption. *See Hancock v. State Bd. of Ins.*, 797 S.W.2d 379, 381-82 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ) (governmental body must make compelling demonstration to overcome presumption of openness pursuant to statutory predecessor to section 552.302); Open Records Decision No. 319 (1982). Normally, a compelling reason to withhold information exists where some other source of law makes the information confidential or where third-party interests are at stake. *See* Open Records Decision No. 150 at 2 (1977). You assert the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. In failing to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301, you have waived your claim under section 552.108. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 177 (1977) (statutory predecessor to section 552.108 subject to waiver); 522 (1989) (discretionary exceptions in general). Accordingly, the department may not withhold the requested information under section 552.108. We therefore conclude the city must release the requested information to the requestor.

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,



Vanessa Burgess  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

VB/dls

Ref: ID# 402559

No submitted documents

c: Requestor