



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 7, 2011

Ms. T. Trisha Dang
Assistant City Attorney
City of Corpus Christi
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2011-01799

Dear Ms. Dang:

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# 412364.

The Corpus Christi Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108, 552.130, and 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information. We have also received and considered comments from the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released).

Initially, we note that the submitted documents include a CR-3 crash report that was completed pursuant to chapter 550 of the Transportation Code. *See* Transp. Code § 550.064 (officer's accident report). Section 550.065(b) of the Transportation Code states that except as provided by subsection (c) or subsection (e), accident reports are privileged and confidential. *See id.* § 550.065. Section 550.065(c)(4) provides for the release of accident reports to a person who provides two of the following three items of information: (1) the date of the accident; (2) the name of any person involved in the accident; and (3) the specific location of the accident. *See id.* § 550.065(c)(4). Under this provision, the Texas Department of Transportation or another governmental entity is required to release a copy of an accident report to a person who provides the agency with two or more of the items of information specified by the statute. *Id.* In this instance, the requestor has not provided the

department with any of the required pieces of information. Thus, the department must withhold the CR-3 accident report from the requestor under section 550.065(b) of the Transportation Code.

Next, we consider your argument against the disclosure of the remaining information. Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code exempts 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); see also *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state that the remaining information pertains to a criminal investigation by the department that has been concluded and that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation and our review, we find that section 552.108(a)(2) is generally applicable to the remaining information.

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. 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 (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Thus, with the exception of basic information, which must be released, the department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(2).¹

In summary, the department must withhold the submitted CR-3 report pursuant to section 550.065 of the Transportation Code. With the exception of basic information, which must be released, the department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.²

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,

¹We note that you have the discretion to release all or part of the remaining information that is not otherwise confidential by law. Gov't Code § 552.007.

²As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.

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,



Paige Lay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PL/vb

Ref: ID# 412364

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)