



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 5, 2011

Ms. Leticia Mendiola
Crime Records Office
McAllen Police Department
P.O. Box 220
McAllen, Texas 78505-0220

OR2011-14426

Dear Ms. Mendiola:

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# 436511.

The McAllen Police Department (the "department") received a request for specified cases. You indicate the department is releasing basic information to the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(c) (stating basic information about arrested person, arrest, or crime may not be withheld under section 552.108); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). You claim that 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.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code 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 inform us that case number 2011-074522 relates to an ongoing criminal investigation. Based upon your representation and our review, we conclude that the release of case number 2011-074522 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) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Thus, the department may withhold case number 2011-074522 under section 552.108(a)(1).

Section 552.108(a)(2) 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 case number 2011-083152 pertains to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation and our review, we find that the department may withhold case number 2011-083152 under section 552.108(a)(2).

In summary, the department may withhold case number 2011-074522 under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code and case number 2011-083152 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,



Tamara H. Holland
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

THH/ag

Ref: ID# 436511

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)