



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

December 28, 2011

Mr. Ronald J. Bounds
Assistant City Attorney
City of Corpus Christi
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2011-19048

Dear Mr. Bounds:

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# 440719.

The City of Corpus Christi Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified police report. You state the department will provide some of the requested information to the requestor.¹ You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

You seek to withhold the undercover officers' names and identification numbers you have marked under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code. Section 552.108(c), however, states 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), and includes the names of the investigating officers. *See Open*

¹We note the department has redacted a Texas license plate number pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009), a previous determination to all governmental bodies, which authorizes withholding of ten categories of information, including Texas license plate numbers under section 552.130 of the Government Code, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). In this instance, the undercover officers whose information you have marked were investigating officers involved in the incident at issue in the report. Thus, the department may not withhold the officers' information under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.152 of the Government Code provides:

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from [required public disclosure] if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm.

Gov't Code § 552.152. You indicate the release of the undercover officers' names and identification numbers would subject the officers to substantial threats of physical harm. Therefore, we find you have demonstrated the applicability of section 552.152 to the marked information. Accordingly, we conclude the department must withhold the officers' information you have marked under section 552.152 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining information.

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,



Amy L.S. Shipp
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ALS/ag

Ref: ID #440719

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)