ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

GREG ABBOTT

January 6, 2012

Mr. B. Chase Griffith
Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P.
740 East Campbell Road, Suite 800
Richardson, Texas 75081

OR2012-00314

Dear Mr. Griffith:

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# 441704 (McKinney ORR #10-4508).

The City of McKinney (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for a specified arrest report. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. Fam. Code § 51.03(a), (b) (defining "delinquent conduct" and "conduct indicating a need for supervision"). Section 58.007 provides in relevant part:

> (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child and information stored, by electronic means or otherwise, concerning the child from which a record or file could be generated may not be disclosed to the public and shall be:

> (1) if maintained on paper or microfilm, kept separate from adult files and records;
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> (2) if maintained electronically in the same computer system as records or files relating to adults, be accessible under controls that are separate and distinct from controls to access electronic data concerning adults; and
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> (3) maintained on a local basis only and not sent to a central state or federal depository, except as provided by Subchapters B, D, and E.
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> . . .
>
> (e) Law enforcement records and files concerning a child may be inspected or copied by a juvenile justice agency as that term is defined by Section 58.101, a criminal justice agency as that term is defined by Section 411.082, Government Code, the child, and the child's parent or guardian.
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> . . .
>
> (j) Before a child or a child's parent or guardian may inspect or copy a record or file concerning the child under Subsection (e), the custodian of the record or file shall redact:
>
> (1) any personally identifiable information about a juvenile suspect, offender, victim, or witness who is not the child; and
>
> (2) any information that is excepted from required disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, or other law.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c), (e), (j). For purposes of section 58.007(c), a "child" is a person ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the reported conduct. *See id.* § 51.02(2). Upon review, we agree that the submitted information involves children engaged in delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Thus, the submitted report is subject to section 58.007(c). In this instance, however, the requestor is one of the juvenile offenders in the report. As such, the requestor has a right to inspect juvenile law enforcement records concerning himself pursuant to section 58.007(e) of the Family Code. *See id.* § 58.007(e). In doing so, however, the city must redact personally identifiable information concerning any other juvenile suspects, offenders, victims, or witnesses. *See id.* § 58.007(j)(1). Section 58.007(j)(2) further provides that information subject to any other exception to disclosure under the Act or other law must also be redacted. *See id.*

§ 58.007(j)(2). Accordingly, we will address your argument under section 552.108 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. 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. You state the requested information pertains to a case that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Therefore, we agree that section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable.

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). Thus, with the exception of the basic front page offense and arrest information, the city may withhold the submitted information from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. However, in releasing basic information, the city must withhold any personally identifiable information pertaining to the two juvenile arrestees who are not the requestor pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1) of the Family 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,

Kathryn R. Mattingly
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KRM/sdk

Ref: ID# 441704

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)