



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 17, 2012

Mr. Leonard V. Schneider
Liles Parker, P.L.L.C.
521 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Suite 120
Houston, Texas 77060

OR2012-07368

Dear Mr. Schneider:

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# 457818 (ORR# 12-010).

The Huntsville Police Department (the “department”), which you represent, received a request for information related to two specified cases. You state the department will release some of the requested information. You claim 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). A governmental body claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977).

You state offense report number 12002355 relates to a pending criminal case. You also state release of the information at issue would interfere with law enforcement or prosecution. Based on your representations and our review, we find release of offense report number 12002355 would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime, and we agree section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to this information. *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.*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976).

You assert the remaining submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. 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). You state the information at issue pertains to a concluded investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representations and our review, we find section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the remaining information.

We note, 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*. See 531 S.W.2d at 186-187; Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the department may withhold offense report number 12002355 under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code and the remaining submitted information 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,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 457818

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)