



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 7, 2012

Mr. David K. Walker
City Attorney
Open Records Division
Montgomery County
207 West Phillips, Suite 100
Conroe, Texas 77301

OR2012-08742

Dear Mr. Walker:

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# 455731 (ORR No. 2012-1559).

The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department (the “department”) received a request for a specified police report. You state you will release basic information as indicated in Exhibit D to the requestor.¹ See Gov’t Code § 552.108(c). You claim the remaining submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code.² 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,

¹Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. 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); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*).

²Although you also raised section 552.101 in your brief to this office, you have not submitted arguments in support of that exception; therefore, we assume you have withdrawn it. See Gov’t Code §§ 552.301, .302.

investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]” *Id.* § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body must reasonably explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state Exhibit B pertains to an active criminal investigation and release of this information would interfere with the investigation and prosecution of the offenses. *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). Therefore, the department may withhold Exhibit B under section 552.108(a)(1) 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,



Jennifer Burnett
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JB/dls

Ref: ID# 455731

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)