



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 8, 2012

Ms. Elizabeth L. White
Counsel for the City of League City
Ross, Banks, May, Cron, & Cavin, P.C.
2 Riverway, Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77056-1918

OR2012-08869

Dear Ms. White:

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# 455913 (League City PIR 1925).

The City of League City (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for police reports created on a specified date at a specified address. You claim the requested information is exempted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code exempts 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 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) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state the submitted information relates to a concluded case that did not result in a conviction or deferred

¹Although you also raise section 552.023 of the Government Code, we note section 552.023 is not an exception to disclosure under the Act. *See* Gov't Code § 552.023.

adjudication. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the submitted information.

Section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 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). *See* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information made public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the submitted information pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. In this instance, you assert some of the basic information is subject to common-law privacy and must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov’t Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668 (Tex. 1976). The type of information considered intimate or embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. This office has found that some kinds of medical information or information indicating disabilities or specific illnesses are excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 470 (1987) (illness from severe emotional and job-related stress), 455 (1987) (prescription drugs, illnesses, operations, and physical handicaps).

Upon review, we find the information we have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public concern. Therefore, in releasing basic information, the city must withhold the information we have marked pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The city has failed to demonstrate, however, how the remaining basic information is highly intimate or embarrassing and not of legitimate public interest. Therefore, the city may not withhold any portion of the remaining basic information it has marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.

In summary, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the submitted information pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. In releasing basic information, the city must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

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 Luttrall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JL/som

Ref: ID# 455913

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)