



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 24, 2012

Mr. Steven Haas
Records Coordinator
City of Burleson
225 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028

OR2012-15211

Dear Mr. Haas:

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# 470198 (City of Burleson No. 659).

The City of Burleson (the "city") received a request for records pertaining to a specified incident. You claim that 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 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 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 the submitted information is related to a pending criminal case with the Johnson County Attorney's Office and release of the information will interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. Based on your representations, we conclude section 552.108(a)(1) is generally applicable to the submitted 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. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976).

We note, however, that the information at issue includes a citation. Because a copy of a citation is provided to an individual who is cited, we find that release of the submitted citation will not interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). We therefore conclude that the submitted citation may not be withheld under section 552.108(a)(1).

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime." *Id.* § 552.108(c). Section 552.108(c) refers to the basic front-page information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-88. The city must release basic offense and arrest information, including a detailed description of the offense, even if the information does not literally appear on the front page of an offense or arrest report. *See* Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*).

Lastly, we note that the citation contains driver's license information. Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state, another state, or country. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1). We have marked the driver's license information and the city must withhold this information under section 552.130.¹

In summary, with the exception of the marked driver's license information, which must be withheld under section 552.130(a)(1) of the Government Code, the city must release the citation. Also, with the exception of basic information under section 552.108(c) of the Government Code, the city may withhold the remaining information 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

¹ This office will raise section 552.130 on behalf of the governmental body, as this exception is mandatory and may not be waived. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.007, .352; Open Records Decision No. 674 at 3 n. 4 (2001) (mandatory exceptions).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thana Hussaini', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thana Hussaini
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TH/sdk

Ref: ID# 470198

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)