



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 11, 2013

Ms. Rachel L. Lindsay
Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P.
740 East Campbell Road, Suite 800
Richardson, Texas 75081

OR2013-02355

Dear Ms. Lindsay:

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# 478839.

The Little Elm Police Department (the "department"), which you represent, received a request for (1) information related to the requestor's address during a specified time period, (2) information related to Little Elm High School and four named individuals, and (3) a specified arrest report. You claim the requested 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. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes. You raise section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007 of the Family Code for the submitted information. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007(c), which provides as follows:

(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;

(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

(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.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c). For purposes of section 58.007(c), a “child” is defined as a person ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the reported conduct. *Id.* §§ 51.02(2)(A), .03 (defining “delinquent conduct” and “conduct indicating a need for supervision” for purposes of section 58.007).

Upon review, we find some of the submitted information involves delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Further, it does not appear that any of the exceptions in section 58.007 apply to this information. Therefore, the information we have marked is confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code, and the department must withhold the marked information under section 552.101 of the Government Code. The remaining information, however, does not identify a juvenile suspect or offender for purposes of section 58.007. Accordingly, we find you have not demonstrated the applicability of section 58.007(c) of the Family Code to the remaining information. Consequently, the department may not withhold the remaining information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007 of the Family Code.

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 release of the remaining information would interfere with an open and pending criminal case. Based on your representation, we find release of the information at issue would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *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 present in active cases), *writ ref’d n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976).

We note 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). Section 552.108(c) refers

to the basic front-page offense and arrest information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle* and includes an identification and description of the complainant and a detailed description of the offense. See 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Accordingly, with the exception of basic information, the department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. With the exception of basic information, which must be released, the department 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 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# 478839

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)