



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 1, 2013

Mr. Timothy V. Molnes
Assistant City Manager
City of Copperas Cove
P.O. Drawer 1449
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

OR2013-03488

Dear Mr. Molnes:

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# 485003 (City ID# W001599-021213).

The City of Copperas Cove (the “city”) received a request for a specified arrest record. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions 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 relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based on this representation, 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 the submitted information includes a citation. Because a copy of the citation is provided to the person who is the subject of the citation, we find release of the citation will not interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. See Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). Therefore, the city may not withhold the citation, which we have marked for release, under section 552.108.

We also note 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 offense and arrest information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. See 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; see also Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). We note basic information does not include motor vehicle record information encompassed by section 552.130 of the Government Code. See ORD 127 at 3-4. Therefore, with the exception of the citation and basic information, the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.¹

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country, is excepted from public release. See Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1). The city must withhold the driver's license information we have marked in the citation under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, with the exception of the citation and basic information, the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The city must withhold the driver's license information we have marked in the citation under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information.

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

¹We note basic information includes an arrested person's social security number. Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act. The requestor has a right, however, to his own social security number. See generally Gov't Code § 552.023(b) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates, or that person's representative, solely on grounds that information is considered confidential by privacy principles).

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,



Sean Nottingham
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SN/tch

Ref: ID# 485003

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)