



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 19, 2013

Ms. Cheryl Elliott Thornton
Assistant County Attorney
Harris County Attorney's Office
1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2013-06431

Dear Ms. Thornton:

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# 484610 (CAO File No. 13PIA0072).

The Harris County Constable Precinct 5 (the "constable's office") received a request for the personnel file of a named officer, excluding home addresses, home telephone numbers, social security numbers, family member information, driver's license numbers, and license plate numbers. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.102, 552.108, 552.117, and 552.1175 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially we note the requestor specifically excludes home addresses, home telephone numbers, social security numbers, family member information, driver's license numbers, and license plate numbers from her request for information. Therefore, those types of information are not responsive to the present request for information. This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request, and the constable's office need not release such information in response to this request.

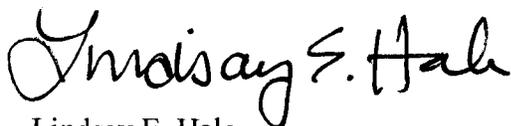
Section 552.108(a) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental

body claiming section 552.108(a)(1) must reasonably explain how and why release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state, and submit an affidavit from a representative of the constable's office explaining, the submitted information relates to a specific pending criminal investigation, and release of the information at issue would interfere with the investigation or prosecution of crime. Based upon these representations and our review, we conclude release of the information at issue would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime, and the constable's office may withhold the responsive information under section 552.108(a)(1). *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). As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.

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,



Lindsay E. Hale
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LEH/tch

Ref: ID# 484610

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)