



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

April 29, 2013

Mr. Charles H. Weir  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of San Antonio  
P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas 78283

OR2013-07044

Dear Mr. Weir:

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# 487984 (COSA File No. W013728).

The City of San Antonio (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to two assaults involving the requestor. You claim 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.

Initially, we note the city has only submitted information pertaining to one assault. Thus, to the extent any additional responsive information existed when the present request was received, we assume it has been released. If such information has not been released, then it must be released at this time. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301(a), .302; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body concludes that no exceptions apply to requested information, it must release information as soon as possible).

Next, we must address the city's obligations under section 552.301 of the Government Code, which prescribes the procedures a governmental body must follow in asking this office to decide whether requested information is excepted from public disclosure. Pursuant to section 552.301(b), a governmental body must ask for a decision from this office and state the exceptions that apply within ten business days of receiving the written request. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b). The city received the request for information on

February 28, 2013. You do not inform us the city was closed for business any days between February 28, 2013 and March 14, 2013. Accordingly, you were required to request a decision from our office by March 14, 2013. However, the envelope in which the city requested a ruling from our office was postmarked March 15, 2013. *See id.* § 552.308(a)(1) (describing rules for calculating submission dates of documents sent via first class United States mail, common or contract carrier, or interagency mail). Thus, we conclude the city failed to comply with the procedural requirements mandated by section 552.301 of the Government Code.

Pursuant to section 552.302 of the Government Code, a governmental body's failure to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301 results in the legal presumption that the requested information is public and must be released unless there is a compelling reason to withhold the information from disclosure. *See id.* § 552.302; *Simmons v. Kuzmich*, 166 S.W.3d 342 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2005, no pet.); *Hancock v. State Bd. of Ins.*, 797 S.W.2d 379, 381-82 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 630 (1994). Generally, a governmental body may demonstrate a compelling reason to withhold information by showing that the information is made confidential by another source of law or affects third party interests. *See* ORD 630. Although you raise section 552.108 of the Government Code, it is a discretionary exception to disclosure that protects a governmental body's interests and may be waived; as such, it does not constitute a compelling reason to withhold information for purposes of section 552.302. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 663 at 5 (1999) (waiver of discretionary exceptions), 177 at 3 (1977) (statutory predecessor to Gov't Code § 552.108 subject to waiver). In failing to comply with section 552.301, the city has waived its claim under section 552.108 and may not withhold the requested information on that basis. However, we note the submitted documents contain information subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> Because section 552.130 is a mandatory exception, we will consider it notwithstanding the city's violation of section 552.301.

Section 552.130(a)(1) of the Government Code provides that information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by any agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1). Therefore, the city must withhold the driver's license information we have marked under

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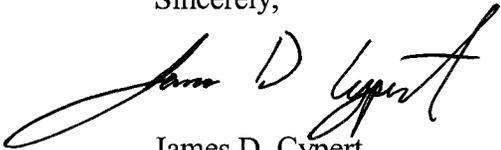
<sup>1</sup>The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception, such as section 552.130, on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

section 552.130(a)(1) of the Government Code.<sup>2</sup> The city must release the remaining information.<sup>3</sup>

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](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,



James D. Cypert  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JDC/ac

Ref: ID# 487984

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>2</sup>We note this requestor has a special right of access under section 552.023 of the Government Code to some of the information being released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.023(a). Therefore, if the city receives another request for this information from a person who does not have a special right of access, the city should submit this same information and request another decision from this office. *See id.* §§ 552.301(a), .302.

<sup>3</sup>We note the information being released contains a 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. Gov't Code § 552.147(b).