



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 21, 2013

Ms. Michelle L. Villarreal
Assistant City Attorney
City of Waco
P.O. Box 2570
Waco, Texas 76702-2570

OR2013-14576

Dear Ms. Villarreal:

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# 501399 (LGL 13-535).

The City of Waco (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You indicate that you have released some information. You also indicate the city will withhold social security numbers under section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.¹ You claim the some of 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(a)(1) 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 claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You represent the information you highlighted in the submitted police report pertains to an open and pending criminal case. Based on your representation and our review, we determine release of the information you highlighted 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

¹Section 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. *See* Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

(Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases). Accordingly, the city may withhold the information you highlighted pursuant to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides that information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title, or registration issued by a agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). We note section 552.130 protects personal privacy. In this instance, the requestor is one of the individuals whose motor vehicle record information you have highlighted. Thus, the requestor has a right of access to his own motor vehicle record information and the city may not withhold this information under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023(b) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates, solely on grounds that information is considered confidential by privacy principles). Accordingly, with the exception of the requestor's motor vehicle information, which must be released, the city must withhold the information you have highlighted under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city may withhold the information you have highlighted under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. With the exception of the requestor's motor vehicle information, which must be released, the city must withhold the information you have highlighted under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Paige Lay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PL/bhf

Ref: ID# 501399

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)