



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 12, 2014

Ms. P. Armstrong
Assistant City Attorney
Criminal Law and Police Section
City of Dallas
1400 South Lamar
Dallas, Texas 75215

OR2014-02594

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

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# 513812 (DPD ORR No. 2013-13417).

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified report. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, and 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

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

¹Although you do not raise section 552.130 in your brief, we understand you to raise this exception based on your markings in the submitted information.

²We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

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 information you have marked would interfere with a pending criminal investigation and prosecution. Based on your representations, we conclude section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to the marked 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 present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Therefore, the department may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(1).³

You also contend some of the remaining information, which consists of the complainant's identity, is protected by common-law privacy under section 552.101 of the Government Code. Section 552.101 excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This exception encompasses common-law privacy, which protects information that is highly intimate or embarrassing, such that its release would be highly objectionable to a person of ordinary sensibilities, and of no legitimate public interest. *See Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). In this instance, the complainant was the alleged victim of a sexual offense. Common-law privacy protects information that either identifies or tends to identify a victim of a sexual assault or other sex-related offense. *See Indus. Found.*, 540 S.W.2d at 683; Open Records Decision Nos. 393 (1983), 339 (1982). We therefore conclude the department must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

A portion of the remaining information is subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code, which 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. Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1). Upon review, we find the department must withhold the driver's license information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.⁴

In summary, the department may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The department must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The department must withhold the information we have marked

³As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure of this information.

⁴We note section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in subsection 552.130(a) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See id.* § 552.130(d), (e).

under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department 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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtm, 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,



Britni Fabian
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BF/tch

Ref: ID# 513812

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)