



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

February 27, 2014

Mr. John Ohnemiller  
First Assistant City Attorney  
City of Midland  
P.O. Box 1152  
Midland, Texas 79702-1152

OR2014-03566

Dear Mr. Ohnemiller:

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# 518257 (Midland ID# 13582).

The Midland Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You state the department has released some of the requested information. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, such as chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code, which authorizes the development of local emergency communication districts. Section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 20,000 and makes confidential the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers that are furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). You indicate the City of Midland is part of an emergency communication district that is subject to section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. You state the telephone numbers at issue in Exhibit B consist of originating telephone numbers furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier. Accordingly, the department must withhold the originating telephone numbers furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier, which you have marked in Exhibit B, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code.

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.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state that release of Exhibit C will interfere with a pending criminal prosecution. Based on this representation, we conclude that section 552.108(a)(1) is generally applicable in this instance. *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, however, that the information at issue includes a DIC-25 notice of suspension. The department provided copies of these forms to the arrestee. You have not explained how releasing this information, which has already been seen by the arrestee, would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See* Gov’t Code § 552.108(a)(1). Accordingly, the DIC-25 form may not be withheld under section 552.108.

Additionally, 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” information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-187; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). Accordingly, with the exception of the DIC-25 form and basic information, the department may withhold Exhibit C under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the originating telephone numbers furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier, which you have marked in Exhibit B, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. The department must release the remaining information in Exhibit B. With the exception of the DIC-25 form and basic information, which you state have been released, the department may withhold Exhibit C under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup>

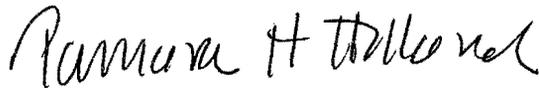
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<sup>1</sup>We note the information being released includes the requestor’s driver’s license information and social security number, to which the requestor has a right of access. *See* Gov’t Code § 552.023(a); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). 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. 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). Additionally, 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. *Id.* § 552.147(b). Accordingly, if the department receives another request for this same information from a person who does not have such a right of access, sections 552.130(c) and 552.147(b) authorize the department to redact the requestor’s driver’s license information and social security number without the necessity of requesting a decision under the Act.

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](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,



Tamara H. Holland  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

THH/dls

Ref: ID# 518257

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)