



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

June 17, 2014

Ms. Stephanie Berry
Assistant City Attorney
City of Denton
215 East McKinney
Denton, Texas 76201

OR2014-10437

Dear Ms. Berry:

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# 526173.

The City of Denton (the "city") received a request for all witness statements other than those of the requestor for a specified case number. You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the information we have marked is not responsive to the instant request for information because it does not consist of the requested witness statements. This ruling does not address the public availability of non-responsive information, and the city is not required to release non-responsive information in response to this request.

Section 552.108(a)(2) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that concluded in a final result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (providing that a governmental body must provide written comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You

state the submitted information relates to a matter that “*has not resulted* in a conviction or deferred adjudication” (emphasis added). We note, however, section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable only if the information at issue is related to a concluded criminal case that “*did not result* in conviction or deferred adjudication” (emphasis added). *See id.* § 552.108(a)(2). Thus, we find you have failed to demonstrate the applicability of section 552.108(a)(2) to the submitted information. Accordingly, the city may not withhold any of the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

We note the responsive information contains an e-mail address that is subject to section 552.137 of the Government Code.¹ Section 552.137 excepts from disclosure “an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body” unless the member of the public consents to its release or the e-mail address is of a type specifically excluded by subsection (c). *See id.* § 552.137(a)-(c). The e-mail address at issue is not within the scope of section 552.137(c). Accordingly, the city must withhold the e-mail address we have marked under section 552.137 of the Government Code, unless the owner affirmatively consents to its release. As no other exceptions have been raised for the remaining responsive information, it 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,



Megan G. Holloway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MGH/akg

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

Ref: ID# 526173

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)