



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 11, 2014

Ms. Natasha Brooks
Assistant City Attorney
City of Midland
P.O. Box 1152
Midland, Texas 79702-1152

OR2014-13869

Dear Ms. Brooks:

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# 537422 (MPD ID# 14658).

The Midland Police Department (the "department") received a request for information regarding a specified motor vehicle accident involving the requestor's client. 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 C 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 in Exhibit C 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 the information submitted as Exhibit B relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based upon this representation and our review, we find the department has demonstrated the release of the information at issue 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 (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).

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov’t Code § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, which you state has already been released, the department may withhold Exhibit B 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 in Exhibit C under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. With the exception of basic information, which you state has already been released, the department may withhold Exhibit B under section 552.108(a)(1) 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,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 537422

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)