

Law, § 2374, at 767 (J. McNaughton Rev. Ed. 1961)). The report must be of a violation of a criminal or civil statute. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 582 at 2 (1990), 515 at 4 (1988). However, individuals who provide information in the course of an investigation but do not make the initial report of the violation are not informants for the purposes of claiming the informer's privilege. The privilege excepts the informer's statement only to the extent necessary to protect that informer's identity. Open Records Decision No. 549 at 5 (1990).

You state the submitted information identifies a complainant who reported a possible violation of the city's code to the city's Property Standards Department (the "department"). You explain the department has the authority to enforce the violation at issue. You also explain the code imposes a criminal penalty for the violation at issue. You do not indicate, nor does it appear, the subject of the complaint knows the identity of the complainant. Based upon your representations and our review, we conclude the city may withhold the identifying information of the complainant, which you have marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with the common-law informer's privilege. The remaining information is not responsive to the request and the city need not release it.

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,



Britni Fabian
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BF/bhf

Ref: ID# 541106

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)