



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 17, 2014

Ms. LeAnn M. Quinn
City Secretary
City of Cedar Park
450 Cypress Creek Road
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

OR2014-18737

Dear Ms. Quinn:

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# 539820 (Cedar Park Ref. No. 14-842).

The City of Cedar Park (the "city") received a request for two specified offense reports, including any other documents pertaining to the reports. You state the city will withhold the marked social security number pursuant to section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.¹ You state you will release some of the submitted information. You claim the remaining information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.137 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."² Gov't

¹Section 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. Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

²The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception, such as section 552.101 on behalf of a governmental body. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses section 58.007 of the Family Code, which provides in pertinent part as follows:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child and information stored, by electronic means or otherwise, concerning the child from which a record or file could be generated may not be disclosed to the public and shall be:

(1) if maintained on paper or microfilm, kept separate from adult files and records;

(2) if maintained electronically in the same computer system as records or files relating to adults, be accessible under controls that are separate and distinct from controls to access electronic data concerning adults; and

(3) maintained on a local basis only and not sent to a central state or federal depository, except as provided by Subchapters B, D, and E.

...

(e) Law enforcement records and files concerning a child may be inspected or copied by a juvenile justice agency as that term is defined by Section 58.101, a criminal justice agency as that term is defined by Section 411.082, Government Code, the child, and the child's parent or guardian.

...

(j) Before a child or a child's parent or guardian may inspect or copy a record or file concerning the child under Subsection (e), the custodian of the record or file shall redact:

...

(2) any information that is excepted from required disclosure under [the Act], or other law.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c), (e), (j)(2). Section 58.007(c) is applicable to law enforcement records of juvenile delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. *See id.* § 51.03(a)-(b) (defining "delinquent conduct" and "conduct indicating a need for supervision" for purposes of section 58.007). For purposes of section 58.007(c), "child" means a person who is ten years of age or older

and under seventeen years of age at the time of the reported conduct. *See id.* § 51.02(2). The information at issue involves a child engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred after September 1, 1997. Thus, this information constitutes juvenile law enforcement records that are confidential pursuant to section 58.007(c). In this instance, however, we note the requestor is a parent of the juvenile suspect. Therefore, the information at issue may not be withheld from this requestor under section 58.007(c). *See id.* § 58.007(e) (law enforcement records concerning a child may be inspected or copied by the child's parent or guardian). However, section 58.007(j)(2) provides information subject to any other exception to disclosure under the Act or other law must be redacted. *Id.* § 58.007(j)(2). Accordingly, we will address your arguments under sections 552.108 and 552.137.

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, and provide documentation demonstrating, the information in Exhibit D relates to a pending investigation and prosecution. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude the release of the information in Exhibit D 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). Thus, the city may withhold Exhibit D under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.³

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. *See* 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 has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the information in Exhibit C pertains to a concluded investigation that did not result in a conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the information in Exhibit C. Accordingly, the city may withhold Exhibit C under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

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

Section 552.101 also encompasses common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be demonstrated. *See id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. Additionally, this office has concluded some kinds of medical information are generally highly intimate or embarrassing. *See* Open Records Decision No. 455 (1987). Upon review, we find the information we marked satisfies the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation*. Accordingly, the city must withhold the information we marked in Exhibit B under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

You state you have redacted some information pursuant to section 552.130(c) of the Government Code.⁴ We note the remaining information contains additional information subject to section 552.130. Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *See id.* § 552.130. Accordingly, the city must withhold the motor vehicle record information you have marked in Exhibit B, in addition to the information we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city may withhold the information in Exhibit D under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code and the information in Exhibit C under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. The city must withhold the information we marked in Exhibit B under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The city must withhold the marked motor vehicle record information in Exhibit B under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.⁵

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.

⁴Section 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).

⁵We note the requestor has a special right of access to some of the information being released. *See* Fam. Code § 58.007(e); Gov't Code § 552.023(a) (person or person's authorized representative has special right of access to information held by governmental body that relates to person and that is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect person's privacy interests); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individual requests information concerning himself).

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,



Lauren Dahlstein
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LMD/som

Ref: ID# 539820

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)