



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 9, 2016

Ms. Elaine Nicholson  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Austin  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767-8828

OR2016-03110

Dear Ms. Nicholson:

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# 597800 (PIR No. 822583).

The City of Austin (the "city") received a request for a list of the city's after school programs indicating which of the programs had violations, citations, or staff members who were disciplined or terminated, and information pertaining to the violations. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.148 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, you state some of the responsive information was the subject of a previous request for information, as a result of which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2015-22097 (2015). In that ruling, we determined the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. We have no indication there has been any change in the law, facts, or circumstances on which the previous ruling was based. Accordingly, we conclude the city may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2015-22097 as a previous determination and withhold or release the identical information in accordance with that ruling. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body,

and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure). We will consider your arguments for the submitted information that was not subject to the previous ruling.

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(a)(1) must reasonably explain how and why this exception is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). Section 552.108 may be invoked by the proper custodian of information relating to a pending investigation or prosecution of criminal conduct. *See* Open Records Decision No. 474 at 4-5 (1987). Where a non-law enforcement agency has custody of information that would otherwise qualify for exception under section 552.108 as information relating to the pending case of a law enforcement agency, the custodian of the records may withhold the information if it provides this office with a demonstration the information relates to the pending case and a representation from the law enforcement agency that it wishes to have the information withheld. You state the submitted information relates to a pending criminal case being investigated by the city’s police department. You also state the detective who is investigating the case at issue objects to the release of the submitted information because it relates to an ongoing investigation. Based upon your representations, we conclude release of the submitted information will 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). Accordingly, we find the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

In summary, the city may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2015-22097 as a previous determination and withhold or release the identical information in accordance with that ruling. The city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meagan J. Conway', written in a cursive style.

Meagan J. Conway  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MJC/akg

Ref: ID# 597800

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)