



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 14, 2016

Ms. Mary E. Miller  
Assistant District Attorney  
Denton County Sheriff's Office  
127 North Woodrow Lane, Suite 300  
Denton, Texas 76205

OR2016-05769

Dear Ms. Miller:

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# 601485.

The Denton County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for certain information received by the Denton County Crime Stoppers pertaining to a specified address during a specified time period. You claim 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 that other statutes make confidential, including section 414.009 of the Government Code, which provides, in pertinent part:

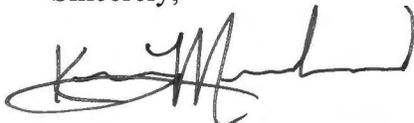
- (a) A person who is a member or employee of the [Texas Crime Stoppers Council] or who accepts a report of criminal activity on behalf of a crime stoppers organization commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly divulges to a person not employed by a law enforcement agency the content of a report of a criminal act or the identity of the person who made the report without the consent of the person who made the report.

*Id.* § 414.009. The submitted information consists of a report made to a crime stoppers organization. *See id.* § 414.001(2)(B) (defining “crime stoppers organization” as public organization operated on local or statewide level, that pays rewards to persons who report to organization information about criminal activity, and that forwards information to appropriate law enforcement agency). Accordingly, we conclude the submitted information is confidential under section 414.009 of the Government Code and must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup>

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,



Kenny Moreland  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KJM/som

Ref: ID# 601485

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup>As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure of the submitted information.