



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 15, 2016

Ms. Katie Lentz  
Open Records  
County of Williamson  
508 South Rock Street  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2016-18418

Dear Ms. Lentz:

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# 627904.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for a specified report. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, 552.130, 552.136, and 552.152 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. 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 concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state the submitted information relates to a criminal investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication.

Accordingly, section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code is applicable to the submitted information.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*, and includes the identities of investigating officers. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-87; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of the basic information, the sheriff's office may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup>

You seek to withhold the identifying information of undercover officers from the basic information under section 552.152 of the Government Code, which provides the following:

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm.

Gov't Code § 552.152. You inform us portions of the remaining basic information consist of the names and identification numbers of undercover sheriff's office deputies. You state release of this information would put the lives of these officers at risk. Based on your representation, we agree the sheriff's office must withhold the information you have marked from the basic information under section 552.152 of the Government Code.

In summary, with the exception of basic information, which must be released, the sheriff's office may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. In releasing basic information, the sheriff's office must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.152 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/>

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

[ori\\_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 that reads "Britni Ramirez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Britni Ramirez  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

BR/bhf

Ref: ID# 627904

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)