



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 19, 2016

Ms. Kelly A. Morrison
Assistant General Counsel
University of North Texas System
1155 Union Circle, #310907
Denton, Texas 76203-5017

OR2016-18835

Dear Ms. Morrison:

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# 629354 (UNT PIR No. 004238).

The University of North Texas (the "university") received a request for a specified arrest report. You state the university is making some information available to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

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 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).

¹We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

You state the information you have marked pertains to a pending criminal investigation or prosecution. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude the university has demonstrated release of the information at issue 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 present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Thus, section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code is applicable to the marked information.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Section 552.108(c) refers to the basic “front-page” information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-187; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information). We note basic information includes, among other things, a detailed description of the offense. *See* ORD 127 at 3-4. In this instance, you seek to withhold almost the entire narrative portion of the submitted report under section 552.108. The remaining portions of the report do not contain information sufficient to satisfy the requirement that a “detailed description of the offense” be released as basic information. *See id.* Accordingly, we determine the university must release a sufficient portion of the narrative to encompass detailed description of the offense to satisfy the required release of basic information pursuant to *Houston Chronicle*. Therefore, with the exception of basic information, the university may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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* Gov't Code § 552.130. We note the information the university has sought to withhold under section 552.130 belongs to the requestor. Section 552.130 protects personal privacy. Accordingly, the requestor has a right of access to his own motor vehicle record information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld from him under section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.023(a) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates or person's agent on ground that information is considered confidential by privacy principles); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves).

In summary, with the exception of basic information, the university may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The university must release the remaining information, including a sufficient portion of the narrative to encompass detailed description of the offense to satisfy the required release of basic information.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Harvey", written in a cursive style.

Jesse Harvey
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JH/bw

Ref: ID# 629354

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)