



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 22, 2015

Ms. Sylvia McClellan
Assistant City Attorney
City of Dallas
1400 South Lamar Street
Dallas, Texas 75215

Ms. Heather Silver
Assistant City Attorney
City of Dallas
1500 Marilla Street, Room 7DN
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2015-10040

Dear Ms. McClellan and Ms. Silver:

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# 564922 (DPD Request No. 2015-04238).

The City of Dallas and the Dallas Police Department (collectively the "city") received two requests from the same requestor for information related to two specified incidents.¹ You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of

¹We note this office has combined these requests, which were originally assigned identification numbers 564922 and 564965, under identification number 564922.

the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

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). You state the information you have marked pertains to pending criminal investigations. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude the 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 that are 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) is applicable to the information at issue.

Section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code excepts from required public disclosure an internal record of a law enforcement agency maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution if “release of the internal record or notation would interfere with law enforcement or prosecution.” Gov’t Code § 552.108(b)(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.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706; Open Records Decision No. 434 at 2-3 (1986). You contend release of the remaining information would interfere with ongoing criminal investigations. Based on your representations and our review, we conclude the release of the information at issue would interfere with law enforcement. Thus, we agree section 552.108(b)(1) is applicable to the remaining information.

We note, however, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or 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 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Accordingly, with the exception of basic information, which must be released, the city may withhold the information you have marked

²We 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 those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

under section 552.108(a)(1) and the remaining information under section 552.108(b)(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, 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 'Tim Neal', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Neal
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TN/bhf

Ref: ID# 564922

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)