



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 19, 2017

Mr. Cedrick Collier
Public Information Officer
Harris County Sheriff's Office
1200 Baker Street, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77002-1206

OR2017-24013

Dear Mr. Collier:

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# 687065 (ORR# 17SO8001520).

The Harris County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for report number 16108679. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.152 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

The sheriff's office seeks to withhold the identifying information of an undercover officer from the submitted information under section 552.152 of the Government Code. Section 552.152 provides,

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from [required public disclosure] 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.

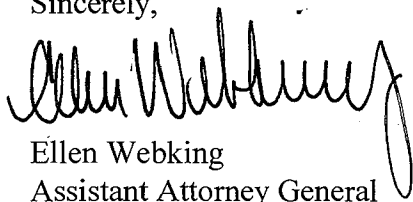
Gov't Code § 552.152. The sheriff's office represents the release of the undercover officer's identity would subject the officer to a substantial threat of physical harm. Therefore, we find section 552.152 is applicable to the identity of the undercover officer within the information

at issue. Accordingly, the sheriff's office must withhold the identifying information of the undercover officer under section 552.152 of the Government Code. The sheriff's office must release the remaining information to this requestor.¹

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,



Ellen Webking
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

EW/tdw

Ref: ID# 687065

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹We note the requestor has a right of access to some of the information being released. *See* Gov't Code § 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). Thus, if the sheriff's office receives another request for the same information from a different requestor, the sheriff's office must again seek a decision from this office.