



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 4, 2019

Mr. Nathan Brown  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of New Braunfels  
550 Landa Street  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

OR2019-03193

Dear Mr. Brown:

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# 748712 (PD Control No. 4000-18).

The New Braunfels Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident report, including dashboard camera and back seat camera recordings. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the department has not submitted information responsive to the portion of the request for information seeking dashboard camera and back seat camera recordings. To the extent any information responsive to this portion of the request existed on the date the department received the request, we assume the department has released it. If the department has not released any such information, it must do so at this time. *See Gov't Code §§ 552.301(a), .302; see also Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body concludes no exceptions apply to requested information, it must release information as soon as possible).*

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<sup>1</sup>Although you also raise section 552.101 of the Government Code, you have provided no arguments explaining how this exception is applicable to the submitted information. Therefore, we assume you no longer assert this exception. *See Gov't Code §§ 552.301(e)(1)(A), .302.*

Next, we note the submitted information includes information concerning the analysis of blood specimen given at the request of a peace officer. Section 724.018 of the Transportation Code provides that “[o]n the request of a person who has given a specimen at the request of a peace officer, *full information* concerning the analysis of the specimen shall be made available to the person or the person’s attorney.” Transp. Code § 724.018 (emphasis added). “Full information” under section 724.018 refers to more than just the results of the analysis of the specimen. Here, the requestor is the individual who submitted the specimen at the request of a peace officer. You seek to withhold this information under section 552.108 of the Government Code. However, a statutory right of access generally prevails over the exceptions to public disclosure under the Act. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 613 at 4 (1993) (exceptions in Act cannot impinge on statutory right of access to information), 451 (1986) (specific statutory right of access provisions overcome general exception to disclosure under the Act). Therefore, the department must release the information at issue, which we have marked, to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code.

Further, we note the remaining information contains court-filed documents. Section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code provides for required public disclosure of “information that is also contained in a public court record,” unless the information is made confidential under the Act or other law. Gov’t Code § 552.022(a)(17). Although the department seeks to withhold this information under section 552.108 of the Government Code, this section is a discretionary exception and does not make information confidential under the Act. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 663 at 5 (1999) (waiver of discretionary exceptions), 177 at 3 (1977) (statutory predecessor to Gov’t Code § 552.108 subject to waiver). As such, section 552.108 does not make information confidential for the purposes of section 552.022. Accordingly, the department may not withhold the court-filed documents, which we have marked, under section 552.108. As you raise no other exceptions to disclosure of the marked court-filed documents, they must be released pursuant to section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code. However, we will address your arguments against disclosure of the remaining information.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code exempts 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 that claims an exception to disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1) must explain how and why this exception is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state the remaining information relates to an active criminal prosecution and release would interfere with the prosecution of the case. Based upon your representation and our review, we find 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, the department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must release the information we have marked to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code. The department must release the marked court-filed documents pursuant to section 552.022(a)(17) of the Government Code. The department may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(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](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,



Erin Groff  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

EMG/gw

Ref: ID# 748712

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)