



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 25, 2019

Ms. Megan R. Santee
Counsel for the City of Copperas Cove
Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal & Zech, P.C.
2517 North Main Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78212-4685

OR2019-08205

Dear Ms. Santee:

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# 763982 (Killeen ID# W004934).

The City of Copperas Cove (the "city") received a request for a specified police report pertaining to a named person. You state the city will release some of the requested information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note some of the requested information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2018-17635 (2018). In Open Records Letter No. 2018-17635, we concluded, except for basic information, the city must withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. As we have no indication the law, facts, and circumstances on which the prior ruling was based have changed, the city must continue to rely on Open Records Letter No. 2018-17635 as a previous determination and withhold or release the information at issue in accordance with that ruling. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in a prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure).

Section 552.108(a)(2) 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 remaining information relates to a concluded case that did not result in a conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation, we conclude section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the information at issue.

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 Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). *See* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information made public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the information not previously ordered released in Open Records Letter No. 2018-17635 under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

In summary, the city must continue to rely on Open Records Letter No.2018-17635 as a previous determination and withhold or release the information at issue in accordance with that ruling. With the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(2) 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,



Jesse Harvey
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JH/gw

Ref: ID# 763982

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)