



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 1, 2019

Mr. James Kopp
Assistant City Attorney
City of San Antonio
315 South Santa Rosa, 6th Floor
San Antonio, Texas 78207

OR2019-18009

Dear Mr. Kopp:

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# 773013 (ORR# W259859).

The San Antonio Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to case number SAPD19048189. The department claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions the department claims and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the internal records and notations of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors when their release would interfere with law enforcement and crime prevention. Gov't Code § 552.108(b)(1); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 531 at 2 (1989) (quoting *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977)). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(b)(1) must explain how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.108(b)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706.

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

Section 552.108(b)(1) is intended to protect “information which, if released, would permit private citizens to anticipate weaknesses in a police department, avoid detection, jeopardize officer safety, and generally undermine police efforts to effectuate the laws of this State.” *See City of Fort Worth v. Cornyn*, 86 S.W.3d 320, 327 (Tex. App.—Austin 2002, no pet.). This office has concluded section 552.108(b)(1) excepts from public disclosure information relating to the security or operation of a law enforcement agency. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 531 (release of detailed use of force guidelines would unduly interfere with law enforcement), 252 (1980) (section 552.108 of the Government Code is designed to protect investigative techniques and procedures used in law enforcement), 143 (1976) (disclosure of specific operations or specialized equipment directly related to investigation or detection of crime may be excepted). Section 552.108(b)(1) is not applicable, however, to generally known policies and procedures. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 531 at 2–3 (Penal Code provisions, common law rules, and constitutional limitations on use of force not protected), 252 at 3 (governmental body failed to indicate why investigative procedures and techniques requested were any different from those commonly known).

In Open Records Decision No. 506 (1988), this office determined the statutory predecessor to section 552.108(b) excepted from disclosure “cellular mobile phone numbers assigned to county officials and employees with specific law enforcement responsibilities.” ORD 506 at 2. We noted the purpose of the cellular telephones was to ensure immediate access to individuals with specific law enforcement responsibilities and public access to these numbers could interfere with that purpose. *Id.* The department indicates the cellular telephone numbers of peace officers it marked are used to communicate for law enforcement purposes. The department asserts release of this information would interfere with law enforcement. Based on these representations and our review, we conclude the department may withhold the peace officers’ cellular telephone numbers it marked under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code. However, we find the department has not demonstrated release of any of the remaining information it marked would interfere with law enforcement or crime prevention. Accordingly, the department may not withhold any of the remaining information at issue under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov’t Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 of the Government Code encompasses chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code, which authorizes the development of local emergency communication districts. Section 772.218 of the Health and Safety Code is applicable to emergency 9-1-1 districts established in accordance with chapter 772. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). This section makes the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers furnished by a service supplier confidential. *Id.* at 2. Section 772.218 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 1.5 million. The department states it is part of an emergency communication district established under section 772.218 of the Health and Safety Code. Upon review, we conclude the department must withhold the telephone number in the submitted audio

recording under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.218 of the Health and Safety Code if the number consists of the originating telephone number furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier. If the information at issue does not consist of the originating telephone number provided by a 9-1-1 service supplier, it may not be withheld under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 772.218.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. Types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court are delineated in *Industrial Foundation*. *Id.* at 683. This office has found personal financial information not relating to a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 545 (1990) (common-law privacy protects mortgage payments, assets, bills, and credit history), 523 (1989) (common-law privacy protects credit reports, financial statements, and other personal financial information). Upon review, we find some of the remaining information, which we have marked, satisfies the standard articulated by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation*. Therefore, the department must withhold the information we marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

We note some of the remaining information is subject to section 552.130 of the Government Code.² Section 552.130 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 section 552.130 protects personal privacy. Accordingly, the requestor has a right of access to her client's motor vehicle record information under section 552.023 of the Government Code and it may not be withheld from her 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). Accordingly, with the exception of any motor vehicle record information belonging to the requestor's client, the department must withhold the motor vehicle record information we marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

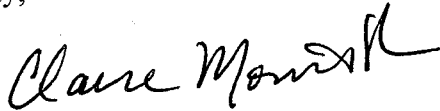
²The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

In summary, the department may withhold the peace officers' cellular telephone numbers it marked under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code. The department must withhold the telephone number in the submitted audio recording under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.218 of the Health and Safety Code if the number consists of the originating telephone number furnished by a 9-1-1 service supplier. The department must withhold the information we marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. With the exception of any motor vehicle record information belonging to the requestor's client, the department must withhold the motor vehicle record information we marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must release the remaining 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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/jxd

Ref: ID# 773013

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)