



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 30, 2019

Mr. Joseph J. Gorfida, Jr.
Assistant City Attorney
City of Richardson
P. O. Box 831078
Richardson, Texas 75083-1078

OR2019-20828

Dear Mr. Gorfida:

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# 783382 (ORR P001875).

The City of Richardson (the "city") received a request for all information pertaining to a specified report. You state you have released some of the submitted information to the requestor. You claim the remaining submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.103 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the submitted documents contain information pertaining to the analysis of a blood specimen obtained by 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). In this instance, the requestor is the person who gave the blood specimen at the request of a peace officer. Although you seek to withhold the information at issue under sections 552.103 and 552.108 of the Government Code, a specific statutory right of access provision prevails over general exceptions to disclosure under the Act. *See* Open Records Decision No. 451 at 4 (1986) (specific statutory right of access provisions overcome general exceptions to disclosure under statutory predecessor to Act). Therefore, the city must release the information at issue, which we have marked, to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code.

Section 552.108 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 must reasonably explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state the remaining information at issue in Exhibit C relates to an active and pending criminal case. Based on your representations, we conclude release of the remaining information in Exhibit C 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). Therefore, we find the city may withhold the remaining information in Exhibit C under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.¹

In summary, the city must release the information we have marked to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code. The city may withhold the remaining information in Exhibit C 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, 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/jxd

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure of this information.

Ref: ID# 783382

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)