



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 12, 2019

Ms. Linda Pemberton  
Paralegal  
City of Killeen  
P.O. Box 1329  
Killeen, Texas 76540-1329

OR2019-25538

Dear Ms. Pemberton:

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# 785444 (Reference No. W029149).

The City of Killeen (the "city") received a request for the personnel records of a named former city employee, including information pertaining to a specified investigation and termination of the named former city employee. You state the city released some information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the information at issue relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(2), .301(e)(1)(A). You assert report numbers 05-006815 and 17-004985 relate to criminal investigations that concluded in results other than convictions or deferred

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<sup>1</sup>Although you also raise section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy for the information at issue, you provide no arguments explaining how this doctrine is applicable to the information at issue. Therefore, we assume you no longer assert this doctrine. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301, .302.

adjudications. Based upon your representations, we conclude section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the information at issue.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure “basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime.” *Id.* § 552.108(c). Section 552.108(c) refers to the basic 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 considered to be basic information). Accordingly, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold report numbers 05-006815 and 17-004985 under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov’t Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as chapter 411 of the Government Code, which makes confidential criminal history record information (“CHRI”) generated by the National Crime Information Center or by the Texas Crime Information Center. *See id.* § 411.083(a). CHRI means “information collected about a person by a criminal justice agency that consists of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, informations, and other formal criminal charges and their dispositions.” *Id.* § 411.082(2). Title 28, part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations governs the release of CHRI obtained from the federal government or other states. *See* Open Records Decision No. 565 (1990). The federal regulations allow each state to follow its individual laws with respect to CHRI it generates. *See id.* Section 411.083 of the Government Code deems confidential CHRI the Texas Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) maintains, except DPS may disseminate this information as provided in chapter 411, subchapter F or subchapter E-1, of the Government Code. *See* Gov’t Code § 411.083(a). We understand the city is authorized to obtain CHRI from DPS. *See id.* § 411.083(b)(1). Section 411.0845 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part, the following:

(a) [DPS] shall establish an electronic clearinghouse and subscription service to provide [CHRI] to a particular person entitled to receive [CHRI] and updates to a particular record to which the person has subscribed under this subchapter.

(b) On receiving a request for [CHRI] from a person entitled to such information under this subchapter, [DPS] shall provide through the electronic clearinghouse:

(1) the [CHRI] reported to [DPS] or the Federal Bureau of Investigation [(“FBI”)] relating to the individual who is the subject of the request; or

(2) a statement that the individual who is the subject of the request does not have any [CHRI] reported to [DPS] or the [FBI].

...

(d) [DPS] shall ensure that the information described by Subsection (b) is provided only to a person otherwise entitled to obtain [CHRI] under this subchapter. Information collected under this section is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under [the Act].

*Id.* § 411.0845(a)-(b), (d). We note the confidentiality provisions that govern CHRI do not apply to active warrant information or other information relating to one's current involvement with the criminal justice system. *See id.* § 411.081(b) (police department allowed to disclose information pertaining to person's current involvement in the criminal justice system). We also note records relating to routine traffic violations are not considered criminal history information. *Cf. id.* § 411.082(2)(B) (criminal history record information does not include driving record information). Upon review, we find the information we marked consists of CHRI, portions of which were obtained through the DPS criminal history clearinghouse. Thus, we find the marked information is confidential under chapter 411 of the Government Code, and the city must withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government Code. However, we find you have not demonstrated any of the remaining information at issue consists of confidential CHRI. Therefore, the city may not withhold any of the remaining information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with chapter 411 of the Government Code.

In summary, with the exception of basic information, which must be released, the city may withhold report numbers 05-006815 and 17-004985 under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. The city must withhold the CHRI we marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with chapter 411 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information.<sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>2</sup>We note the information being released contains information to which the requestor has a right of access under section 552.023 of the Government Code. *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 city receives another request for this same information from a different requestor, the city must again seek a ruling from this office.

responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



James M. Graham  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JMG/be

Ref: ID# 785444

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)