



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 24, 2020

Ms. Katie Lentz
Open Records
Williamson County Sheriff's Office
508 South Rock Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2020-06190B

Dear Ms. Lentz:

This office issued Open Records Letter No. 2020-06190A (2020) on May 27, 2020. We have examined this ruling and determined we will correct the previously issued ruling. *See generally* Gov't Code § 552.011 (providing that Office of Attorney General may issue decision to maintain uniformity in application, operation, and interpretation of Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code). Consequently, this decision serves as the correct ruling and is a substitute for the decision issued on May 27, 2020. Your request was assigned ID# 830067.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for the current roster of deputies and all previous deputies employed during a specified time period.¹ You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.152 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

You seek to withhold the identifying information of undercover officers from the submitted information. Section 552.152 of the Government Code provides:

¹ You state the sheriff's office sought and received clarification of the request. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222(b) (providing that if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); *see also City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (holding that when governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification or narrowing of unclear or overbroad request for public information, ten-day period to request attorney general ruling is measured from date request is clarified or narrowed).

Information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to an employee or officer of the governmental body is excepted from [required public disclosure] if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm.

Gov't Code § 552.152. You inform us the information you marked identifies undercover deputies of the sheriff's office. You assert release of the deputies' identities would put their lives at risk. Therefore, we find section 552.152 is applicable to the information at issue. Accordingly, the sheriff's office must withhold the information you marked under section 552.152 of the Government Code.² The sheriff's office 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 <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,

Britni Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BR/gw

Ref: ID# 830067

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

² As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.