



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 28, 2020

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

OR2020-21673

Dear Ms. Lentz:

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# 843122.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for specified reports during a specified time period. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.152 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.152 of the Government Code provides:

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. The sheriff's office represents the release of the undercover officer's identity would subject the officer to a substantial threat of physical harm. Therefore, we find section 552.152 is applicable to the identity of the undercover officer within the information at issue. Accordingly, the sheriff's office must withhold the identifying information of the undercover officer, which you have marked, under section 552.152 of the Government Code. The sheriff's office must release the remaining information.

Finally, the sheriff's office asks this office to issue a previous determination that would permit it to withhold identifying information of undercover officers under section 552.152 of the Government Code without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office. We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, 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,

Meredith L. Coffman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MLC/rm

Ref: ID# 843122

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)