



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 2, 2020

Ms. Jessica Farrias  
Open Records Coordinator  
City of Carrollton  
P.O. Box 110535  
Carrollton, Texas 75011-0535

OR2020-22138

Dear Ms. Brown:

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# 843674 (City ID# 20147).

The City of Carrollton (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You state you released some information. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, 552.130, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(1) 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: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(1) must explain how and why the release of the information at issue would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706, 710 (Tex. 1977). The city states the information it has marked relates to a pending criminal investigation and prosecution. Based on this representation, we conclude the release of the information at issue 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, 186-87 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (delineating law enforcement interests present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976).

We note, however, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime." Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531

S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing the types of information considered to be basic information). We note basic information includes an arrestee's social security number. *See* ORD 127 at 3-4. Thus, with the exception of the basic information, the city may withhold the information you marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup>

You seek to withhold the arrestee's social security number from the basic information under section 552.147 of the Government Code. Section 552.147 of the Government Code provides "[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from" required public disclosure under the Act. Gov't Code § 552.147(a). Therefore, the city may withhold the social security number you marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

In summary, with the exception of basic information, the city may withhold the information you marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. In releasing the basic information, the city may withhold the social security number you marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code. The city 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,

Meagan Hunter  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MH/mo

Ref: ID# 843674

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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