



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 30, 2020

Ms. Amy Bass-Domel  
Open Records  
Williamson County Sheriff's Office  
508 South Rock Street  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2020-27334

Dear Ms. Bass-Domel:

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# 851082.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received two requests from the same requestor for certain information pertaining to the following five categories: (1) policies; (2) reporting guidance; (3) forms, codes, and other guidance; (4) use of force data; and (5) equipment discharge data. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note you have only submitted information responsive to the portions of the requests seeking certain information pertaining to sheriff's office policies. To the extent any additional information responsive to the requests existed on the date the sheriff's office received the requests, we assume the sheriff's office has released it. If the sheriff's office has not released any such information, it must do so at this time. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301(a), .302; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body concludes no exceptions apply to requested information, it must release information as soon as possible).

Next, we note the submitted information was the subject of previous requests for rulings, as a result of which this office issued Open Records Letter Nos. 2018-01068 (2018), 2018-20732 (2018), and 2020-21825 (2020). In Open Records Letter Nos. 2018-01068 and 2018-20732, we determined that the sheriff's office: (1) may withhold the information we marked under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code; and (2) must release the

remaining information. In Open Records Letter No. 2020-21825, we determined that the sheriff's office: (1) may rely on Open Records Letter Nos. 2018-01068 and 2018-20732 as previous determinations and withhold or release the information at issue in accordance with those rulings; (2) may withhold the information we marked under section 552.108(b)(1) of the Government Code; and (3) must release the remaining information. We understand the law, facts, and circumstances on which the prior rulings were based have not changed. Thus, the sheriff's office may continue to rely on Open Records Letter Nos. 2018-01068, 2018-20732, and 2020-21825 as previous determinations and withhold or release the submitted information in accordance with those rulings.<sup>1</sup> See Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in a prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure).

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,

Alexandra C. Burks  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

ACB/be

Ref: ID# 851082

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup> As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your arguments against disclosure of this information.