



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 22, 2020

Mr. Matthew E. Minick
Assistant County Attorney
Hardin County
P.O. Box 516
Kountze, Texas 77625

OR2020-32033

Dear Mr. Minick:

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# 859578.

The Hardin County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exceptions and reviewed the submitted information.

The sheriff's office states the submitted information was the subject of previous requests for information, as a result of which this office issued Open Records Letter Nos. 2020-09854 (2020) and 2020-18673 (2020). In Open Records Letter No. 2020-09854, we determined that, with the exception of basic information, which must be released, the sheriff's office may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. In Open Records Letter No. 2020-18673, we determined that the sheriff's office may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2020-09854 as a previous determination and withhold or release the requested information in accordance with that ruling. We have no indication the law, facts, or circumstances on which the prior rulings were based have changed. Thus, the sheriff's office may continue to rely on Open Records Letter Nos. 2020-09854 and 2020-18673 as previous determinations and withhold or release the requested information in accordance with those rulings.¹ *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 prior attorney general ruling,

¹ As we are able to make this determination, we need not address the sheriff's office's arguments against disclosure of the submitted information.

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,

Katie Stallcup
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

AKS/rm

Ref: ID# 859578

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)