



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 25, 2022

Ms. Heather Silver  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Dallas  
1400 Botham Jean Boulevard  
Dallas, Texas 75215

OR2022-15041

Dear Ms. Silver:

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# 950250 (ORR# D041928-122621).

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified offense report. You state department will redact social security numbers pursuant to section 552.147(b) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108, 552.130, and 552.136 of the Government Code.<sup>2</sup> We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact the social security number of a living person without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act. *See* Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

<sup>2</sup> We note, and you acknowledge, the department failed to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting a decision from this office. *See id.* § 552.301(b), (e). Nonetheless, third party interests can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness caused by failure to comply with section 552.301. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302; Open Records Decision No. 150 at 2 (1977). Sections 552.130 and 552.136 can also provide compelling reasons to overcome the presumption of openness. Thus, we will consider whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act, notwithstanding the department's violation of section 552.301 in requesting this decision.

<sup>3</sup> We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

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 . . . 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 requested information 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 (Tex. 1977). You state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office (the “district attorney’s office”) objects to release of the information at issue because it relates to its ongoing criminal investigation. 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 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases), *writ ref’d n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Accordingly, the department may withhold the information it marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code on behalf of the district attorney’s office.<sup>4</sup>

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator’s or driver’s license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. Gov’t Code § 552.130(a). Upon review, we find the department must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.136 of the Government Code provides, “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of [the Act], a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” Gov’t Code § 552.136(b); *see id.* § 552.136(a) (defining “access device”). We understand the department’s employee identification numbers are the same numbers used for the City of Dallas’s credit union accounts plus one additional number. Thus, the department must withhold the employee numbers it marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department may withhold the information it marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code on behalf of the district attorney’s office. The department must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department must withhold the employee numbers it marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The department 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.

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<sup>4</sup> As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

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,

Kelly McWethy  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KM/jxd

Ref: ID# 950250

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)