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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 3, 2022

Mr. David V. Overcash
Counsel for the City of Anna
Wolfe, Tidwell & McCoy, L.L.P.
2591 Dallas Parkway, Suite 300
Frisco, Texas 75034

OR2022-34157

Dear Mr. Overcash:

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# 982386 (Ref. No. W004048-081022).

The City of Anna (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident involving the requestor. The city states it will redact certain dates of birth pursuant to Open Records Letter No. 2019-14751 (2019).¹ The city states it has released some of the requested information. The city claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exceptions 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 . . . 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 this exception is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). The city states the information at issue relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based on this representation, we conclude release of the information

¹ Open Records Letter No. 2019-14751 authorizes the city to withhold dates of birth of members of the public under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy without the necessity of requesting an attorney general's decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 at 7-8 (2001).

at issue will 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, we find the city may withhold the information it marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.²

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, 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. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130. Accordingly, the city must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked, and the additional information we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the city may withhold the information it marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The city must withhold the motor vehicle record information it marked, and the additional information we have marked, under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The city must release the remaining information.³

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

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² As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

³ We note the requestor has a right of access to some of the information being released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.023(a) (governmental body may not deny access to person to whom information relates or person's agent on ground that information is considered confidential by privacy principles); Open Records Decision No. 481 at 4 (1987) (privacy theories not implicated when individuals request information concerning themselves). Thus, if the city receives another request for the same information from a different requestor, the city must again seek a decision from this office.

Ref: ID# 982386

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)