



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 21, 2013

Mr. Daniel W. Ray  
Scott, Money & Ray, P.L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 1353  
Greenville, Texas 75403-1353

OR2013-14661

Dear Mr. Ray:

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# 498801 (Sheriff's Office PIR# 13-014).

The Hunt County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office"), which you represent, received a request for the license plate number related to a named individual. The sheriff's office claims the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note some of the information you have submitted to us for review is not responsive to the request for information because it does not consist of the requested license plate number. This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request, and the sheriff's office is not required to release this information in response to this request. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed).

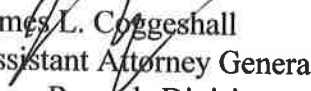
Section 552.108(a) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Generally, a governmental body claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See Gov't Code*

§§ 552.108(a)(1), (b)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state the requested license plate number relates to a pending criminal investigation. Based on this representation, we conclude the release of the requested license plate number 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). We note basic information described in *Houston Chronicle* does not include license plate numbers. *See Gov't Code* § 552.023; Open Records Decision No. 597 (1991); *Houston Chronicle*, 531 S.W.2d at 185. Therefore, the sheriff's office may withhold the requested license plate number from release under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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 [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

  
James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/tch

Ref: ID# 498801

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)