



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 20, 2015

Mr. Robert Davis
Assistant City Attorney
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

OR2015-24483

Dear Mr. Davis:

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# 588897.

The City of Austin (the "city") received a request for "the most recent contracts between franchises and drivers that are compliant with recent 'due process' changes codified in City Code Section 13-2-74." The city states it will release some of the requested information. The city does not take a position as to whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act. However, the city states, and provides documentation showing, it notified Austin Cab, Lone Star Cab Company, and Yellow Cab of the city's receipt of the request for information and of the right of each to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 at 3 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code

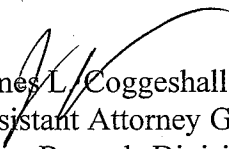
§ 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, none of the interested third parties has submitted to this office any reasons explaining why the requested information should not be released. Thus, we have no basis for concluding the submitted information constitutes proprietary information of these third parties, and the city may not withhold any portion of it on that basis. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3.

We note section 552.130 of the Government is applicable to some of the submitted information.¹ Section 552.130 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. The city must withhold the motor vehicle record information we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The city 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.

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, 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/eb

¹The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 at 2 (1987), 480 at 5 (1987).

Ref: ID# 588897

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Bertha and Mr. Ron Means
Austin Cab
1135 Gunter Street, Suite 101
Austin, Texas 78702
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Solomon Kassa
Lone Star-ABCABCO, Inc. dba Lone Star Cab Company
6721 North Lamar Boulevard, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78752
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Brian O'Toole
Yellow Cab
504 Lavaca, Suite 945
Austin, Texas 78701
(w/o enclosures)