



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 6, 2016

Mr. Ryan D. Pittman
Counsel for the City of Frisco
Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Hullett, P.C.
P.O. Box 1210
McKinney, Texas 75070-1210

OR2016-15305

Dear Mr. Pittman:

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# 618765 (Ref. No. G010809-042716).

The City of Frisco (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for specified home plans. You state the city has released some responsive information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.110 of the Government Code. You also state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Strand Systems Engineering, Inc. ("Strand Systems"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified Strand Systems of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (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 considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

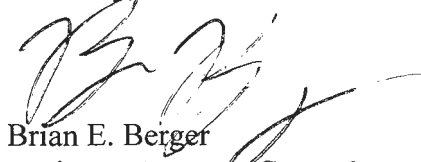
Although the city raises section 552.110 of the Government Code for the submitted information, that exception is designed to protect the interests of third parties, not the interests of a governmental body. Thus, we do not address the city's argument under section 552.110. We further note an interested 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 information relating to that party should be withheld from public

disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from Strand Systems explaining why the information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Strand Systems has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; 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, that 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. Accordingly, the city may not withhold any of the information at issue on the basis of any proprietary interest Strand Systems may have in it. As no further exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released.

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,



Brian E. Berger
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BB/akg

Ref: ID# 618765

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)