



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 25, 2017

Ms. Kristy Cole
City Secretary
City of Rockwall
385 South Goliad Street
Rockwall, Texas 75087-3737

OR2017-08741

Dear Ms. Cole:

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# 654832.

The City of Rockwall (the "city") received a request for the winning proposal related to a specified request for proposals. The city states it will release some information. Although the city takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the city informs us release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of New Edge. Accordingly, the city states, and provides documentation showing, it notified New Edge of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the information at issue should not be released.¹ *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 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) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public

¹We note, and the city acknowledges, the city did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting this decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b), (e). Nonetheless, we note third party interests can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302, .352.

disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from New Edge explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude New Edge 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, release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest New Edge may have in the information. The city must release the submitted 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,



Rahat Huq
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RSH/som

Ref: ID# 654832

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)