



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 29, 2017

Ms. Cheryl Griffin Cash
Associate General Counsel
Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Avenue
Houston, Texas 77004

OR2017-14633

Dear Ms. Cash:

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# 664232.

Texas Southern University (the "university") received a request for specified records pertaining to the university's computer system. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.139 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.139 of the Government Code provides, in part:

(a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if it is information that relates to computer network security, to restricted information under Section 2059.055 [of the Government Code], or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network.

¹We assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

(b) The following information is confidential:

(1) a computer network vulnerability report; [and]

(2) any other assessment of the extent to which data processing operations, a computer, a computer program, network, system, or system interface, or software of a governmental body or of a contractor of a governmental body is vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, including an assessment of the extent to which the governmental body's or contractor's electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use[.]

Gov't Code § 552.139(a), (b)(1)-(2). Section 2059.055 of the Government Code provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Network security information is confidential under this section if the information is:

(1) related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a state agency[.]

Id. § 2059.055(b)(1). You seek to withhold the submitted information under section 552.139. You state release of the information at issue would allow an individual to access the university's public facing address, IP address, and network security. You further state release of the information at issue could also subject the university's computer system to a destructive virus and tampering damage. Based on your representations and our review, we find the information at issue relates to computer network security, and the design, operation, or defense of the university's computer network as contemplated in section 552.139(a). Accordingly, the university must withhold the submitted information under section 552.139 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, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meredith L. Coffman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Meredith L. Coffman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MLC/tdw

Ref: ID# 664232

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)