



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 4, 2017

Ms. Ana Vieira Ayala  
Assistant General Counsel & Public Information Coordinator  
Office of General Counsel  
The University of Texas System  
210 West 7th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2017-17598

Dear Ms. Ayala:

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# 669571 (OGC# 175658).

The University of Texas at Tyler (the "university") received a request for the bid tabulation pertaining to a specified bid number. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Abacus Computers; Cescio; Cornell Systems; Dream Ranch Office Supplies; ELP Enterprises; Enhanced Laser Products; Gill Digital Services; HiEd; Nolans Office & Promotional Products; OEM Supplies; USA Datafax; and V-Quest Office Machines & Supplies. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, the university notified these third parties of the request for information and of their 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 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 to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this

letter, we have not received arguments from any of the third parties. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude any of the third parties has protected proprietary interests in any of the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)-(b); 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 university may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests any of the third parties may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the university 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](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,



Kieran Hillis  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KH/sb

Ref: ID# 669571

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

12 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)