



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 30, 2017

Mr. Trent Krienke
County for the Uvalde County Hospital Authority
Reed, Claymon, Meeker & Hargett, PLLC
5608 Parkcrest Drive, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78731

OR2017-24691

Dear Mr. Krienke:

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# 681769.

The Uvalde County Hospital Authority (the "authority"), which you represent, received a request for the purchase and management agreements of a specified facility.¹ Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of some of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of SavaSeniorCare Administrative Services, LLC. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, you notified the third party 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. *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

¹We note the authority failed to comply with the procedural requirements of section 552.301(b) of the Government Code by failing to meet its 10-business-day deadline. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b) (requiring a governmental body to ask for the attorney general's decision and to state the exceptions that apply within ten business days of receiving the written request). Nonetheless, third party interests can constitute a compelling reason sufficient to overcome the presumption of openness caused by the failure to comply with section 552.301. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302. Therefore, we will consider arguments against disclosure of the submitted information.

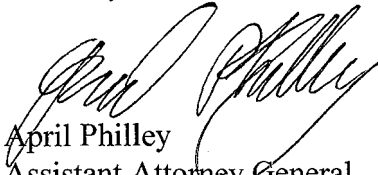
to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

We 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) of the Government Code 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 the third party explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude the third party 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 authority may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third party may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the authority 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,



April Philley
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

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²We 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.

Ref: ID# 681769

c: Requestor

Third Party