



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 18, 2017

Ms. Kristi Godden
Counsel for Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District
O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo
808 West Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2017-28700

Dear Ms. Godden:

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# 689741 (ID# E000291).

The Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for a specified bid award. Although you take no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure, you state its release may implicate the proprietary interests of 1.50 Cleaners, A-1 Dry Cleaners, and Wright Cleaners.¹ Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these third parties of the request and their right to submit arguments to this office. *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

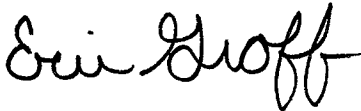
¹We note the district did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting this decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b). Nonetheless, because third party interests can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness, we will consider whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302, .352.

that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this ruling, we have not received comments from 1.50 Cleaners, A-1 Dry Cleaners, or Wright Cleaners. Thus, we have no basis to conclude any third party has a protected proprietary interest in 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 district may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third parties may have in the information. As we have received no arguments against disclosure, 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,



Erin Groff
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

EMG/sb

Ref: ID# 689741 (ID# E000291)

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

3 Third Parties
(w/o enclosures)