



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 23, 2018

Ms. Anita Crethers
Office Assistant II
Office of Procurement Services
City of Dallas
1500 Marilla Street, Room 3FN
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2018-01473

Dear Ms. Crethers:

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# 693010 (Ref. No. C008270-102517).

The City of Dallas (the "city") received a request for proposals submitted in response to two specified requests for proposals. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.104 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.104(a) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information that, if released, would give advantage to a competitor or bidder." Gov't Code § 552.104(a). The "test under section 552.104 is whether knowing another bidder's [or competitor's information] would be an advantage, not whether it would be a decisive advantage. *Boeing Co. v. Paxton*, 466 S.W.3d 831, 841 (Tex. 2015). You represent the submitted information pertains to a competitive bidding situation. You inform us the proposals at issue are still being evaluated and final contracts have not been executed. You argue release of the


¹We assume 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.

information at issue would undermine the contract negotiation process because until a final written contract is signed, negotiations with the selected bidders may fail, causing the city to select an alternate provider or issue a new request for proposals. After review of the information at issue and consideration of the arguments, we find the city has established the release of the information at issue would give advantage to a competitor or bidder. Thus, we conclude the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.104(a) 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,



Britni Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BR/sb

Ref: ID# 693010

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)