



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 21, 2018

Ms. Ann-Marie Sheely
Assistant County Attorney
Travis County Attorney's Office
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

OR2018-23538

Dear Ms. Sheely:

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# 729581 (Document ID# 610079-1).

The Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health ("Central Health") received a request for certain information pertaining to a named entity. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.104, 552.105, and 552.111 of the Government Code. You also state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Wexford Science & Technology, L.L.C. ("Wexford"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified Wexford 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 to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have considered the exceptions 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

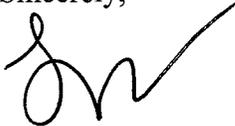
¹We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested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

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 information at issue pertains to an ongoing competitive bidding situation. In addition, you state no contract has been finalized. You assert release of the submitted information would “impair Central Health’s interests in the redevelopment of the UMCB Redevelopment Project/Brackenridge and could thwart the future redevelopment phases, resulting in a negative impact to Central Health in any future negotiation with respect to this project.” After review of the information at issue and consideration of the arguments, we find Central Health has established the release of the information at issue would give advantage to a competitor or bidder. Thus, we conclude Central Health may withhold the submitted information under section 552.104(a) of the Government Code.²

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,



Jahna Ward
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JW/mo

Ref: ID# 729581

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)

²As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the remaining arguments against disclosure.