



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 4, 2019

Mr. Trey Qualls
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
200 Texas Street, 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2019-00228

Dear Mr. Qualls:

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# 744693 (PIR# W077334).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for the city's file on a specified request for proposals. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.104 of the Government Code. Additionally, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Integer Health Technologies, LLC; Koolocal, Inc. d/b/a MediBookr ("MediBookr"); Life Account LLC d/b/a Compass Professional Health Services ("Compass"); and West Health Advocate Solutions, Inc. ("Advocate"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these third parties of the request for information and of their 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 received comments from Advocate, Compass, and MediBookr. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

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 (Tex. 2015). You represent the information pertains to a competitive bidding situation. In addition, you state the city has not awarded a contract to any of the bidders. The city explains if the contract fails, the city may have to award the contract to another bidder or start the process over again. 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.¹

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,



Kelly McWethy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KSM/som

Ref: ID# 744693

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

4 Third Parties
(w/o enclosures)

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the remaining arguments against disclosure of the submitted information.