



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 15, 2019

Ms. Lauren O'Connor
Assistant City Attorney
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

OR2019-07248

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

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# 754796 (ORR# W244361).

The City of San Antonio (the "city") received a request for information related to a specified request for proposals. The city states it is releasing some of the requested information. The city claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.104 of the Government Code. Additionally, the city states release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Southstar Fire Protection Company d/b/a Northstar Fire Protection of Texas, Inc. ("SFPC"). Accordingly, the city states, and provides documentation showing, it notified SFPC of the request for information and of the right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information 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 reviewed the submitted argument and 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). The city represents the information at issue

pertains to a competitive bidding situation in which a contract has not been awarded. In addition, the city states release of the information would cause harm and would give bidders an unfair advantage. After review of the information at issue and consideration of the arguments, we find the city has established the release of the information 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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/mo

Ref: ID# 754796

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)