



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 2, 2019

Mr. Matthew Murray  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Fort Worth  
200 Texas Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2019-08837

Dear Mr. Murray:

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# 757354 (Reference No. W079930).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for e-mail communications sent to or received by certain city employees mentioning a named entity during a defined period of time. You state you have released most of the requested information. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Avalon Correctional; Blue Shield Security & Protections, Inc.; First Response Security; LaSalle Corrections; National Security & Protective Services; Tactical Systems Network; and Texas Industrial Security, Inc. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified the interested third party 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 reviewed the submitted information.

We note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public

disclosure. See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from any of the third parties explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude the third parties have protected proprietary interests in the submitted information. See *id.* § 552.110; 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 city may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third parties may have in the information. Thus, the city must release the submitted information.

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](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,



Jahanna Ward  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JW/jxd

Ref: ID# 757354

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

7 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)