



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 30, 2019

Ms. Ana Vieira Ayala
Assistant General Counsel, Legal Expert & Public Information Coordinator
The University of Texas System
201 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2019-11391

Dear Ms. Ayala:

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# 762690 (OGC#s 189078, 189080).

The University of Texas at San Antonio (the "university") received two requests for information pertaining to the winning submission for a specified request for qualifications. Although you take no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Stanley Consultants, Inc. ("Stanley"). Accordingly, you inform us the university notified Stanley of the request and the right to submit arguments to this office. *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.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this ruling, we have not received comments from Stanley. Thus, we have no basis to conclude Stanley has protected proprietary interests in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)-(b); 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 university may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests Stanley may have in the information. The university 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, 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,



Sean Nottingham
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SN/jxd

Ref: ID# 762690

Enc. Submitted documents

c: 2 Requestors
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)