



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 20, 2019

Mr. Omar Ochoa
City Attorney
City of Edinburg
P.O. Box 1079
Edinburg, Texas 78540

OR2019-13399

Dear Mr. Ochoa:

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# 766428 (Tracking No. 03-161-19).

The City of Edinburg (the "city") received a request for permit and plans pertaining to a specified address. You state, although the city takes no position with respect to whether the requested information is excepted from disclosure, its release may implicate the interests of third parties. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the city notified E.M. Payne; RAMTECH Building Systems, Inc.; Atlas Engineering Consultants LLC; and Perez Consulting Engineers of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments stating why their information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

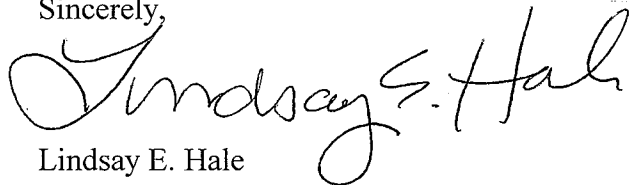
An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, this office has not received comments from any of the third parties explaining why their information should

not be released to the requestor. Thus, we have no basis to conclude the release of the submitted information would implicate the third parties' interests, and none of the submitted information may be withheld on that basis. *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. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, 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, 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,



Lindsay E. Hale
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LEH/gw

Ref: ID# 766428

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

c: 4 Third Parties
(w/o enclosures)