



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 23, 2019

Ms. Jennifer Burnett  
Senior Attorney  
The University of Texas System  
210 West 7th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2901

OR2019-23603

Dear Ms. Burnett:

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# 782540 (OGC# 191031).

The University of Texas at San Antonio (the "university") received a request for a specified solid waste and recycling contract. Although the university takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the university states the release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of BFI Waste Services of Texas d/b/a Republic Services of San Antonio d/b/a Allied Waste Services of San Antonio ("BFI"). Accordingly, the university states, and provides documentation showing, it notified this third party of the request for information and of the right to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested 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 considered the submitted information.

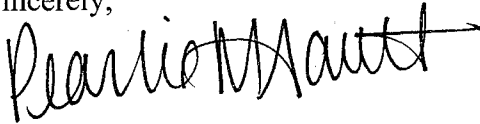
An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from BFI explaining why the requested information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude BFI has a protected proprietary interest in the requested

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 university may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest BFI may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, 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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pearlie Gault", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pearlie Gault  
Attorney  
Open Records Division

PG/eb

Ref: ID# 782540

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)