



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 4, 2019

Mr. Ronny H. Wall  
Senior Associate General Counsel  
Texas Tech University System  
P.O. Box 45031  
Lubbock, Texas 79409-5031

OR2019-24669

Dear Mr. Wall:

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# 783283.

The Texas Tech University System (the "university") received a request for all agreements with outside consultants or consulting firms for work pertaining to the university's athletic department during a specified time period. Although the university takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you inform us release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of the following third parties: Social Media Sports Management, LLC ("Social Media") and Venue Solutions Group ("Venue Solutions"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these third parties 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 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 Social Media or Venue Solutions explaining why the submitted information should

not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Social Media and Venue Solutions have a protected proprietary interest 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 university may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest any of the third parties 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,



Kimbell Kesling  
Attorney  
Open Records Division

KK/eb

Ref: ID# 783283

c: Requestor

2 Third Parties