



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 31, 2019

Mr. Zachary Brown
Assistant City Attorney
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-8828

OR2019-30757

Dear Mr. Brown:

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# 794211 (Ref. No. C040295).

The City of Austin (the "city") received a request for specified information pertaining to taxi trip records during a specified time period. You state you have released some information to the requestor. Although you take no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure, you state its release may implicate the proprietary interests of ATX Coop Taxi, Lone Star Cab, and Yellow Cab. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these interested third parties of the request and their 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.

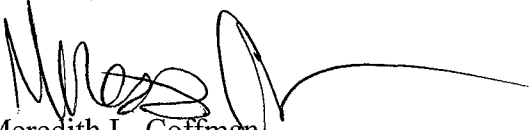
Initially, we note some of the submitted information is not responsive to the present request because it is outside the specified time period requested by the requestor. This ruling does not address the public availability of the non-responsive information, and the city need not release it in response to this request.

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 any of the interested third parties. Thus, we have no basis to conclude any of the interested third parties has a protected proprietary interest 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 city may not withhold any of the submitted responsive information on the basis of any proprietary interest any of interested third parties may have in the information. The city must release the submitted responsive 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,



Meredith L. Coffman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MLC/mo

Ref: ID# 794211

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)