



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 18, 2019

Mr. Neal Falgoust
Assistant City Attorney
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-1088

OR2019-32486

Dear Mr. Falgoust:

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# 797212 (COA PIR# C042087).

The City of Austin (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to specified solicitations. The city claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.104 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the city claims and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.104(a) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information that, if released, would give advantage to a competitor or bidder." Gov't Code § 552.104(a). The "test under section 552.104 is whether knowing another bidder's [or competitor's information] would be an advantage, not whether it would be a decisive advantage." *Boeing Co. v. Paxton*, 466 S.W.3d 831 (Tex. 2015). The city states the information at issue pertains to competitive bidding situations that are now closed. However, the city informs us it has not executed contracts for these services. In addition, the city states release of the submitted information would "put the [c]ity at a competitive disadvantage if the [c]ity is unable to finalize a contract and decides to re-issue these solicitations." After review of the information at issue and consideration of the arguments, we find the city has established

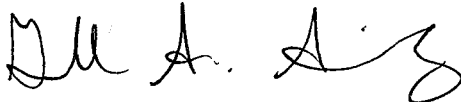
¹ We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

the release of the submitted information would give advantage to a competitor or bidder. Thus, we conclude the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.104(a) of the Government Code.

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 "Gerald Arismendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "G" and "A".

Gerald Arismendez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

GAA/be

Ref: ID# 797212

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)