



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 20, 2019

Mr. Rahat Huq
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
P.O. Box 368
Houston, Texas 77001-0368

OR2019-32761

Dear Mr. Huq:

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# 797763 (GC No. 21634).

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for the winning bid for a specified request for proposals. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Allied Universal Security Services ("Allied"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, the city notified Allied of the request for information and of its 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.

We note the submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2019-08347 (2019). In that ruling, we determined, in relevant part, the city may withhold the information we marked under section 552.104 of the Government Code and the city must release the remaining information in accordance with copyright law. We have no indication the law, facts, and circumstances on which the prior ruling was based have changed. Therefore, the city may continue to rely on Open Records Letter No. 2019-08347 as a previous

determination and withhold or release the submitted information in accordance with that ruling. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure).

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,



Deborah Southerland
Attorney
Open Records Division

DS/mo

Ref: ID# 797763

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)