



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 6, 2020

Mr. Andrew Devine
Senior Associate Attorney
Parkland Health and Hospital System
5200 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, Texas 75235

OR2020-10369

Dear Mr. Devine:

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# 821200 (DCHD# 20-07).

The Dallas County Hospital District d/b/a Parkland Health and Hospital System (the "system") received two requests from the same requestor for information pertaining to a specified bid. You state, although the system takes no position with respect to whether the requested information is excepted from disclosure, its release may implicate the interests of Eko & Sons, L.L.C. d/b/a SolidLines ("SolidLines"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the system notified SolidLines of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments stating why its information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception 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) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, this office has not received comments from SolidLines explaining why its information should not be released to the requestor. Thus, we have no basis to conclude the release of the submitted information would implicate the third party's interests, and none of the submitted information may be withheld on that basis. *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. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the system 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,

D. Michelle Case
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

DMC/eb

Ref: ID# 821200

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

1 Third Party
(w/o enclosures)