



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 9, 2020

Mr. Kieran Hillis
Public Information Coordinator and Assistant General Counsel
Office of Governor Greg Abbott
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

OR2020-28117

Dear Mr. Hillis:

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# 854075 (OOG ID No. 508-20).

The Office of the Governor (the "governor's office") received a request for e-mail communications between the governor's office and the City of Fort Worth (the "city") during a specified period of time regarding certain events.¹ 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 interests of the city. Accordingly, you state you notified the city 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 § 552.304 (providing interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released). We have reviewed the submitted information.

As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from the city explaining why any portion of the submitted information should not be released to the requestor. Thus, the governor's office may not withhold the submitted information based on any interest the city may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the governor's office must release the submitted information.

¹ We note the governor's office sought and received clarification of the request for information. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222(b) (stating if information requested is unclear to governmental body or if large amount of information has been requested, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify or narrow request, but may not inquire into purpose for which information will be used); *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380 (Tex. 2010) (holding when governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification of unclear or overbroad request for public information, ten-business-day period to request attorney general opinion is measured from date request is clarified or narrowed).

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,

Michelle Garza
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MRG/be

Ref: ID# 854075

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

1 Third Party
(w/o enclosures)