



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 23, 2022

Ms. Tessa K. Meredith
Counsel for The Woodlands Township
Messer, Fort & McDonald, P.L.L.C.
6371 Preston Road, Suite 200
Frisco, Texas 75034

OR2022-14659

Dear Ms. Shankle:

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# 947290 (Ref. No. 2022-124).

The Woodlands Township (the "township"), which you represent, received a request for all bid proposals pertaining to a specified contract. The township states it released some of the requested information. Although the township takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the township states release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Asakura Robinson; Burditt Land Place; and GreenPlay, LLC. Accordingly, the township states it notified these third parties of the request for information and of their 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.

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) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from any interested third party explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude any interested third party has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See, e.g., id.* § 552.110 (requiring the provision of specific factual evidence demonstrating the applicability of the exception).

Accordingly, the township may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest any interested third party may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the township 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,

Katie Stallcup
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

AKS/jxd

Ref: ID# 947290

c: Requestor

3 Third Parties