



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 1, 2022

Mr. Kevin Christiansen  
Public Information Officer  
Katy Independent School District  
P.O. Box 159  
Katy, Texas 77492-0159

OR2022-19217

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

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# 957171 (PIR# 21846).

The Katy Independent School District (the "district") received a request for a specified bid tabulation. 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 Strategic Filtration Inc. and United Refrigeration Inc. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you 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 to submit its reasons, if any, as to why info relating to that party should not be released. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B)*. As of the date of this ruling, we have not received comments from either of the notified third parties. Thus, we have no basis to conclude either of the notified third parties have 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 district may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any

proprietary interest the notified third parties may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the district 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,

Tim Neal  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

TN/jm

Ref: ID# 957171

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

2 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)