



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 7, 2022

Ms. Tessa K. Meredith
Counsel for the City of West Lake Hills
Messer, Fort & McDonald, PLLC
6371 Preston Road, Suite 200
Frisco, Texas 75034

OR2022-34579

Dear Ms. Meredith:

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# 983531 (ORR ID# 2022-153).

The City of West Lake Hills (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for all statements of qualifications or proposals submitted to provide legal services to the city during a specified time period. You state you have released some information to the requestor. 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 Bovey & Cochran, PLLC; Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zech, P.C.; Guevara Law, P.C.; The Nichols Firm, PLLC; Randle Law Office Ltd., L.L.P.; Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons LLP; and Wilhelm Law Firm. 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 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 National CineMedia explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Accordingly, we have no basis to conclude National CineMedia has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information, and the district may not withhold any portion of it on

that basis. *See, e.g., id.* § 552.110 (requiring the provision of specific factual evidence demonstrating the applicability of the exception). As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the city 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/pt

Ref: ID# 983531

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Parties
(w/o enclosures)