OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL · STATE OF TEXAS
JOHN CORNYN

June 7, 1999

Mr. Stephen T. Meeks
Linebarger Heard Goggan Blair Graham Pena & Sampson, L.L.P.
Oil & Gas Building, Suite 1414
309 West 7th Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-5113

OR99-1574

Dear Mr. Meeks:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 12487.

Tarrant County (the "county"), which you represent, received requests for information related to a specific property exemption dispute. You seek to withhold a portion of the responsive information, claiming that it is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.103, 552.107, and 552.111 of the Government Code.

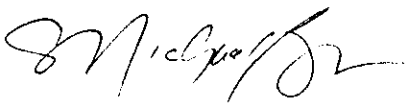
Pursuant to section 552.301(b), a governmental body is required to submit to this office (1) general written comments stating the reasons why the stated exceptions apply that would allow the information to be withheld, (2) a copy of the written request for information, and (3) a copy of the specific information requested or representative samples, labeled to indicate which exceptions apply to which parts of the documents.

Pursuant to section 552.303(c) of the Government Code, this office notified you by facsimile dated, May 11, 1999, that you had failed to submit the information required by section 552.301(b), specifically a copy of the requested information. We requested that you provide this information to our office within seven days from the date of receiving the notice. The notice further stated that under section 552.303(e) failure to comply would result in the legal presumption that the information at issue was public. *See* Open Records Decision No. 497 (1988) (fact that submitting copies for review to Attorney General may be burdensome does not relieve a governmental body of the responsibility of doing so). As of the date of this

letter, you have not provided our office with the information that was requested. Therefore, as provided by section 552.303(e), the information that is the subject of this request is presumed to be public. In the absence of a demonstration that the information is confidential by law or that other compelling reasons exist as to why the information should not be made public, you must release the information in your possession to the requestor. Open Records Decision No. 195 (1978); *See also* Gov't Code § 552.352 (the distribution of confidential information is a criminal offense).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



Michael Jay Burns
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MJB/ch

Ref: ID# 124877

cc: Ms. Kelley B. Hill
Law, Snakard & Gambill
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500 Throckmorton
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