



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 9, 2006

Mr. George Staples
Taylor Olson Adkins Sralla Elam
6000 Western Place, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-4654

OR2006-02397

Dear Mr. Staples:

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# 243855.

The City of North Richland Hills (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information relating to economic development negotiations involving the city and a business prospect. You inform us that the city is releasing some of the requested information. You have submitted information that you claim is excepted from disclosure under section 552.131 of the Government Code. You also believe that this information implicates the interests of a third party, G&K Management Co. Inc. ("G&K"), under section 552.131. You notified G&K of this request for information and of the city's request for this decision.¹ We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the submitted information.

You also inform us that the submitted information is the subject of Open Records Letter No. 2006-1206 (2006). You do not indicate that there has been any change in the law, facts, and circumstances on which the prior ruling is based. Therefore, the city must release or

¹See Gov't Code § 552.305(d); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to Gov't Code § 552.305 permitted governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under certain circumstances). As of the date of this decision, this office has received no correspondence from G&K.

withhold the submitted information in accordance with Open Records Letter No. 2006-1206.² See Gov't Code § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 at 6-7 (2001) (listing elements of first type of previous determination under Gov't Code § 552.301(a)).

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records 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 records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, upon receiving this ruling, the governmental body will either release the public records promptly pursuant to section 552.221(a) of the Government Code or file a lawsuit challenging this ruling pursuant to section 552.324 of the Government Code. If the governmental body fails to do one of these things, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.—Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

²As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your arguments under section 552.131 of the Government Code.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



Ramsey A. Abarca
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RAA/JWM/sdk

Ref: ID# 243855

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Mr. John T. Wilson, IV
c/o Mr. George Staples
6000 Western Place, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-4654
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Michael Kest
c/o Mr. George Staples
6000 Western Place, Suite 200
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-4654
(w/o enclosures)