



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 15, 2009

Ms. Lauri Schneidau Ruiz
Assistant General Counsel
University of Houston System
East Cullen Building, Suite 311
Houston, Texas 77204-2162

OR2009-09755

Dear Ms. Ruiz:

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# 349031.

The University of Houston (the "university") received a request for the requestor's application file, records, and letter of recommendations sent on the requestor's behalf pertaining to a specified job application. You state you have released the application file and records to the requestor. Although you take no position with respect to the letters of recommendation, you state that the release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of third parties. Accordingly, you state you have notified three interested third parties of this request and of their right to submit arguments stating why their 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.

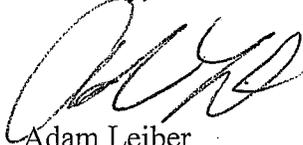
An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, none of the interested third parties have submitted to this office reasons explaining why their information should not be released. Therefore, these third parties have provided us with no basis to conclude that they have

protected proprietary interests in the submitted information. Therefore, the university may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest that the interested third parties may have in this information. As you raise no further exceptions to disclosure, the submitted information must be released to the requestor.

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 http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Adam Leiber
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACL/eeg

Ref: ID# 349031

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)