



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

June 6, 2012

Ms. Michelle L. Villarreal  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Waco  
P.O. Box 2570  
Waco, Texas 76702-2570

OR2012-08647

Dear Ms. Villarreal:

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# 455787 (Waco Ref. No. LGL 12-472).

The City of Waco (the "city") received a request for the settlement agreement between a specified organization and the city. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the requested information, you state the proprietary interests of a third party might be implicated. Accordingly, you notified American Archaeology Group, L.L.C. ("American") of the request and of its right to submit arguments to this office explaining why its information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception 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 information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received arguments from American. Thus, American has failed to demonstrate it has a protected proprietary interest in any of the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)–(b); Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5–6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that

party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest American may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released in its entirety.

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](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, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Michelle R. Garza  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MRG/som

Ref: ID# 455787

Enc. Submitted documents

- c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)
- c: Mr. Michael Bradle  
American Archaeology Group LLC  
P.O. Box 1017  
Lampasas, Texas 76550-2739  
(w/o enclosures)
- c: Mr. William W. "Bill" Johnston  
501 North Valley Mills Drive  
Waco, Texas 76710  
(w/o enclosures)