



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 20, 2013

Ms. Maria Miller  
Public Information Officer  
Dallas County Community College District  
1601 South Lamar, Suite 208  
Dallas, Texas 75215-1816

OR2013-08316

Dear Ms. Miller:

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# 487818.

The Dallas County Community College District (the "district") received a request for the bid package J. Reynolds and Company ("Reynolds") submitted in response to request for proposals #11986. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Reynolds. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified Reynolds of the request for information and of its 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.

Initially, we note 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 Reynolds explaining why its information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Reynolds has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted

information. *See id.* § 552.110; 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 district may not withhold any of the information at issue on the basis of any proprietary interest Reynolds may have in it.

We note that portions of the submitted information are subject to section 552.136 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> Section 552.136 states that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” Gov’t Code § 552.136; *see id.* § 552.136(a) (defining “access device”). This office has concluded insurance policy numbers constitute access device numbers for purposes of section 552.136. Accordingly, we find the district must withhold the insurance policy numbers we have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. As no other exceptions have been raised, the remaining information must be released.

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,



Jennifer Luttrall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

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<sup>1</sup>The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

Ref: ID# 487818

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

J Reynolds & Company  
c/o Maria Miller  
Public Information Officer  
Dallas County Community College District  
1601 South Lamar, Suite 208  
Dallas, Texas 75215-1816  
(w/o enclosures)