



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 4, 2014

Ms. Barbara Smith Armstrong
Assistant Harris County Attorney
1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2014-15608

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

This is in reference to your request for a decision which was assigned ID# 536721 (C. A. File No. 14PIA0194).

The Harris County Attorney's Office (the "county attorney's office") received a request for the legal bills, expenses, and documents sent to the county attorney's office from Connelly, Baker and Wotring, L.L.P. and any time sheets, invoices, or other documentation submitted by a named individual since his departure as a county attorney's office employee. You state the county attorney's office has no information responsive to the request.

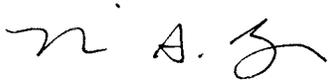
Generally, the Act authorizes the Office of the Attorney General to render decisions and opinions in two situations. The first occurs when a governmental body receives a written request for information from an individual or entity acting as a member of the public and requests a ruling from this office because the governmental body wishes to withhold responsive information in accordance with one of the Act's exceptions to disclosure. *See Gov't Code* §§ 552.301, .306. The second situation occurs when this office issues "materials, including detailed and comprehensive written decisions and opinions, that relate to or are based on [the Act]" in order to "maintain uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of [the Act.]" *Id.* § 552.011.

You inform us the county attorney's office has no information which is responsive to the request.¹ Thus, we conclude that this situation falls outside of the Act and beyond the scope

¹The Act does not require a governmental body to disclose information that did not exist at the time the request was received, nor does it require a governmental body to prepare new information in response to a request or obtain information that is not held by the governmental body or on its behalf. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Attorney General Opinion H-90 (1973); Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2 (1992), 563 at 8 (1990), 555 at 1-2 (1990), 452 at 3 (1986), 362 at 2 (1983).

of this office's authority to render a decision regarding your request. We therefore consider this matter closed. If you have any questions with regard to this letter, please refer to ID# 536721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. A. Ybarra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "N." and last name "Ybarra" clearly distinguishable.

Nicholas A. Ybarra
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NAY/bhf

Ref: ID# 536721

c: Requestor