



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

November 10, 2014

Ms. Cynthia Tynan  
Attorney & Public Information Coordinator  
Office of General Counsel  
The University of Texas System  
201 West Seventh Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2902

OR2014-20403

Dear Ms. Tynan:

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# 543436 (OGC# 157476).

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas (the "university") received a request for four categories of information related to request for proposals number 729-10-24. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Adams Management ("Adams"); Faithful + Gould ("Faithful"); Hunt Construction Group, Inc. ("Hunt"); and RTKL Associates ("RTKL"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified Adams, Faithful, Hunt, and RTKL of the request for information and of the right of each 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.

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 Adams, Faithful, Hunt, or RTKL explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Adams, Faithful, Hunt, or RTKL 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 university may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest Adams, Faithful, Hunt, or RTKL may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the university must release the submitted information.

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CVMS/som

Ref: ID# 543436

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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Adams Management  
515 West Southlake Boulevard,  
Suite 130  
Southlake, Texas 76092  
(w/o enclosures)

General Counsel  
Hunt Construction Group, Inc.  
4099 McEwen, Suite 440  
Dallas, Texas 75244  
(w/o enclosures)

General Counsel  
Faithful + Gould  
18383 Preston Road, Suite 500  
Dallas, Texas 75252  
(w/o enclosures)

General Counsel  
RTKL Associates  
1717 Pacific Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75201-4688  
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