



January 22, 2015

Mr. Ronn P. Garcia
Counsel for the Region 17 Education Service Center
Underwood Law Firm, P.C.
P.O. Box 16197
Lubbock, Texas 79490

OR2015-01256

Dear Mr. Garcia:

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# 551035.

The Region 17 Education Service Center (the "center"), which you represent, received a request for the awarded price on three specified products from a specified bid. Although you take no position as to whether the requested information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Labatt Food Services. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified the third party of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested 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, you indicate a portion of the submitted information is not responsive to the present request because it is not the awarded price for the three specified products. This ruling does not address the public availability of the non-responsive information and the center need not release it in response to this request.

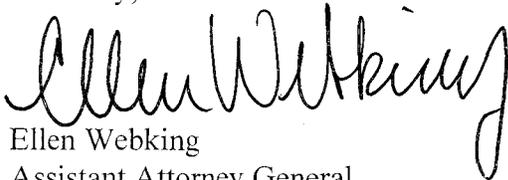
An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from the interested third party explaining why the responsive information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude the third party has a protected proprietary interest

in the requested 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 center may not withhold the requested information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third party may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the responsive 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.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,



Ellen Webking
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

EW/ac

Ref: ID# 551035

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Alfred Garcia
Labatt Food Services
5824 Elm Street
Lubbock, Texas 79404
(w/o enclosures)