



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 27, 2015

Mr. Fernando Gomez
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
The Texas State University System
P.O. Box 2045
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2045

OR2015-08033

Dear Mr. Gomez:

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# 561255 (University File No. 15-0302).

Sam Houston State University (the "university") received a request for the current dining services contract, including any exhibits or amendments. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you inform us its release may implicate the proprietary interests of Aramark Educational Services of Texas, LLC ("Aramark"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the university notified Aramark of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments stating why its information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d) (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); 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.

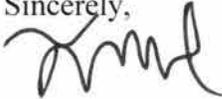
We note that an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this decision, we have not received correspondence from Aramark. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Aramark has any protected proprietary interest in 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 university may not withhold any portion of the submitted information based upon the proprietary interests of Aramark. 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, 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,



Tim Neal
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TN/cbz

Ref: ID# 561255

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Aramark Educational Services of Texas, LLC
c/o: Mr. Fernando Gomez
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
The Texas State University System
P.O. Box 2045
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2045
(w/o enclosures)