



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 3, 2015

Ms. JoAnna G. Talley  
Public Officer  
Fort Worth Independent School District  
100 North University Drive, Suite SW 172  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

OR2015-10920

Dear Ms. Talley:

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# 565962.

The Fort Worth Independent School District (the "district") received a request for the bid packet submitted by AOSS Medical Supply ("AOSS") in response to a specified request for competitive sealed proposals. 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 interest of AOSS. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified AOSS of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why its 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 AOSS explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude AOSS 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, release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the district may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests AOSS may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised for the submitted information, it must be released at this time.

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,



Katelyn Blackburn-Rader  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KB-R/akg

Ref: ID# 565962

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Linda Liew  
AOSS Medical Supply  
4971 Central Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71203  
(w/o enclosures)