



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 18, 2015

Ms. Ana Vieira Ayala
Senior Attorney & Public Information Coordinator
Office of General Counsel
The University of Texas System
201 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2015-12118

Dear Ms. Ayala:

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# 567855 (OGC No. 161052).

The University of Texas at Austin (the "university") received a request for certain information provided by all applicants for the men's basketball coach position during a specified time frame. Although you take no position regarding the release of the submitted information, you state release may implicate the privacy interests of certain individuals. Accordingly, you notified the individuals of the right to submit written comments to this office stating reasons why the information should or should not be released. *See Gov't Code* § 552.304 (interested part may submit written comments regarding availability of requested information). We have not received comments from any of the notified individuals. We have reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information contains e-mail addresses of members of the public.¹ Section 552.137 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with

¹The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).*

a governmental body,” unless the member of the public consents to its release or the e-mail address is of a type specifically excluded by subsection (c). Gov’t Code § 552.137(a)-(c). Section 552.137 is not applicable to an institutional e-mail address, an Internet website address, the general e-mail address of a business, an e-mail address of a person who has a contractual relationship with a governmental body, or an e-mail address maintained by a governmental entity for one of its officials or employees. Accordingly, the university must withhold the e-mail addresses we have marked under section 552.137 of the Government Code, unless the owners of the addresses affirmatively consent to their release. As no exceptions have been raised, the university must release the remaining 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,



Britni Fabian
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BF/bhf

Ref: ID# 567855

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)