



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 5, 2015

Ms. Karol H. Davidson
Staff Attorney
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
P.O. Box 12757
Austin, Texas 78711

OR2015-16104

Dear Ms. Davidson:

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# 574236 (TJJD ORR #26766).

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (the "department") received a request for a specified proposal submitted to the department by, and the subsequent contract awarded to, G4S Youth Services, L.L.C. ("G4S"). Although the department takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, it states release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of G4S. Accordingly, the department states, and provides documentation showing, it notified G4S of the request for information and of its right 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 G4S explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude G4S 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 department may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest G4S may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the department 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,



Lee Seidlits
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CLS/som

Ref: ID# 574236

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. James C. Hill, Jr.
G4S Youth Services, LLC
6302 Benjamin Road, Suite 400
Tampa, Florida 33634
(w/o enclosures)