



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 19, 2015

Mr. Ryan D. Pittman
Counsel for the City of Frisco
Abernathy Roeder Boyd & Hullett, P.C.
P.O. Box 1210
McKinney, Texas 75070

OR2015-21822

Dear Mr. Pittman:

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# 583760.

The City of Frisco (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for a specified report relating to the requestor's house. The city states it has made some of the requested information available to the requestor. The city claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.110 of the Government Code. Additionally, the city states release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Tempo Mechanical ("Tempo"). Accordingly, the city states, and provides documentation showing, it notified Tempo 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 considered the exception the city claims and reviewed the submitted information.

The city asserts the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.110 of the Government Code. However, section 552.110 protects only the interests of the third parties that have provided information to a governmental body, not those of the governmental body itself. *See* Gov't Code § 552.110 (excepts from disclosure trade secrets or commercial or financial information obtained from person). Therefore, we do not address the city's argument under section 552.110.

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 id.* § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from

Tempo explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Tempo 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 city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest Tempo may have in the information. As no other exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the city 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,



David L. Wheelus
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

DLW/bhf

Ref: ID# 583760

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Tempo Mechanical
2611 East Pioneer Drive
Irving, Texas 75061
(w/o enclosures)