



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 20, 2015

Ms. Karen K. Vance
Lone Star College System
5000 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77381-4356

OR2015-22011

Dear Ms. Vance:

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# 584164 (LSCS File No. PR15-00730-00138).

The Lone Star College System (the "system") received a request for information related to a specified request for proposals, including bid tabulation results and information pertaining to the related contract. You state you will release some information to the requestor. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the requested information, you state the proprietary interests of certain third parties might be implicated. Accordingly, you notified C&S Janitorial Services, Inc.; Soji services, Inc. d/b/a Metroclean Commercial Building Services; and McLemore Building Maintenance, Inc., of the request and of their right to submit arguments to this office explaining why their information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); *see also* 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.

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 letter, we have not received arguments from any of the third parties. Thus, none of the third parties has demonstrated it has a protected proprietary interest in any of 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

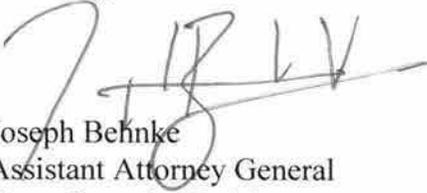
factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the system may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests any third party may have in the information.

We note some of the submitted information may be protected by copyright. A custodian of public records must comply with the copyright law and is not required to furnish copies of records that are copyrighted. Open Records Decision No. 180 at 3 (1977). A governmental body must allow inspection of copyrighted materials unless an exception applies to the information. *Id.*; see Open Records Decision No. 109 (1975). If a member of the public wishes to make copies of copyrighted materials, the person must do so unassisted by the governmental body. In making copies, the member of the public assumes the duty of compliance with the copyright law and the risk of a copyright infringement suit. As you raise no exceptions to disclosure, the submitted information must be released; however, any information subject to copyright must be released in accordance with copyright law.

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,



Joseph Behnke
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JB/som

Ref: ID# 584164

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Carlos Amezcuita
C&S Janitorial Services, Inc.
6706 Bourgeois Road
Houston, Texas 77066
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Guido Costantini
Soji Services, Inc. d/b/a
Metroclean Commercial Building Services
9000 SW Freeway, Suite 412
Houston, Texas 77006
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Curtis McLemore
McLemore Building Maintenance, Inc.
110 Fargo Street
Houston, Texas 77006
(w/o enclosures)