



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 21, 2015

Ms. Audra Gonzalez Welter
Attorney & Public Information Coordinator
University of Texas System
Office of General Counsel
201 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2902

OR2015-22053

Dear Ms. Welter:

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# 584878 (OGC Nos. 163669, 164323).

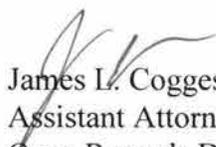
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston ("UTMB") received two requests from different requestors for a bid tabulation pertaining to a specified request for proposal. UTMB does not take a position as to whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act. However, UTMB states, and provides documentation showing, it notified the following third parties of UTMB's receipt of the request for information and of the right of each to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested information should not be released: 3T Federal Solutions; Auburn Pharmaceuticals; Diamond Pharmacy Services; E Med Medical Company ("E Med"); Jefferson Medical; Paragon Enterprises, Inc.; ParMed Pharmaceuticals ("ParMed"); R&S Pharmaceuticals Northeast; Smith Medical Partners; and Winston's Pharmacy. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 at 3 (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). You state E Med and ParMed have notified the university that they do not object to the release of their information. We have reviewed the submitted information. We have also considered comments submitted by one of the requestors. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released).

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 requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, none of the remaining interested third parties has submitted to this office any reasons explaining why the requested information should not be released. Thus, we have no basis for concluding the submitted information constitutes proprietary information of these third parties, and UTMB may not withhold any portion of it on that basis. *See* 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 that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Therefore, UTMB 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,



James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/cbz

Ref: ID# 584878

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Saiya Crocker
Jefferson Medical
P.O. Box 18403
San Antonio, Texas 78218
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Chandra Britt
Auburn Pharmaceuticals
1775 John R. Road
Troy, Michigan 48083
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Carletta Winston
Winston's Pharmacy
8405 Almeda Genoa Road, Suite U & S
Houston, Texas 77075
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Tina Popolizio
R&S Pharmaceuticals Northeast
10049 Sandmeyer Lane
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19116
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Jonas Jenkins
Paragon Enterprises, Inc.
3300 Corporate Avenue, Suite 114
Weston, Florida 33331
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Paula Berenzandy
Diamond Pharmacy Services
645 Dolter Drive
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Sandep Yadav
3T Federal Solutions
6013 Techni Center Drive, Suite B
Austin, Texas 78721
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Bob Rash
Smith Medical Partners
960 Lively Boulevard
Wood Dale, Illinois 60191
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Jason Fullen
ParMed Pharmaceuticals
4220 Hyde Park Boulevard
Niagara Falls, New York 14305
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Satonya L. Book
E Med Medical Company
12163 Bridgeton Square Drive
Bridgton, Missouri 63044
(w/o enclosures)