



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 5, 2016

Mr. Ray Rodriguez
Assistant City Attorney
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

OR2016-02835

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

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# 597045 (COSA File No. W102424-110615).

The City of San Antonio (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to the city's purchase of a specified property. You state you have made or will make some of the requested information available to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.105, 552.106, 552.107, and 552.111 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.105 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to:

- (1) the location of real or personal property for a public purpose prior to public announcement of the project; or
- (2) appraisals or purchase price of real or personal property for a public purpose prior to the formal award of contracts for the property.

Gov't Code § 552.105. We note this provision is designed to protect a governmental body's planning and negotiating position with regard to particular transactions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 564 (1990), 357 (1982), 310 (1982). Information that is excepted from disclosure under section 552.105 that pertains to such negotiations may be excepted from disclosure so long as the transaction relating to that information is not complete. *See*

ORD 310. Under section 552.105, a governmental body may withhold information “which, if released, would impair or tend to impair [its] ‘planning and negotiating position in regard to particular transactions.’” ORD 357 at 3 (quoting Open Records Decision No. 222 (1979)). The question of whether specific information, if publicly released, would impair a governmental body’s planning and negotiating position with regard to particular transactions is a question of fact. Accordingly, this office will accept a governmental body’s good-faith determination in this regard, unless the contrary is clearly shown as a matter of law. See ORD 564.

You state the information at issue “relate[s] to the ongoing negotiations concerning the location of real property which will be used for a public purpose and/or concern[s] the appraisals of real or personal property for a public purpose prior to the award of final contracts for the property.” You assert the city has made a good-faith determination that release of this information would impair or tend to impair the city’s planning and negotiating position in regard to the transaction in question. Based on your representations, we conclude the city may withhold the submitted information under section 552.105 of the Government Code.¹

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,



Paige Lay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PL/dls

¹As our ruling is dispositive for this information, we need not address your remaining arguments against its disclosure.

Ref: ID# 597045

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)