



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

**JIM MATTOX
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

January 18, 1989

Ben Niedecken, Jr.
School Attorney
Dallas Independent School District
3700 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75240-5491

Dear Mr. Niedecken:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 15, 1989, responding to ID# 5013. Your December 15 letter has been designated ID# 5207. This decision is OR89-032.

You indicate that the district has complied with Mr. Bodzin's request to the extent possible, without obtaining documents from the Dallas Chamber of Commerce or the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce. You state that the two want reimbursement for "making an audit." This office will not address in an open records context the legal problems the district may encounter by failing to fully account for the expenditure of public funds or to require such information from recipients of public funds prior to making grants of such funds. See Tex. Const. art. III, § 52.

Further, Mr. Bodzin did not request an audit; he requested information about the expenditure of public funds. Such a request can be satisfied with copies of vouchers and the like. The Open Records Act requires that governmental bodies provide copies of public records at the actual cost of producing them. V.T.C.S. art. 6252-17a, § 9.

Section 2(1)(F) of the act provides:

the part, section, or portion of every organization, corporation, commission, committee, institution, or agency which is supported in whole or in part by public funds, or which expends public funds. . .
(Emphasis added.)

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Consequently, to the extent that the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce are supported in whole or part by or expend the funds of the district they are subject to the act and must provide information at the actual cost of copying it.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR89-032.

Yours very truly,

*Open Government Section
of the Opinion Committee*

Open Government Section
of the Opinion Committee
Prepared by Jennifer S. Riggs
Chief, Open Government Section

JSR/bra

Copy to: Dallas Chamber of Commerce
1507 Pacific
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce
2838 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75215

Mr. Frank Bodzin
4816 Myerwood Lane
Dallas, Texas 75244

Ref.: ID# 5207
ID# 5299
ID# 5013

Encl.: OR88-178