



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS

JIM MATTOX
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 11, 1989

Mr. Jeff Hartsell
Assistant City Attorney
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, Texas 79999

Dear Mr. Hartsell:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 7890; this decision is OR89-421.

Under the Open Records Act, all information held by governmental bodies is open unless the information falls within one of the act's specific exceptions to disclosure. Attorney General Opinion H-436 (1974). The act places on the custodian of records the burden of proving that records are excepted from public disclosure. If a governmental body fails to claim an exception, the exception is ordinarily waived unless the information is deemed confidential under the act. See Attorney General Opinion JM-672 (1987). The act does not require this office to raise and consider exceptions that you have not raised.

We have considered the exception you claimed and reviewed the documents at issue. Your request for an open records decision falls within a previous determination of this office, Open Records Decision No. 258 (1980), a copy of which is enclosed. For this reason, you must release the requested information. We have reviewed the report at issue and have determined that its release would not trigger privacy interests.

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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 OR89-421.

Yours very truly,

Open Government Section 
of the Opinion Committee

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

JSR/le

Ref.: ID# 7890

cc: Mr. Robert W. Seckler
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El Paso, Texas 79912