



Office of the Attorney General

State of Texas

September 2, 1992

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Charles E. Griffith, III  
Deputy City Attorney  
City of Austin  
Department of Law  
P. O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767-8828

OR92-525

Dear Mr. Griffith:

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# 16891.

The City of Austin (the "city") received an open records request for, *inter alia*, "all documents concerning 'employment at will' and/or 'just cause' which have been prepared for the City of Austin by staff attorneys, outside attorneys, and/or any other legal personnel." You have submitted to this office for review various legal opinions coming within the ambit of the request. You seek to withhold these documents pursuant to the attorney-client privilege as incorporated in section 3(a)(7) of the Open Records Act.<sup>1</sup>

We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue. Previous determinations of this office, Open Records Decision Nos. 574 (1990) and 380 (1983), resolve your request. Each of the requested documents constitute the legal opinion of an attorney to his client, the city. For this reason, you may withhold the requested information pursuant to section 3(a)(7).

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

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<sup>1</sup>You have also submitted an intra-agency memorandum that does not appear to come within the ambit of the open records request. Accordingly, we need not discuss the public nature of this document.

a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-525.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Garrison".

Susan Garrison  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

SG/RWP/lmm

Ref.: ID# 16891

cc: Mr. Michael M. Allen, Jr.  
Staff Assistant  
AFSCME  
1106 Lavaca Street, Suite 100  
Austin, Texas 78701