



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 17, 1997

Mr. W. Daniel Vaughn  
McLeod, Alexander, Powell & Apffel  
P.O. Box 629  
Galveston, Texas 77553

OR97-2087

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 108583.

The Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston ("Park Board") received a request for "all of the State and City regulations regarding the leasing of this property." You contend, however, that as the statutes and regulations of Texas, as well as the City's code and charter, are publications that are available for purchase by the public and readily available to the requestor, you are not required to provide the information to the requestor. You also assert that to the extent that the request requires research the park board need not comply with the request. The Park Board invokes sections 552.027 and section 552.227 of the Government Code.

Initially, we address your assertion that the second section of the request requires the Park Board to perform legal research. The Open Records Act does not require a governmental body to answer factual questions or perform legal research. Open Records Decision Nos. 561 (1990), 555 (1990), 379 (1983), 347 (1982). However, a governmental body does have a duty to make a good faith effort to relate a request for information to information the governmental body holds. Open Records Decision No. 561 (1990) at 8. If the governmental body holds information from which the requested information can be obtained, it must provide that information to the requestor unless it is otherwise excepted from disclosure. Open Records Decision Nos. 561 (1990), 555 (1990), 379 (1983), 347 (1982).

Accordingly, we have reviewed the request submitted for our consideration and conclude that the Park Board must provide access to state and city regulations, if available, but need not provide legal research in order to comply with the request.<sup>1</sup>

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Janet I. Monteros  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JIM/glg

Ref.: ID# 108583

cc: Mr. Tad Nelson  
Attorney at Law  
2127 Broadway  
Galveston, Texas 77550

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<sup>1</sup>As we resolve this open records request as referenced above, we need not address the arguments presented under section 552.027 of the Government Code.