



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

June 22, 2007

Mr. Kent A. Brown  
Assistant Nueces County Attorney  
901 Leopard, Room 207  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3680

OR2007-07926

Dear Mr. Brown:

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# 284278.

The Nueces County Sheriff's Department (the "sheriff") received a request for four categories of information pertaining to a specified bid from Keefe Commissary Services ("Keefe"), including the final contract and related score sheets. You state that no contract has been awarded, and that the sheriff does not have some of the requested information.<sup>1</sup> Keefe asserts that some of the information at issue is excepted under section 552.110 of the Government Code. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note that the submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2007-07723 (2007). Thus, as we have no indication that the law, facts, and circumstances on which the prior ruling was based have changed, the sheriff must continue to rely on that ruling as a

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<sup>1</sup>We note the Act does not require a governmental body to disclose information that did not exist when the request for information was received. *Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex.App.--San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Open Records Decision No. 452 at 3 (1986).

previous determination and withhold or release this information in accordance with Open Records Letter No. 2007-07723. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure).

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records 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 records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

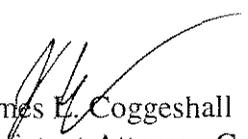
If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, upon receiving this ruling, the governmental body will either release the public records promptly pursuant to section 552.221(a) of the Government Code or file a lawsuit challenging this ruling pursuant to section 552.324 of the Government Code. If the governmental body fails to do one of these things, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.—Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/jb

Ref: ID# 284278

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Mr. Mark L. Egger  
Swanson Services Corporation  
12738 O'Connor Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78233  
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Marc H. Richman  
304 South Record Street  
Dallas, Texas 75202-4738  
(w/o enclosures)