



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 22, 2008

Ms. Michele Tapia
Assistant District Attorney
Dallas County District Attorney's Office
411 Elm Street, 5th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75202

OR2008-14431

Dear Ms. Tapia:

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# 325381.

The Dallas County District Attorney (the "district attorney") received a request for the bids submitted to Dallas County in response to Bid Number 2008-046-3344. Although you take no position on the requested information, you state it may contain proprietary information subject to exception under the Act. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, the district attorney notified American Corrections Specialists, BI Incorporated, G4S Justice Services, Inc., General Security Services Corporation, iSECUREtrac Corporation, Pro Tech Monitoring, Inc., Rocky Mountain Offender Management Systems, and Secure Alert Corporation of the request for information and of each company's right to submit arguments to this office as to why its requested information should not be released. *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 information.

Initially, we note that an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B).* As of the date of this letter, none of the interested third parties have submitted to this office any reasons explaining why their submitted information should not be released. Therefore, these companies have not provided us with any basis to

conclude they have protected proprietary interests in any of the submitted information. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, we conclude the district attorney may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the interested third parties may have in the information.

We note portions of the submitted information are subject to section 552.136 of the Government Code.¹ Section 552.136 of the Government Code states “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” Gov’t Code § 552.136. Upon review, we find the district attorney must withhold the insurance policy numbers we have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

We also note portions of the submitted information are protected by copyright. A custodian of public records must comply with the copyright law and is not required to furnish copies of records that are protected by copyright. Attorney General Opinion JM-672 (1987). A governmental body must allow inspection of copyrighted materials unless an exception applies to the information. *Id.* If a member of the public wishes to make copies of materials protected by copyright, the person must do so unassisted by the governmental body. In making copies, the member of the public assumes the duty of compliance with the copyright law and the risk of a copyright infringement suit. *See* Open Records Decision No. 550 (1990).

In summary, the district attorney must withhold the insurance policy numbers we have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released, but any copyrighted information may only be released in accordance with copyright law.

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 file suit in

¹The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such a challenge, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3). If the governmental body does not file suit over 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).

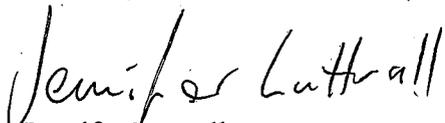
If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, upon receiving this ruling, the governmental body will either release the public records 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 challenge 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,



Jennifer Luttrall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JL/eeg

Ref: ID# 325381

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Ms. Tina Laferriere
Satellite Tracking of People, LLC
1212 North Post Oak Road
Houston, Texas 77055
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Rose Carter
President
American Corrections Specialists
15443 Knoll Trail, Suite 230
Dallas, Texas 75248
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. John Hennessy
BI Incorporated
6400 Lookout Road
Boulder, Colorado 803301
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Leo Carson
Vice President
G4S Justice Services, Inc.
30201 Aventura
Rancho Santa Margarita, California 92688
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Jackson Hall
Vice President of Sales and Marketing
General Security Services Corporation
9110 Meadowview Road
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55425
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. William Von Hoerling
Mr. Robert Bierman
iSECUREtrac Corporation
5078 South 111th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68137
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Carmen Ross
Pro Tech Monitoring, Inc.
10304 Spring Park Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Daniel A. Beeck
Rocky Mountain Offender Management Systems
8787 Turnpike Drive, # 200
Westminster, Colorado 80031
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Garrett Cheal
Secure Alert Corporation
1550 West Civic Center Drive, Suite 400
Sandy, Utah 84070
(w/o enclosures)