



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

GREG ABBOTT

January 22, 2010

Ms. Meredith Hayes
Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Joplin, P.C.
Attorney for McKinney Independent School District
P.O. Box 1210
McKinney, Texas 75070-1210

OR2010-01044

Dear Ms. Hayes:

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# 367775.

The McKinney Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for all responses and tally sheets related to a specified request for proposals. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the submitted information, you indicate you have notified certain third parties of the request and of each company's right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released.¹ *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining that statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain the applicability of exception to disclose under Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of a governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to that party should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, none of

¹The third parties are: American National Bank of Texas; Capitol One NA; Citibank NA; Legacy Texas Bank; and Bank of America.

the third parties has submitted comments to this office explaining why any portion of the submitted information relating to them should not be released to the requestor. Thus, we have no basis to conclude that the release of any portion of the submitted information would implicate the third parties' interests, and none of the information may be withheld on that basis. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (stating that business enterprise that claims exception for commercial or financial information under section 552.110(b) must show by specific factual evidence 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).

Section 552.136 of the Government Code states that “[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.”² Gov’t Code § 552.136(b). The district must withhold the routing numbers we have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

We note some of the remaining information is 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 copyrighted. 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 copyrighted materials, 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 must withhold the information we marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released, but only in accordance with copyright law.

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

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public

²The 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).

information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Matt Entsminger
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MRE/rl

Ref: ID# 367775

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

cc: Mr. Chris M. Cronin
American National Bank of Texas
2851 South Central Expressway
McKinney, Texas 75069
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Wendy Wong-Majors
Public Funds Manager
Capital One NA
14651 Dallas Parkway, 3rd Floor
Dallas, Texas 75240
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Jenny Murphey
Senior Vice President
Legacy Texas Bank
P.O. Box 869111
Plano, Texas 75086-9111
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Amy Wang
Bank of America
901 Main Street, 11th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75202-3714
(w/o enclosures)