



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 18, 2010

Mr. Eric D. Bentley
Assistant General Counsel
University of Houston System
311 E. Cullen Building
Houston, Texas 77204-2028

OR2010-15792

Dear Mr. Bentley:

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# 396993.

The University of Houston (the "university") received a request for the bid tabulation and award for a specified project. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the submitted information, you state that the requests may implicate the proprietary interests of Aves Audio Visual Systems, Inc.; Bayou City Interests, Inc.; CCS Presentation Systems; Ford Audio Video Systems, Inc.; Preferred Technologies, Inc.; and Sara Appliance & Electronics; collectively (the "third parties"). Accordingly, you notified these third parties of the request and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why their information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d) (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); *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 applicability of exception to disclosure in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

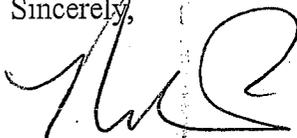
An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not

received comments from any of the third parties. We, thus, have no basis for concluding that any portion of the submitted information constitutes these companies' proprietary information. *See id.* § 552.110; 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, the university may not withhold any of the submitted information based on the proprietary interests of any of the third parties. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised for the submitted information, it must be released to the requestor.

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 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,



Nneka Kanu
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NK/em

Ref: ID# 396993

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Marcy Antiuk
Ford Audio Video Systems, Inc.
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(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Mike Matthews
Bayou City Interests, Inc.
P.O. Box 1239
El Campo, Texas 77437
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Sandra Ramos
Vice President
Aves Audio Visual Systems, Inc.
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Mr. Ben Pickrel
CCS Presentation Systems
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