



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 3, 2011

Mr. Tyler F. Wallach
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton Street, Third Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2011-16185

Dear Mr. Wallach:

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# 435128 (Fort Worth PIR# W011073).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for all responses, excluding the requestor's response, to request for proposals number 11-0120 and associated scoring sheets. You state you have released the requested scoring sheets. Although you take no position on whether the requested information is excepted from disclosure, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Business & Financial Solutions, MGT of America, Inc. ("MGT"), and Seel Jackson Consulting, LLC. ("Seel Jackson"). Accordingly, you have notified Business & Financial Solutions, MGT, and Seel Jackson 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); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permitted governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

We note that an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this decision, we have not received correspondence from Business & Financial Solutions, MGT, or Seel Jackson. Thus, Business & Financial Solutions, MGT, and Seel Jackson have not demonstrated that they have a protected proprietary interest in any of the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)-(b); 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 city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests Business & Financial Solutions, MGT, or Seel Jackson may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released.

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,



Vanessa Burgess
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VB/dls

Ref: ID# 435128

Enc. Submitted documents

Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Mark Epstein
Senior Partner
MGT of America, Inc.
502 East 11th Street, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78701
(Third party w/o enclosures)

Ms. Mara Ash
Business & Financial Solutions
P.O. Box 152974
Austin, Texas 78715
(Third party w/o enclosures)

Mr. Bernard Seel
President/CEO
Seel Jackson Consulting, LLC
10538 Chestnut Hill Court
Fishers, Indiana 46037
(Third party w/o enclosures)