



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 21, 2012

Ms. Jacqueline E. Hojem
Public Information Coordinator
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
P.O. Box 61429
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

OR2012-04095

Dear Ms. Hojem:

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# 448426 (MTA No. 2012-0105).

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County ("METRO") received a request for copies of RFP 1100010 and the related winning proposal. You state METRO has released some of the requested information to the requestor. Although you take no position on the public availability of the remaining requested information, you state the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of a third party. Accordingly, you inform us, and provide documentation showing, you notified BJ's Enterprises ("BJE") of the request and of the company's right to submit comments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released to the requestor. *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 applicability of exception to disclosure under the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

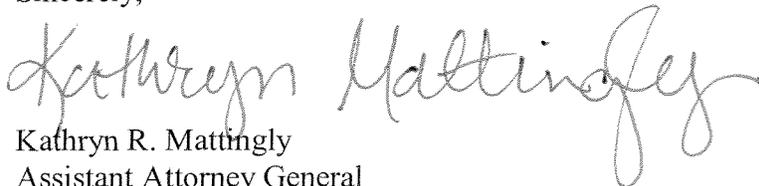
We note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from BJE on why the company's submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude BJE has protected proprietary interests in the submitted 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 (1990). Accordingly, METRO may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest BJE may have in it. As you raise no exceptions to disclosure, METRO must release the submitted information.

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,



Kathryn R. Mattingly
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KRM/dls

Ref: ID# 448426

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Brenda Clayton-Dyer
BJ's Enterprises
P.O. Box 57267
Webster, Texas 77598
(w/o enclosures)