



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 31, 2012

Mr. Ricardo Morado
City Attorney for the City of San Benito
Roerig, Oliveira & Fisher, L.L.P.
855 West Price Road, Suite 9
Brownsville, Texas 78520-8786

OR2012-08377

Dear Mr. Morado:

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# 455159.

The City of San Benito (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for (1) a complete list of names of all persons who accompanied three named individuals on the city's officially sanctioned trip to China; (2) the listed individual's reason for accompanying city officials; (3) the relation of the listed persons to any of the named individuals; (4) the function of the listed individuals as it pertained to official city business with China; (5) the listed individual's involvement with current city business or with individuals employed by the city or elected to city positions; (6) the employers of the listed individuals; and (6) contact information for all persons accompanying the city officials. You state you have released some information responsive to the first category of the request to the requestor. You claim the remaining portions of the request require the city to answer questions and are, thus, not a proper request. We have considered your argument.

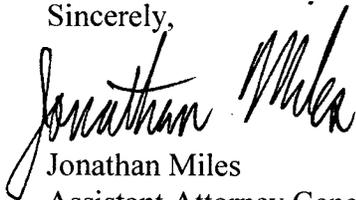
You assert the request requires the city to answer questions. The Act does not require a governmental body to answer general questions, perform legal research, or create information that did not exist when the request was received. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2 (1992), 563 at 8 (1990), 555 at 1-2 (1990). However, a governmental body must make a good-faith effort to relate a request to any responsive

information that is within its possession or control. Open Records Decision No. 561 at 8-9 (1990). Therefore, while the city is not required to answer general questions or create documents that did not exist at the time of the request, documents from which this information may be derived are responsive to this request. We note the request does not specifically ask any questions, but rather seeks any documentation regarding the requested categories of information. Accordingly, to the extent any such documentation exists, it would be responsive to the request and, as the city raises no exceptions for disclosure, it 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,



Jonathan Miles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JM/bhf

Ref: ID# 455159

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)