



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 18, 2012

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

OR2012-14817

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# 465576.

The University of Houston (the "university") received a request for scoring information pertaining to a specified request for proposals. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Broneic Associates; BSI Healthcare Services; and CBIZ Risk & Advisory Services, LLC (collectively, the "third parties"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified the third parties of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the 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 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 ruling, we have not received comments from any of the third parties. Thus, we have no basis to conclude any of the third parties have a protected proprietary interest in 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 university may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third parties 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,



Sarah Casterline
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SEC/som

Ref: ID# 465576

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Jack Mann
Broniec Associates
4855 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard #215
Norcross, Georgia 30092
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Michael Gallagher
CBIZ Risk & Advisory Services, LLP
4615 Southwest Freeway, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77027
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Terri Harkens
BSI Healthcare Services
944 52nd Street, Southeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508
(w/o enclosures)