



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 26, 2013

Mr. R. Brooks Moore
Managing Counsel, Governance
Office of General Counsel
The Texas A&M University System
301 Tarrow Street, 6th Floor
College Station, Texas 77840-7896

OR2013-12927

Dear Mr. Moore:

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# 494551.

Texas A&M University (the "university") received a request for the current contract of a named coach and the current contract for bat-manufacturing. You inform us you will release the current contract with the named coach to the requestor. Although you take no position on the public availability of the submitted information, you state the release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of a third party. Accordingly, you inform us, and provide documentation showing, you notified Easton-Bell Sports, Inc. ("Easton-Bell") 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.

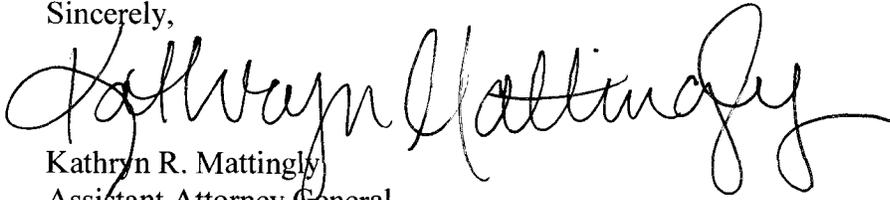
We note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from Easton-Bell on why the company's submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Easton-Bell 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. Accordingly, the university may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest Easton-Bell may have in it. As no exceptions to disclosure were raised, the university 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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Kathryn R. Mattingly
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KRM/bhf

Ref: ID# 494551

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Thomas T. Merrigan
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Easton Sports, Inc.
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Van Nuys, California 91406
(w/o enclosures)