



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 13, 2013

Mr. John A. Haislet  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of College Station  
P.O. Box 9960  
College Station, Texas 77842

OR2013-14072

Dear Mr. Haislet:

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# 496790.

The City of College Station (the "city") received a request for bid tabulation information pertaining to request for proposals number 13-049, Public Safety Software Consultant. You state the city has released some of the requested information. Although you take no position as to whether the requested information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of L.R. Kimball. Accordingly, you state you notified this third party of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the information at issue 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 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 L.R. Kimball explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude L.R. Kimball has a protected proprietary interest 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 city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest L.R. Kimball may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised for the submitted information, 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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](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,



Megan G. Holloway  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MGH/dls

Ref: ID# 496790

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Deborah C. Irwin  
Vice President - Project Delivery  
L.R. Kimball  
615 West Highland Avenue  
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931  
(Third party w/o enclosures)