



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 20, 2013

Mr. Joe Torres, III
City Attorney
City of Alice
P.O. Box 3229
Alice, Texas 78333

OR2013-14489

Dear Mr. Torres:

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# 498049.

The City of Alice (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for copies of specific grants submitted to the Economic Development Administration. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.131 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.131 of the Government Code relates to economic development information and provides, in part:

(b) Unless and until an agreement is made with the business prospect, information about a financial or other incentive being offered to the business prospect by the governmental body or by another person is excepted from [required public disclosure].

Gov't Code § 552.131(b). Section 552.131(b) protects information about a financial or other incentive that is being offered to a business prospect by a governmental body or another person. *See id.* You assert the information at issue contains information "that relate[s] to economic development negotiations involving the [city] and a business prospect that the [city] seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the city." We note,

however, the submitted information consists of grant applications to the Economic Development Administration where the city is seeking financial assistance. Upon review, we find you have not demonstrated how any portion of the submitted information reveals financial or other incentives that are being offered to a business prospect. Thus, we conclude, the city may not withhold any of the submitted information under section 552.131(b) of the Government Code. As you raise no other exceptions to disclosure, 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.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,



Paige Thompson
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PT/eb

Ref: ID# 498049

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)