



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

February 21, 2014

Ms. Ana Vieira  
Office of General Counsel  
The University of Texas System  
201 West Seventh Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2014-03283

Dear Ms. Vieira:

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# 514906 (U.T. OGC# 153308).

The University of Texas System (the "system") received a request for grading and ranking information pertaining to a specified Construction Manager at Risk ("CMAR") project and the final agreement between the system and the selected CMAR. 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 J.T. Vaughn Construction, LLC ("Vaughn"). Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified Vaughn of the request for information and of its 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.

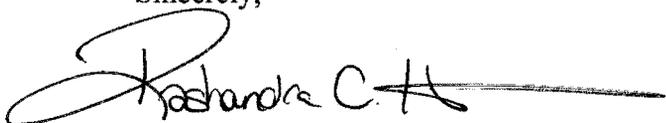
We note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received any comments from Vaughn explaining why any of the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Vaughn has protected proprietary interests in the 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. Consequently, the system may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests Vaughn may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure are 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.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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rashandra C. Hayes", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rashandra C. Hayes  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

RCH/dls

Ref: ID# 514906

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. J. Thomas Vaughn  
CEO  
J.T. Vaughn Construction, LLC  
3131 McKinney Avenue, Suite 460  
Dallas, Texas 75204  
(w/o enclosures)