



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 24, 2014

Ms. Mary Ann Powell
Olson & Olson, L.L.P.
2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77019

OR2014-16974

Dear Ms. Powell:

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# 542373 (City Reference No. COC 14-004).

The City of Cleveland (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for correspondence from and to a named individual "regarding a ban on certain books at the library." You state the city has released some responsive information to the requestor. You claim the submitted information may be protected by copyright. We have considered your claim and reviewed the submitted information.

You have noted that some of the materials at issue may be protected by copyright. A custodian of public records must comply with the copyright law and is not required to furnish copies of records that are copyrighted. Open Records Decision No. 180 at 3 (1977). A governmental body must allow inspection of copyrighted materials unless an exception applies to the information. *Id.*; see Open Records Decision No. 109 (1975). If a member of the public wishes to make copies of copyrighted materials, the person must do so unassisted by the governmental body. In making copies, the member of the public assumes the duty of compliance with the copyright law and the risk of a copyright infringement suit.

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,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 542373

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)