



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 14, 2016

Ms. Melissa A. Mihalick  
Counsel for the College of the Mainland  
Bracewell & Giuliani, L.L.P.  
711 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300  
Houston, Texas 77002-2770

OR2016-01130

Dear Ms. Mihalick:

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# 594535.

The College of the Mainland (the "college"), which you represent, received a request for a specified investigation. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.111 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information falls within the scope of section 552.022 of the Government Code. Section 552.022(a) provides, in relevant part:

(a) [T]he following categories of information are public information and not excepted from required disclosure unless made confidential under this chapter or other law:

(1) a completed report, audit, evaluation, or investigation made of, for, or by a governmental body, except as provided by Section 552.108[.]

Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(1). The submitted information consists of a completed investigation report that is subject to section 552.022(a)(1). The college must release the completed report pursuant to section 552.022(a)(1) unless it is excepted from disclosure

under section 552.108 of the Government Code or made confidential under the Act or other law. *See id.* Although you seek to withhold the information under section 552.111 of the Government Code, this section is a discretionary exception to disclosure that protects a governmental body's interests and may be waived. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n. 5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 470 at 7 (1987) (deliberative process privilege under statutory predecessor to Gov't Code § 552.111 subject to waiver). As such, section 552.111 does not make information confidential for purposes of section 552.022(a)(1). Thus, the completed report may not be withheld under section 552.111 of the Government Code. Therefore, as the college raises no other exception to disclosure, the submitted information must be released pursuant to section 552.022(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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,



Paige Lay  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

PL/dls

Ref: ID# 594535

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)