



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 28, 2016

Ms. Patricia M. Crawson  
Chief Warrant Officer 2  
Legal Administrator - Open Records  
Texas Military Department  
P.O. Box 5218  
Austin, Texas 78763-5218

OR2016-16996

Dear Ms. Crawson:

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# 620596.

The Texas Military Department (the "department") received a request for a copy of all open contracts with managed print or multi-function device providers, as well as a copy of the last three invoices from each of these providers for leases, purchases, and monthly services rendered. 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 specified third parties. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, you notified the Texas Department of Information Services (the "DIR"), Xerox Corporation, and Toshiba Business Solutions of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released), .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.

As of this date, we have not received comments from the DIR. Accordingly, the department may not withhold any portion of the information at issue on the basis of any interest the DIR may have in it. In addition, we note 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 any of the third parties explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude any of the third parties 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 department may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest any of the third parties may have in the information. 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,



Ian Lancaster  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

IML/eb

Ref: ID# 620596

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

3 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)