



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 27, 2016

Mr. Andrew Devine
Senior Associate Attorney
Dallas County Hospital District
D/b/A Parkland Health & Hospital System
5201 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, Texas 75235

OR2016-21741

Dear Mr. Devine:

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# 627916 (DCHD#16-40).

The Dallas County Hospital District d/b/a Parkland Health & Hospital System (the "system") received a request for a specified agreement. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the submitted information, you state the proprietary interests of a third party might be implicated. Accordingly, you inform us, and provide documentation showing, you notified American Medical Response ("AMR") of the request and of its right to submit comments to this office as to why the requested information should not be released to the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining that statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

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 requested information relating to that party should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, this office has not received comments from AMR explaining why its information should not be released to the requestor. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude the third party vendor has a protected proprietary

interest in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (stating business enterprise claiming exception for commercial or financial information under section 552.110(b) must show by specific factual evidence release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the system may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of the proprietary interest AMR may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been 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, 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,



Kavid Singh
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KVS/bhf

Ref: ID# 627916

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)