



SPALDING NICHOLS
-LAMP LANGLOIS-

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Flock Safety
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Via Email

Re: Notice to Third Party Whose Proprietary Information is Requested

To Whom It May Concern:

I represent Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) and am writing to inform you that SBISD has received a Texas Public Information Act Request seeking information which involves your company. *See* Request for Information, attached as **Exhibit 1**.

The Office of the Attorney General is reviewing this matter and will issue a decision on whether Texas law requires SBISD to release your records. Generally, the Public Information Act (the Act) requires the release of requested information, but there are exceptions. As described below, you have the right to object to the release of your records by submitting written arguments to the attorney general that one or more exceptions apply to your records. You are not required to submit arguments to the attorney general, but if you decide not to submit arguments, the Office of the Attorney General will presume that you have no interest in withholding your records from disclosure. In other words, if you fail to take timely action, the attorney general will more than likely rule that your records must be released to the public. If you decide to submit arguments, **you must do so not later than the tenth business day after the date you receive this notice.**

If you submit arguments to the attorney general, you must:

- a) identify the legal exceptions that apply,
- b) identify the specific parts of each document that are covered by each exception, and
- c) explain why each exception applies.

Tex. Gov't Code § 552.305(d).

A claim that an exception applies without further explanation will not suffice. Attorney General Opinion H-436 (1974). You may contact me to review the information at issue in order to make your arguments. SBISD will provide the attorney general with a

copy of the request for information and a copy of the requested information, along with other material required by the Act. The attorney general is generally required to issue a decision within 45 business days.

Please send your written comments to the Office of the Attorney General at the following address:

Office of the Attorney General
Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

If you wish to submit your written comments electronically, you may only do so via the Office of the Attorney General's eFiling System. An administrative convenience charge will be assessed for use of the eFiling System. No other method of electronic submission is available. Please visit the attorney general's website at <http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov> for more information.

In addition, you are required to provide the requestor with a copy of your communication to the Office of the Attorney General. Tex. Gov't Code § 552.305(e). You may redact the requestor's copy of your communication to the extent it contains the substance of the requested information. Tex. Gov't Code § 552.305(e).

Commonly Raised Exceptions

In order for a governmental body to withhold requested information, specific tests or factors for the applicability of a claimed exception must be met. Failure to meet these tests may result in the release of requested information. I have listed the most commonly claimed exceptions in the Government Code concerning proprietary information and the leading cases or decisions discussing them. This listing is not intended to limit any exceptions or statutes you may raise.

Section 552.101: Information Made Confidential by Law

Open Records Decision No. 652 (1997).

Section 552.104: Confidentiality of Information Relating to Competition

Boeing Co. v. Paxton, No. 12-1007, 2015 WL 3854264, at *9 (Tex. June 19, 2015).



Section 552.110: Trade Secrets and Commercial or Financial Information

Trade Secrets:

In re Bass, 113 S.W.3d 735 (Tex. 2003).

Hyde Corp. v. Huffines, 314 S.W.2d 763, 776 (Tex.), *cert. denied*, 358 U.S. 898 (1958).

Open Records Decision No. 552 (1990).

Commercial or Financial Information:

Birnbaum v. Alliance of Am. Insurers, 994 S.W.2d 766 (Tex. App.—Austin 1999, pet. filed) (construing previous version of section 552.110), *abrogated by In re Bass*, 113 S.W.3d 735 (Tex. 2003).

Open Records Decision No. 639 (1996).

Open Record Decision No. 661 (1999).

Section 552.1101: Confidentiality of Proprietary Information

Section 552.113: Confidentiality of Geological or Geophysical Information

Open Records Decision No. 627 (1994).

Section 552.131: Confidentiality of Certain Economic Development Negotiation Information

If you have questions about this notice or release of information under the Act, please refer to the *Public Information Handbook* published by the Office of the Attorney General or contact the attorney general's Open Government Hotline at (512) 478-OPEN (6736) or toll-free at (877) 673-6839 (877-OPEN TEX). To access the *Public Information Handbook* or Attorney General Opinions, including those listed above, please visit the attorney general's Web site at <http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov>.



Sincerely,

SPALDING NICHOLS LAMP LANGLOIS

/s/ Elizabeth M. Rice

ELIZABETH M. RICE

Enclosure: **Exhibit 1**—TPIA Request

cc: Open Records Division (Via electronic submission w/out enclosures)
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

cc: Requestor
155002-60408346@requests.muckrock.com (Via email w/out enclosures)

