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Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 12548
Open Records Division
Austin, TX 78711-2548

REQUEST FOR OPEN RECORDS DECISION

Dear Sirs:

This firm represents the Travis Appraisal Review Board.

The attached requests for information (Attachments 2, 3 and 4) were submitted to the Appraisal Review Board by Texas Protax-Austin, Inc., a tax consulting firm. The ARB believes that these requests are subject to the litigation exception contained in Section 552.103(a) of the Act.

On October 8, 2018, this firm, along with another tax consulting firm and 159 individual property owners filed suit against the Travis County Appraisal Review Board, and Marya Crigler, Travis County Chief Appraiser (Attachment 1) The Petition alleges that the Board wrongfully dismissed certain protests for failure of the owner to appear, and then violated the Open Meetings Act in failing to mention these dismissals in its notices of meetings in which appraisal records were approved by the Board. Prior to filing the suit, ProTax submitted a request for notices of these meetings, together with additional documentation, which the ARB produced. (Attachment 2) This request was then partially duplicated in Requests for Production attached to the Petition.

Since filing the Petition, Protax has engaged in a pattern of behavior evidently intended on finding examples of alleged wrongdoing by the ARB. Protax agents regularly show up at the Appraisal District offices, whether or not they have hearings scheduled, and enter rooms where protest hearings are under way, where they observing and sometimes photograph the proceedings. Its representatives have accused the ARB in the press of failing to provide fair hearings. Bill Aleshire, the attorney for the Plaintiffs, has appeared at least twice on TV station

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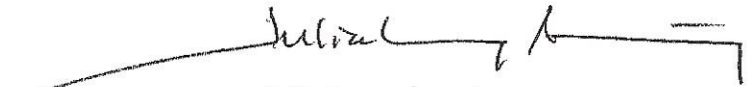


KXAN, discussing the ARB's alleged unfairness. These highly critical broadcasts are available on YouTube

Subsequently, the attached PIA requests of November 29th and December 7th were received. (Attachments 3 and 4) It is the ARB's opinion that these relate to the allegations contained in the Petition and are intended to broaden the Plaintiffs' claim for OMA violations, which could likely result in the joinder of the ARB's Chair in the suit...

The Travis County Appraisal Review Board respectfully requests the opinion of the Open Records Division as to withholding the requested information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Lacy Armstrong", with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a vertical line at the end.

Julia Lacy Armstrong

Cc Bill Aleshire
B.Thompson