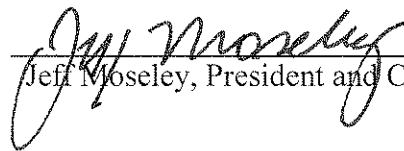


**Resolution of the Board of Directors in Opposition to the Public
Disclosure of Certain Records of an Appraisal District**

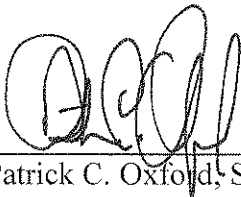
The Greater Houston Partnership opposes legislative efforts to allow licensed appraisers to obtain confidential information from an appraisal district relating to the property to be appraised. If enacted, this provision would create a substantial gap in the existing statutory provisions providing for confidentiality of information furnished by property owners to appraisal districts under a promise of confidentiality. Many commercial and industrial property owners may react to this type of legislation by refusing to submit proprietary information to appraisal districts. This reaction, in turn, would adversely affect the property appraisal process.



Daniel G. Bellow, Chairman



Jeff Moseley, President and CEO



Patrick C. Oxford, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 8, 2009

TO: Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

FROM: Roland Rodriguez
Chairman, Tax and Fiscal Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution of the Board of Directors in Opposition to the Public Disclosure of Certain Records of an Appraisal District

RECOMMENDATION:

The Greater Houston Partnership opposes legislative efforts to allow licensed appraisers to obtain confidential information from an appraisal district relating to the property to be appraised. If enacted, this provision would create a substantial gap in the existing statutory provisions providing for confidentiality of information furnished by property owners to appraisal districts under a promise of confidentiality. Many commercial and industrial property owners may react to this type of legislation by refusing to submit proprietary information to appraisal districts. This reaction, in turn, would adversely affect the property appraisal process.

BACKGROUND:

The Government Code provides a right of access to all public information during regular business hours. However, section 552.148, Government Code, provides various exceptions to this law, including the exclusion of records received by the chief appraiser of an appraisal district from a private entity. These records include real property sales prices, descriptions, characteristics and any other information related to the property to be appraised.

Section 22.27, Tax Code, provides a more comprehensive exclusion for information provided by a private entity regarding property to be appraised. All information provided to an appraisal office in connection with the appraisal of a property, including real property reports and any attachments to those reports, must be kept confidential after a promise is made to hold the information in confidence. Except in limited circumstances, this information may not be disclosed to anyone other than the appraisal district employee appraising the specific property.

Amending section 552.148, Government Code, to allow for an appraisal district's disclosure of confidential data to a licensed private appraiser will create a large exception to the confidentiality requirements of section 22.27, Tax Code. To avoid the risk of

confidential information being provided to competitors or others, property owners may react by refusing to provide information to appraisal districts.

IMPLEMENTATION:

To implement this recommendation, the Partnership would communicate its support of this resolution to the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Creating an exception to these confidentiality agreements provides a mechanism for a property owner's proprietary information to be acquired by their competitors. To avoid this risk, property owners may refrain from reporting the necessary information to the appraisal districts, preventing the appraisal districts from properly appraising property. As a consequence, the property tax appraisal process will be compromised.

KNOWN OPPOSITION:

At this time, there is no known opposition.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No resources are required to implement this recommendation.