

James J. Giszczak
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April 26, 2022

VIA EMAIL (Idtheft@oaq.state.md.us)

Brian E. Frosh
Office of the Maryland Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City of Effingham, Illinois – Incident Notification

Dear Mr. Frosh:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents Effingham, Illinois (“Effingham”). I am writing to provide notification of an incident at Effingham that may affect the security of personal information of approximately one (1) Maryland resident. Effingham’s investigation is ongoing, and this notification will be supplemented with any new or significant facts or findings subsequent to this submission, if any. By providing this notice, Effingham does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction

Effingham learned that an unauthorized individual may have obtained access to one (1) Effingham employee email account. Upon learning of the incident, Effingham immediately secured the account and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, Effingham discovered on March 28, 2022 that the email account that was accessed between September 18, 2021 and November 29, 2021 contained some personal information. The information contained within the compromised email account included the resident’s full name and Social Security number.

Effingham has no indication that any of the information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, Effingham wanted to inform you (and the affected resident) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected resident against identity fraud. Effingham is providing the affected resident with written notification of this incident commencing on or about April 26, 2022 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. Effingham is offering the affected resident complimentary one-year membership with a credit monitoring service. Effingham will advise the affected resident to always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. Effingham is advising the affected resident about the placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and obtaining free credit reports. The affected resident is also being

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provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Maryland Attorney General.

At Effingham, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. Effingham is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. Effingham continually evaluates and modifies its practices to enhance the security and privacy of the personal information it maintains.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 220-1354 or jgiszczak@mcdonaldhopkins.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



James J. Giszczak

Encl.

City of Effingham
Return to IDX
10300 SW Greenburg Rd. Suite 570
Portland, OR 97223



To Enroll, Please Call:
1-800-939-4170
Or Visit:
<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>
Enrollment Code: [REDACTED]

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY**

April 26, 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing with important information regarding a recent security incident. The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to the City of Effingham. As such, we wanted to provide you with information about the incident, explain the services we are making available to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

We recently learned that an unauthorized individual obtained access to one City of Effingham employee email account.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of the issue, we immediately began efforts to remediate the issue and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we have been working very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, we discovered on March 28, 2022 that the impacted email account that was accessed between September 18, 2021 and November 29, 2021 contained some of your personal information. We have no evidence that any of the information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware of the incident.

What Information Was Involved?

The impacted email account contained some of your personal information, specifically your [REDACTED]

What You Can Do.

To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering a complimentary one-year membership of identity theft protection services through IDX, the data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection services include: 12 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed id theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised. For instructions on how to activate your complimentary one-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. To the extent it is helpful, we have also provided information on protecting your medical information on the following pages.

For More Information.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at [REDACTED]. This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, **8 am to 8 pm Central Time.**

Sincerely,

The City of Effingham, Illinois

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

1. **Enrolling in Complimentary 12-Month Credit Monitoring.**

Activate IDX Identity Protection Membership Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: [REDACTED] (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **IDX website** to enroll: <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>
3. PROVIDE the **Enrollment Code**: [REDACTED]

If you have questions about the product or if you would like to enroll over the phone, please contact IDX at 1-800-939-4170.

2. **Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.**

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary 12-month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial 1-year “fraud alert” on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

Equifax

P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/>
1-800-525-6285

Experian

P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion LLC

P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>
1-800-680-7289

3. **Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.**

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a “security freeze” be placed on your credit file, *at no charge*. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by sending a request in writing or by mail, to all three nationwide credit reporting companies. To find out more about how to place a security freeze, you can use the following contact information:

Equifax Security Freeze

P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>
1-800-349-9960

Experian Security Freeze

P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
<http://experian.com/freeze>
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
<http://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>
1-888-909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, you’ll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit monitoring company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the City in which you currently reside.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **www.annualcreditreport.com**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

5. Additional Helpful Resources.

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If this notice letter states that your financial account information and/or credit or debit card information was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

Iowa Residents: You may contact law enforcement or the Iowa Attorney General's Office to report suspected incidents of identity Theft: Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, Consumer Protection Division, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov, Telephone: 1-515-281-5164

Maryland Residents: You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer, Telephone: 1-888-743-0023.

6. Protecting Your Medical Information.

We have no information to date indicating that your medical information involved in this incident was or will be used for any unintended purposes. As a general matter, however, the following practices can help to protect you from medical identity theft.

- Only share your health insurance cards with your health care providers and other family members who are covered under your insurance plan or who help you with your medical care.
- Review your "explanation of benefits statement" which you receive from your health insurance company. Follow up with your insurance company or care provider for any items you do not recognize. If necessary, contact the care provider on the explanation of benefits statement and ask for copies of medical records from the date of the potential access (noted above) to current date.
- Ask your insurance company for a current year-to-date report of all services paid for you as a beneficiary. Follow up with your insurance company or the care provider for any items you do not recognize.