

Colin M. Battersby
Direct Dial: 248-593-2952
E-mail: cbattersby@mcdonaldhopkins.com

April 19, 2023

VIA EMAIL: IDTheft@oag.state.md.us

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

Re: City of Huntsville, Texas – Incident Notification

Dear Sir or Madam:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents the City of Huntsville, Texas (“Huntsville”). I am writing to provide notification of an incident that may affect the security of personal information of one (1) Maryland resident. Huntsville’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, Huntsville does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction.

On October 21, 2022, Huntsville detected that a ransomware infection began encrypting files stored on its network. Upon learning of this issue, Huntsville contained the threat by disabling all unauthorized access to its network, restored all encrypted data, and immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of its investigation, Huntsville has been working very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. Though the investigation is ongoing, Huntsville determined that the perpetrator had access to and may have removed certain files and folders from the network. Following an extensive manual review, Huntsville learned on March 9, 2023 that the impacted files contained a limited amount of personal information, including the affected resident’s full name, Social Security number, and health insurance information.

At the time of this notification, Huntsville is not aware of any reports of identity theft or fraud arising out of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, Huntsville 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. Huntsville is providing the affected resident with written notification of this incident commencing on or about April 19, 2023 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. Huntsville is providing the affected resident with 12 months of complimentary credit monitoring services and will advise the affected resident to always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. Huntsville will advise the affected resident about the process for placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and

April 19, 2023

Page 2

obtaining free credit reports. The affected resident is also being provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Maryland Attorney General.

At Huntsville, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. Huntsville is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. Huntsville 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) 593-2952 or cbattersby@mcdonaldhopkins.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Colin M. Battersby

Encl.



Return Mail Processing Center
P.O. Box 6336
Portland, OR 97228-6336

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to the City of Huntsville, Texas ("Huntsville"). We're writing with important information regarding a recent data security incident that involved some of your information. We want to provide you with information about the incident, explain the services we are providing to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

On October 21, 2022, Huntsville detected that a ransomware infection began encrypting files stored on our network.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we contained the threat by disabling all unauthorized access to our network, restored all encrypted data, and immediately 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. Though the investigation is ongoing, Huntsville determined that the perpetrator had access to and may have removed certain files and folders from the network. Following an extensive manual review, Huntsville learned on March 9, 2023 that the impacted files contained your personal information.¹

What Information Was Involved.

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

What You Can Do.

We have no evidence that any of your information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware of the incident. To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering a complimentary one-year membership of Experian IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks Credit 3B is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including 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 financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

¹ Please note that Huntsville provided notice of this incident to an initial group of individuals on December 30, 2022. You were not included in that mailing because we did not learn until March 9, 2023 that your personal information was impacted.

The malware that infected our systems had the potential to collect the usernames and passwords that may have been saved in website browsers. As a result, if you used our computer systems to access any of your personal accounts (bank accounts, credit card accounts, personal email, social media, etc.) and saved passwords to the browser, we recommend you consider changing those passwords out of an abundance of caution. Additionally, if you have a habit of using the same passwords for multiple accounts, consider changing those passwords and that practice.

For More Information.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We remain fully 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 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 [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aron Kulhavy', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Aron Kulhavy
City Manager
City of Huntsville
1212 Avenue M
Huntsville, TX 77340

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

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

Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: [REDACTED] (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: [REDACTED]
3. PROVIDE the Activation Code: [REDACTED]

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at [REDACTED]. Be prepared to provide engagement number [REDACTED] as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

**Activate your membership today at [REDACTED]
or call [REDACTED] to register with the activation code above.**

What you can do to protect your information: There are additional actions you can consider taking to reduce the chances of identity theft or fraud on your account(s). Please refer to [REDACTED] for this information. If you have any questions about IdentityWorks, need help understanding something on your credit report or suspect that an item on your credit report may be fraudulent, please contact Experian's customer care team at [REDACTED].

*Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** Identity theft insurance is underwritten by insurance company subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). The description herein is a summary and intended for informational purposes only and does not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies described. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

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 one (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/>
(800) 525-6285

Experian

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

TransUnion LLC

Fraud Victim Assistance Department
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>
(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 contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

Equifax Security Freeze

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

Experian Security Freeze

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

TransUnion Security Freeze

P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094
<https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>
(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 reporting 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 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 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 your financial account number was impacted, we recommend that you reach out to your financial institution and discuss steps you can take to protect your account.

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: (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.

North Carolina Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Department of Justice, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226.

Oregon Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General’s Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, www.doj.state.or.us/, Telephone: 877-877-9392.