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June 9, 2023

**VIA E-MAIL (IDTHEFT@OAG.STATE.MD.US)**

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

*Re: Incident Notification*

Dear Attorney General Brown:

We are writing on behalf of our client, TST BOCES (“TST”), to notify you of a data security incident. TST is an educational services provider located in Ithaca, New York.

TST identified a data security incident, immediately took steps to secure its systems, and worked with a third-party cybersecurity firm to conduct a thorough investigation. TST’s investigation determined that an unauthorized person obtained access to some of TST’s systems on April 2, 2023. TST reviewed the files contained on those systems and on April 8, 2023, determined that they contained personal information. Upon further review, we determined on April 26, 2023, that the files may have contained the personal information of 16 Maryland residents, including their names and one or both of the following: Social Security number and financial account information used for direct deposit.

On June 9, 2023, TST began mailing notification letters via United States Postal Service First-Class mail to the Maryland residents, in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-3504.<sup>1</sup> A copy of the notification letter is enclosed. TST is offering one year of complimentary identity monitoring and identity theft protection services to the residents and has established a dedicated, toll-free incident response line to answer questions that individuals may have.

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<sup>1</sup> This notice does not waive TST’s objection that Maryland lacks personal jurisdiction over it regarding any claims relating to this incident.

June 9, 2023

Page 2

To help prevent a similar incident in the future, TST is enhancing its existing security protocols and safeguards to further secure its network.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*John P. Hutchins*

John P. Hutchins  
Partner

Enclosure



TOMPKINS • SENECA • TIOGA  
Secure Processing Center  
P.O. Box 3826  
Suwanee, GA 30024

Daniel Parker  
Coordinator of Technology Services

<<Name 1>>  
<<Name 2>>  
<<Address 1>>  
<<Address 2>>  
<<Address 3>>  
<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

June 9, 2023

Dear <<Name1>>:

We addressed a data security incident that may have involved some of your information. This letter explains the incident, the measures we have taken, and some steps you may consider taking in response.

We identified a data security incident, immediately took steps to secure our systems, and worked with a third-party cybersecurity firm to conduct a thorough investigation. Our investigation determined that an unauthorized person obtained access to some of our systems on April 2, 2023. We reviewed the files contained on those systems and on April 8, 2023, determined that they contained personal information. Upon further review, we determined on April 26, 2023, that the files may have contained your personal information, including one or both of the following: Social Security number and financial account information used for direct deposit.

We are offering a complimentary one-year membership with Epiq's TransUnion. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection support. For more information on TransUnion's identity monitoring including instructions on how to activate your complimentary one-year membership, as well as some additional steps you may consider taking to protect your personal information, please visit the website below:

Visit [www.mytrueidentity.com](http://www.mytrueidentity.com) to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<Enrollment Deadline>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Activation Code>>

We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for any unauthorized activity. If you see charges or activity that you did not authorize, please contact the relevant financial institution or credit bureau reporting the activity immediately.

We have established a dedicated call center to help answer any questions you may have about the incident. The call center may be reached at 844-568-3086, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. ET excluding some major U.S. holidays. We are also enhancing our existing security protocols and technical safeguards to further secure our environment and to help prevent a similar incident in the future.

Sincerely,

Daniel N Parker

Technology Services Coordinator

### **3-Bureau Credit Monitoring Product Offering: (Online and Offline)**

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online 3-bureau credit monitoring service (*myTrueIdentity*) for 12 months provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion®, one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

To enroll in this service, go directly to the *myTrueIdentity* website at [www.mytrueidentity.com](http://www.mytrueidentity.com) and in the space referenced as “Enter Activation Code”, enter the following unique 12-letter Activation Code

<< **Activation Code**>> and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.

If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to enroll in a similar offline, paper based, 3-bureau credit monitoring service, via U.S. Mail delivery, please call the TransUnion Fraud Response Services toll- free hotline at **1-855-288-5422**. When prompted, enter the following 6-digit telephone pass code << **Engagement Number** >> and follow the steps to enroll in the offline credit monitoring service, add an initial fraud alert to your credit file, or to speak to a TransUnion representative if you believe you may be a victim of identity theft.

Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain 12 months unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and VantageScore® credit score by TransUnion. The daily 3- bureau credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit files at TransUnion®, Experian® and Equifax®, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, change of address and more. The service also includes the ability to lock and unlock your TransUnion credit report online, access to identity restoration services that provides assistance in the event your identity is compromised to help you restore your identity and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

You can sign up for the *myTrueIdentity* online 3-Bureau Credit Monitoring service anytime between now and <<Enrollment Deadline>>. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring services might not be available for individuals who do not have credit files at TransUnion®, Experian® and Equifax®, or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number, or are under the age of 18. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

If you have questions about your *myTrueIdentity* online credit monitoring benefits, need help with your online enrollment, or need help accessing your credit report, or passing identity verification, please contact the *myTrueIdentity* Customer Service Team toll-free at: 1-844-787-4607, Monday-Friday: 8am- 9pm, Saturday-Sunday: 8am-5pm Eastern time.

## ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com), 1-888-378-4329
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com), 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com), 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov)

### Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

***Fraud Alerts:*** There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

***Credit or Security Freezes:*** You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

*How do I place a freeze on my credit reports?* There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

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 bureau will provide you with 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.

*How do I lift a freeze?* A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

Tompkins-Seneca is located at 555 Warren Rd Ithaca, NY, 14850.

Additional information for residents of the following states:

**Maryland:** You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Maryland Attorney General's Office*, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023 / 1-410-576-6300, [www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us)

**North Carolina:** You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at:  
*North Carolina Attorney General's Office*, 9001 Mail Service Centre, Raleigh, NC 27699, 1-919-716-6000 / 1-877-566-7226, [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov)

**West Virginia:** You have the right to ask that nationwide consumer reporting agencies place "fraud alerts" in your file to let potential creditors and others know that you may be a victim of identity theft, as described above. You also have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report, as described above.

**New York:** You may contact and obtain information from these state agencies:

*New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection*, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220; and

*New York State Office of the Attorney General*, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>