



MULLEN
COUGHLIN^{LLC}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Angelina W. Freind
Office: (267) 930-4782
Fax: (267) 930-4771
Email: afreind@mullen.law

426 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200
Devon, PA 19333

October 4, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
E-mail: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Re: Notice of Data Event

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent the Sierra Club, located at 2101 Webster St., Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of certain personal information relating to thirty-seven (37) Maryland residents. This notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, the Sierra Club does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law, the applicability of the Maryland data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

Nature of the Data Event

Sierra Club recently concluded its investigation into an incident involving a former employee's misuse of an electronic file containing personal information for certain Sierra Club employees. The investigation determined that on February 3, 2023, a Sierra Club employee forwarded and/or blind-copied a file containing a limited amount of personal information for certain Sierra Club employees to their personal email account. The employee transferred this file while they were employed by Sierra Club.. The individual responsible for this event is no longer employed by the Sierra Club.

Upon learning of the activity, Sierra Club immediately began an investigation and took steps to further mitigate the risk to this information. That review determined that the files that were transferred to a personal account without authorization contained individuals' names and Social Security numbers.

Notice to Maryland Residents

On October 4, 2023, Sierra Club provided written notice of this incident to thirty-seven (37) Maryland residents. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, Sierra Club moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, review the files that were sent to an unauthorized account, and identify potentially affected individuals. The individual responsible for this incident is no longer employed by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club is providing access to credit monitoring services for one (1) year, through Experian, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, Sierra Club is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. Sierra Club is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

Sierra Club is providing written notice of this incident to relevant state regulators, as necessary, and to the three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4782.

Very truly yours,



Angelina W. Freind of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

AWF/cml
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A



<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

<<b2b_text_1(Notice of [Subject])>>

Dear <<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>:

The Sierra Club writes to notify you of an event that may affect the privacy of some of your personal information. Although we have no evidence of misuse of your information, we write to provide you with information about the event, our response, and steps you can take to help protect against the possible misuse of your information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

What Happened?

Sierra Club recently concluded its investigation involving a former employee's interaction with an electronic file containing personal information for certain Sierra Club employees. The investigation determined that on or about February 3, 2023, a Sierra Club employee forwarded and/or blind-copied a file containing a limited amount of information for certain Sierra Club employees to their personal email account. The employee transferred this file while they were employed by Sierra Club and had access to this information as part of their employment duties at that time. The activity was discovered by Sierra Club during a security audit. Upon learning of the activity, we immediately began an investigation and took steps to further mitigate the risk to this information. The individual responsible for this event is no longer employed by the Sierra Club.

What Information Was Involved?

We are notifying you because our investigation determined that your information was present in the file that emailed by the former employee to their personal email address. This information includes your name and Social Security number.

What We Are Doing.

Sierra Club is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of its information, protecting the privacy rights of its employees, and ensuring that its proprietary information remains in its sole possession. After learning of the former employee's actions, we promptly launched an investigation to determine the scope of information involved. We also took steps to mitigate the risk to the impacted file in accordance with our internal policies and procedures. The individual responsible for this event is no longer employed with Sierra Club. We are also notifying relevant regulatory authorities, as required.

Although we have no evidence that your information was used for identity theft or fraud, as an added precaution, we are offering you access to credit monitoring and identity theft protection services for 12 months through Experian at no cost to you. If you wish to activate these complimentary services, you may follow the instructions included in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*. We encourage you to enroll in these services as we are unable to act on your behalf to do so.

What You Can Do.

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors over the next 12 to 24 months. Although we are unaware of any misuse of your information, we have arranged for Experian to provide complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for you for 12 months as an added precaution. Please review the enrollment instructions contained in the enclosed "Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information" to enroll. Although these services are being offered to you free of cost, you will need to enroll in these services yourself.

For More Information.

We understand that you may have questions that are not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call our dedicated call center at [TFN](#) from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Central Time, excluding major U.S. holidays.

You may also write to the Sierra Club at 2101 Webster St., Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Parrish", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Parrish, Chief Operating Officer

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Enroll in Credit Monitoring

To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorksSM for 12 months.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for 12 months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is immediately available to you, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary 12-month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you **enroll by** <<b2b_text_6(enrollment deadline)>>. (Your code will not work after this date.)
- Visit the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
- Provide your **activation code**: <<activation code s_n>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident, or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at (877) 288-8057 by November 3, 2023. Be prepared to provide engagement number <<b2b_text_2(engagement number)>> as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.¹
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian file for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARETM:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance²:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order a free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. Consumers may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of their credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If consumers are the victim of identity theft, they are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should consumers wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer's express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in a consumer's name without consent. However, consumers should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in their credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application they make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit.

¹ Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

² The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

Pursuant to federal law, consumers cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on their credit report. To request a credit freeze, individuals may need to provide some or all of the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, etc.); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if they are a victim of identity theft.

Should consumers wish to place a credit freeze or fraud alert, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/credit-help
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

Additional Information

Consumers may further educate themselves regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps they can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or their state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. Consumers can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Consumers have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, consumers will likely need to provide some proof that they have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and the relevant state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400; and oag.dc.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-576-6300 or 1-888-743-0023; and <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/>.

For New Mexico residents, consumers have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in their credit file has been used against them, the right to know what is in their credit file, the right to ask for their credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to consumers' files is limited; consumers must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; consumers may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance based on information in their credit report; and consumers may seek damages from violators. Consumers may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage consumers to review their rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For New York residents, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or <https://ag.ny.gov>.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and www.ncdoj.gov.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; www.riag.ri.gov; and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. There are approximately 2 Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.