



MULLEN  
COUGHLIN<sup>LLC</sup>  
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December 5, 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](mailto:idtheft@oag.state.md.us)

**Re: Notice of Data Event**

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent Polish American Association (“PAA”), located at 3834 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, and are writing to notify your office of an event that may affect the security of certain personal information relating to approximately one (1) Maryland resident. This notice may be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, PAA 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**

On September 5, 2023, PAA discovered unusual activity occurring within certain parts of its computer network. PAA quickly began working with third-party computer specialists to understand the nature and scope of the activity. PAA’s investigation determined that it was the victim of a cybersecurity attack involving ransomware and that certain PAA systems were accessed by an unknown actor between August 29, 2023, to September 4, 2023. PAA worked with subject matter specialists to rebuild its environment in a safe and secure manner and initiated an exhaustive review of its systems to confirm what, if any, personal information may have been accessible as a result of this event. PAA completed this assessment on November 7, 2023, and confirmed that Maryland residents were impacted in this event.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name, Social Security number, Passport number, Green Card or Work Permit information, and /or Driver’s License number.

### **Notice to Maryland Residents**

On or about December 5, 2023, PAA provided written notice of this incident to approximately one (1) Maryland resident. 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, PAA moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of PAA systems, and identify potentially affected individuals. Further, PAA notified federal law enforcement regarding the event. PAA is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. PAA is providing access to credit monitoring services for twelve (12) months, through IDX, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, PAA is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud. PAA 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.

PAA is providing written notice of this incident to relevant 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) 930-4554.

Very truly yours,

Matthew V. Toldero of  
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

MVT/dtg  
Enclosure

# **EXHIBIT A**



P.O. Box 989728  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9728

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<ADDRESS1>>  
<<ADDRESS2>>  
<<CITY>>, <<STATE>> <<ZIP>>  
<<Country>>

Enrollment Code: <<ENROLLMENT>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>

December 5, 2023

## NOTICE OF <<HEADER>>

Dear <<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>:

Polish American Association (“PAA”) is writing to notify you of a recent incident that may affect the privacy of some of your information. While we have no evidence of any actual or attempted misuse of information, this notice provides you with information about the incident, our response, and additional steps you may take to protect your information, should you determine it is appropriate to do so.

**What Happened?** On September 5, 2023, PAA discovered unusual activity occurring within certain parts of our computer network. We quickly began working with third-party computer specialists to understand the nature and scope of the activity. Our investigation determined that we were the victim of a cybersecurity attack involving ransomware and that certain PAA systems were accessed by an unknown actor between August 29, 2023, to September 4, 2023. We worked with subject matter specialists to rebuild our environment in a safe and secure manner and initiated an exhaustive review of our systems to confirm what, if any, personal information may have been accessed without authorization. We completed this assessment on November 7, 2023, and are notifying potentially impacted individuals out of an abundance of caution.

**What Information Was Involved?** The personal information potentially accessed during the incident included at least one of the following: your name, Social Security number, date of birth, passport number, green card or work permit information, and/or driver's license number.

**What We Are Doing.** Upon discovering this incident, we quickly took steps to investigate and respond, including reviewing and enhancing our existing policies, procedures, and system security to reduce the likelihood of a similar future event. We also reported this incident to federal law enforcement and are notifying individuals and relevant state authorities, as required. As an added precaution, PAA is offering access to <<Membership Offering Length>> of complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services through IDX, a ZeroFox Company, to potentially impacted individuals. Enrollment instructions for these services can be found in the following “Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Personal Information.”

**What You Can Do.** We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and explanation of benefits and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity. You may also review and consider the information and resources outlined in the below “Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Personal Information” including how to enroll in the complimentary credit monitoring.

**For More Information.** If you have additional questions, please call our dedicated assistance line at 1-888-859-7842 (toll free), Monday through Friday, from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time (excluding U.S. holidays). You may write to PAA at 3834 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60641 with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Polish American Association

## Steps You Can Take To Protect Personal Information

### Enroll in Monitoring Services

**1. Website and Enrollment.** Scan the QR image or go to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter. Please note the enrollment deadline is March 5, 2024.

**2. Activate the credit monitoring** provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you.

**3. Telephone.** Contact IDX at 1-888-859-7842 to gain additional information about this event and speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

### 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](http://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. 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:

| <b>Equifax</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Experian</b>                                                             | <b>TransUnion</b>                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/">https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/</a> | <a href="https://www.experian.com/help/">https://www.experian.com/help/</a> | <a href="https://www.transunion.com/credit-help">https://www.transunion.com/credit-help</a> |
| 1-888-298-0045                                                                                                                  | 1-888-397-3742                                                              | 1-800-916-8800                                                                              |
| Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069<br>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<br>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](http://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) 442-9828; and [oag.dc.gov](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 0 Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.