

McDonald Hopkins

A business advisory and advocacy law firm®

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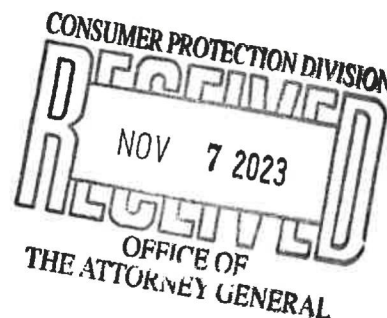
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October 31, 2023

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: Franklin County Historical Society dba Center of Science & Industry –
Incident Notification**

To Whom It May Concern:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents Franklin County Historical Society dba Center of Science & Industry (“COSI”) of Columbus, Ohio. I am writing to provide notification of an incident that may affect the security of personal information of eighteen (18) Maryland residents. By providing this notice, COSI does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction.

On July 17, 2023, COSI discovered that unauthorized actors had gained access to their network. Upon learning of this issue, COSI commenced a prompt and thorough investigation with external cybersecurity experts experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and document review, COSI discovered on October 13, 2023, that some limited personal information stored on their company network may have been accessed or acquired on June 26, 2023. Specifically, the impacted information for the Maryland residents included full name, social security number and bank account information. Not all information was impacted for all Maryland residents.

COSI has no indication that any of the information has been used for identity theft or financial fraud. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, COSI wanted to inform your Office of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected residents against identity fraud.

COSI is providing the affected residents with written notification of this incident commencing on or about November 1, 2023 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto, in addition to credit monitoring services. COSI will advise the affected residents to always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. Additionally, the affected residents will also be provided with the

August 24, 2023

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

At COSI, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. COSI is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 220-1356 or dpaluzzi@mcdonaldhopkins.com.

Very truly yours,



Dominic A. Paluzzi

Encl.

Return Mail Processing
PO Box 999
Suwanee, GA 30024

333 West Broad St
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 228-2674

10 1 1772 *****SNGLP



Dear [REDACTED]:

We are writing with important information regarding a recent cyber security incident at Center of Science & Industry ("COSI"), that may involve your personal information. We wanted to provide you with information about the incident, tell you about the services that we are providing to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

We detected suspicious activity on our company network.

What Did We Do?

Upon learning of this issue, given the uptick in such attacks against cultural institutions in Columbus, OH and throughout the nation, we immediately consulted with Federal cybersecurity agencies and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and document review, we discovered on October 13, 2023 that a limited amount of personal information stored on our company network may have been accessed and/or acquired by a bad actor on or about June 26, 2023.

What Information Was Involved?

The impacted information may have contained some of your personal information, specifically y [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

It is important to note that we have no evidence that the information involved in this incident has been used for financial fraud or identity theft.

What Can You Do?

Though we are not aware of any actual or attempted misuse of your personal information, as an added precaution, we have arranged to offer you access to # months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services provided through Experian IdentityWorksSM for [REDACTED] months.

Attached to this letter, you will find information on how to activate this offer, as well as how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on your credit files, and how to obtain a free credit report so that you may review any recent activity. It is always important to remain vigilant against threats of identity theft and fraud, and to regularly review your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity.



For More Information

We are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and will continue to take the necessary precautions to safeguard it. Please accept our apologies and know with confidence that we will continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of our systems, network, and data.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the external, dedicated call center we set up [REDACTED] between the hours of 9:00 am to 11:00 pm Eastern time, Monday through Friday and 11:00 am to 8:00 pm Eastern time, Saturday and Sunday (excluding major U.S. holidays).

As always, I am extremely grateful for your partnership, dedication, and support to COSI.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frederic Bertley
President & CEO
Franklin County Historical Society
Dba Center of Science & Industry

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

1. Enrolling in Complimentary Credit Monitoring

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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] 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** [REDACTED], no later than 5:59pm CT. Your code will not work after this date.
- Visit the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: [REDACTED]
- Provide your activation code: [REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED] by December 31, 2023. Be prepared to provide engagement number [REDACTED] as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 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.*
- **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 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.

2. Obtain and Monitor Your Credit Report

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the three major nationwide credit reporting companies. You can obtain a free copy of your credit report by calling **1-877-322-8228**, visiting **www.annualcreditreport.com**, or by completing an Annual Credit Report Request Form and mailing it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348. You can access the request form at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>. Alternatively, you can elect to purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting one of the three national credit reporting agencies. The three nationwide credit reporting agencies' contact information are provided below.

Equifax

P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
<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

Fraud Victim Assistance Department
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>
(800) 680-7289

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



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.

3. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

Whether or not you choose to use the 12-month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial 1-year “fraud alert” on your credit files, at no charge. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least twelve months. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you before establishing any accounts in your name. 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/>.

Equifax

P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
<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

Fraud Victim Assistance Department
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>
(800) 680-7289

4. Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.

Following is general information about how to request a security freeze from the three credit reporting agencies at no charge. While we believe this information is accurate, you should contact each agency for the most accurate and up-to-date information. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer’s credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit, mortgages, employment, housing, or other services. There might be additional information required, and as such, to find out more information, please contact the three nationwide credit reporting agencies (contact information provided below). 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 30348-5788
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>
(888)-298-0045

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 will 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 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.

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

32554609.1
32554609.2

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.

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: 888-743-0023. **New Mexico Residents:** You have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit. As noted above, you may obtain a security freeze on your credit report to protect your privacy and ensure that credit is not granted in your name without your knowledge. **New York Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft>; Telephone: 800-771-7755. **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, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina), 919-716-6000. **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. **Washington D.C. Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 400 6th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001, <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>, Telephone: 202-442-9828.

