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February 6, 2024

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, Gateway First Bank (“Gateway”), to notify your office concerning a data security incident involving one Maryland resident.

Gateway recently completed an investigation into an incident involving unauthorized access to certain Gateway email accounts. Upon discovery, Gateway began an investigation and took steps to secure its email environment. Through the investigation, Gateway identified the email accounts that were subject to unauthorized access and conducted a thorough review of the files that may have been accessed. On January 28, 2024, Gateway determined that the personal information of one Maryland resident was contained in the files, including the individual’s name and payment card number.

On February 6, 2024, Gateway mailed a notification letter to the Maryland resident via United States Postal Service First-Class mail. A sample of the notification is enclosed. Gateway is offering the notified resident a complimentary membership to credit monitoring and identity theft protection services through Experian. Gateway has also established a dedicated call center that individuals can call to obtain more information regarding the incident.

To help further protect against an incident like this, Gateway is implementing a number of additional measures to enhance already existing cybersecurity defenses.

February 6, 2024

Page 2

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David B. Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David B. Sherman

Partner

Enclosure



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

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

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

At Gateway First Bank (“Gateway”), we understand the importance of protecting the information we maintain. Regrettably, we recently identified and addressed an incident that may have involved some of your information. This notice explains the incident, measures we have taken, and some steps that you may consider taking.

Gateway recently completed an investigation into an incident involving unauthorized access to certain Gateway email accounts. Upon discovery, we began an investigation and took steps to secure our email environment. Through the investigation, we identified the email accounts that were subject to unauthorized access <<b2b_text_1(variable text)>>. We conducted a thorough review of the files that may have been accessed and on January 18, 2024 determined that some of your information was contained in the files, including your <<b2b_text_2(data elements)>>.

We assure you that we take this incident very seriously. We are offering complimentary identity theft protection services through a one-year membership with 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 is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership as well as some additional steps you can take to help protect yourself, please see the pages that follow this letter.

Your confidence and trust are important to us, and we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. To help further protect against an incident like this, we are implementing a number of additional measures to enhance already existing cybersecurity defenses. If you have any questions, please call [TFN](#) from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday excluding major U.S holidays.

Sincerely,

Gateway First Bank

Activate IdentityWorks In Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: <<b2b_text_6(activation deadline)>> (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks** website to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
3. PROVIDE the **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 [\[Experian phone number\]](#). Be prepared to provide engagement number <<b2b_text_3(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 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.
- **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.

Activate your membership today at <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit> or call [\[Experian phone number\]](#) 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 www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration 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 [\[Experian phone number\]](#).

* 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.

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 over the next 12 to 24 months. 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 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, 1-888-378-4329
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, 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

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
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, 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.

Gateway First Bank can be reached by mail at 244 South Gateway Place, Jenks, OK 74037 or by phone at 800-329-3371.

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.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/

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

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.