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February 9, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
Office of the Attorney General
St. Paul Plaza
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
Email: Idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Re: **Notice of Data Security Incident**

Dear Attorney General Brown:

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP (“Constangy”) represents Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen (“MFM”), a Florida-based full-service law firm with offices in Tampa and Clearwater, in connection with a data security incident described in greater detail below. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the impact to Maryland residents in accordance with Maryland’s data breach notification statute.

1. Nature of the Security Incident

On March 8, 2023, MFM became aware of unusual activity that disrupted access to certain systems. Upon discovering this activity, MFM immediately took steps to secure its network and launched an investigation with the assistance of independent cybersecurity experts to determine what happened. Based on that investigation, MFM learned that an unknown criminal actor gained unauthorized access to its network and acquired certain files, some of which contained individuals’ personal information. Once the scope of data impact was determined, MFM engaged a third-party vendor to commence a comprehensive review of the affected data to determine whether any sensitive data was involved and whether personal information may have been affected. On February 6, 2024, MFM confirmed that personal information belonging to certain Maryland residents was involved. MFM then took steps to notify those individuals as quickly as possible.

Please note that we have no current evidence to suggest misuse or attempted misuse of personal information involved.

2. Number of Affected Maryland Residents & Information Involved

The incident involved personal information for approximately seventy (70) Maryland residents. The information involved in the incident may have included individuals' names and Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, medical information, and health insurance information.

3. Notification of Affected Individuals

On February 9, 2024, notification letters were mailed to affected Maryland residents by USPS First Class Mail. The notification letter provides resources and steps individuals can take to help protect their information. The notification letter also offers 12 months of complimentary identity protection services to each individual whose personal information was affected by this event, including credit monitoring, \$1 million identity fraud loss reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services. Those services are offered by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a TransUnion company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services. Cyberscout will also support a call center for 90 days to answer questions and assist with enrollment. A sample copy of the notification letter sent to the impacted individuals is included with this correspondence.

3. Steps Taken to Address the Incident

In response to the incident, MFM retained cybersecurity experts and launched a forensics investigation to determine the source and scope of the compromise. MFM also implemented additional security measures to further harden its digital environment in an effort to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future. Additionally, MFM has reported the incident to the FBI and will cooperate with any resulting investigation.

Finally, MFM is notifying the affected individuals and providing them with steps they can take to protect their personal information as discussed above.

4. Contact Information

MFM remains dedicated to protecting the information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at DMaddux@Constangy.com or 503.312.6251.

Sincerely,



Donna Maddux of
CONSTANGY, BROOKS, SMITH & PROPHETE LLP

Enclosure: Consumer Notification Letter

Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen
c/o Cyberscout
PO Box 1286
Dearborn, MI 48120-9998



February 9, 2024

Notice of Data Security Security Incident

Dear 

Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen (“MFM”) is notifying you of a data security incident that may have involved your personal information. MFM takes the privacy and security of all personal information within its possession very seriously. That is why we are informing you of this incident, providing you with steps you can take to protect your personal information, and offering you the opportunity to enroll in complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

What Happened? On March 8, 2023, MFM experienced a network disruption. In response, we immediately took steps to secure our digital environment and engaged leading cybersecurity firms to assist with the investigation to determine whether sensitive or personal information may have been accessed or acquired during the incident. The investigation subsequently revealed that certain personal information may have been accessed or acquired without authorization. We then engaged a third-party vendor to commence a comprehensive review of the potentially affected data to determine whether any sensitive data was involved and whether personal information may have been affected. A comprehensive review of the types of personal information involved, the identification of potentially impacted individuals, and the verification of current mailing addresses for those individuals was then conducted. On February 6, 2024, we confirmed that your personal information may have been involved. Please note that MFM has no evidence of any actual or suspected misuse of information involved in this incident. Nonetheless, we are writing to inform you of the incident and to share steps you can take to protect your personal information.

What Information Was Involved? The potentially affected information involved may have included your name and your Social Security number.

What We Are Doing? As soon as we discovered this incident, we took the steps described above. As part of the response process, we implemented additional measures to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future. Additionally, MFM is providing you with access to **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score** services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for 12 months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Finally, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a TransUnion company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services.

What You Can Do: We recommend that you review the guidance included with this letter about how to protect your information. To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/mffm> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: 

000010102G0500

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In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that your information has been misused in conjunction with this incident. However, we encourage you to take advantage of this offering.

For more information. If you have questions or need assistance, representatives are available for 90 days from the date of this letter, to assist you with questions regarding this incident, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please call the help line at 1-833-729-0464 and supply the fraud specialist with your unique code listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" being more prominent.

Andrew Brown
Managing Shareholder
Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen
201 N Franklin Street
Tampa, FL 33602

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity: As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and monitoring free credit reports closely for errors and by taking other steps appropriate to protect accounts, including promptly changing passwords. If you detect any suspicious activity on an account, you should promptly notify the financial institution or company with which the account is maintained for remediation assistance or contact a remediation service provider. You also should promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidence of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, your state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). 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 FTC is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.consumer.ftc.gov, www.ftc.gov/idtheft.

Copy of Credit Report: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies once every 12 months by visiting <http://www.annualcreditreport.com/>, calling toll-free 877-322-8228, 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 print this form at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/requestformfinal.pdf>. You also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

- *Equifax*, P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, 1-800-525-6285, www.equifax.com.
- *Experian*, P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013, 1-888-397-3742, www.experian.com.
- *TransUnion*, P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, 1-800-916-8800, www.transunion.com.

Fraud Alerts: There are two kinds of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report--an initial alert and an extended alert. You may want to consider placing either or both fraud alerts on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least 90 days. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft and provide the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert is also free and will stay on your credit report for seven years. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>. Military members may also place an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert on their credit reports while deployed. An Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment.

Credit or Security Freezes: Under U.S. law, you have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, for up to one year at no cost. The freeze will prevent new credit from being opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your consent. As a result, using a security freeze may interfere with or delay your ability to obtain credit.

You must separately place a security freeze on your credit file with each credit reporting agency. There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. For information and instructions on how to place a security freeze, contact any of the credit reporting agencies or the FTC identified above. In order to place a security freeze, you may be required to provide the consumer reporting agency with information that identifies you including your full name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, a copy of your state-issued identification card, and a recent utility bill, bank statement or insurance statement. After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with a unique PIN or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place as you will need it if you choose to lift the 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 via phone, a credit bureau must lift the credit freeze within an hour. If the request is made by mail then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after receiving your request.

IRS Identity Protection PIN: You can obtain an identity protection PIN (IP PIN) from the IRS that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS and helps the IRS verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return. You can learn more and obtain your IP PIN here: <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>.



You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf.

Additional Free Resources: You can obtain information from the consumer reporting agencies, the FTC, or from your respective state attorney general about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. You may report suspected identity theft to local law enforcement, including to the FTC or to the attorney general in your state.

District of Columbia: The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia can be reached at 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; oag@dc.gov

California: California Attorney General can be reached at: 1300 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2919; 800-952-5225; <http://oag.ca.gov/>

Maine: Maine Attorney General can be reached at: 6 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333; 207-626-8800; <https://www.maine.gov/ag/>

Maryland: Maryland Attorney General can be reached at: 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202; 888-743-0023; oag@state.md.us or IDTheft@oag.state.md.us

North Carolina: North Carolina Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division, can be reached at: 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 877-5-NO-SCAM (Toll-free within North Carolina); 919-716-6000; www.ncdoj.gov

New York: New York Attorney General can be reached at: Bureau of Internet and Technology Resources, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005; 212-416-8433; <https://ag.ny.gov/>

Oregon: Oregon Office of the Attorney General can be reached at: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court St. NE, Salem, OR, 97301, 1-877-877-9392, www.doj.state.or.us

Rhode Island: Rhode Island Attorney General can be reached at: 150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903, <http://www.riag.ri.gov>. The total number of Rhode Island residents receiving notification of this incident is XX.

Texas: Texas Attorney General can be reached at: 300 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701; 800-621-0508; texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/

Vermont: Vermont Attorney General's Office can be reached at: 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609; 802-828-3171; ago.info@vermont.gov