

# CIPRIANI & WERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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February 20, 2024

**Via E-Mail:**

Office of the Attorney General  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Email: IDTheft@oag.state.md.us

***RE: Notice of Data Security Incident***

To Whom It May Concern:

We serve as counsel for Brazee & Huban, CPA (“Brazee & Huban”) located at 55 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201-6305, and provide this notification of a recent data security incident. By providing this notice, Brazee & Huban does not waive any rights or defenses under Maryland law, including the data breach notification statute.

On November 17, 2023, Brazee & Huban became aware of unauthorized activity on its computer network and immediately began an investigation with the assistance of third-party specialists. Brazee & Huban also notified law enforcement. The investigation determined certain data on the Brazee & Huban network was accessed during the attack without authorization. Brazee & Huban conducted a thorough review of the potentially impacted data to determine the type of information contained therein and to whom the information related. Brazee & Huban completed its review on January 19, 2024, and determined personal information was impacted. Brazee & Huban began sending individual notification letters on February 20, 2024 via First Class mail, including to the residents of Maryland believed to be impacted to date.

Brazee & Huban determined approximately 6 individuals who may live in Maryland were potentially impacted by this incident. The type of information potentially impacted included name, Social Security number, financial account information, and payment card information.

The written notice letters include instructions to access complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for 24 months. A template copy of the individual notification letters sent to potentially impacted individuals in Maryland is attached hereto as *Exhibit A*.

In response to this incident, Brazee & Huban conducted a full forensic investigation, changed passwords, implemented new technical safeguards, and is continuing to review its policies and procedures related to data protection.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By: 

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Hilary Higgins, Esq.

# Exhibit A



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND ADVISORS

55 WENDELL AVENUE PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201  
TELEPHONE 413-443-9157 FACSIMILE 413-442-8232

Return to IDX:  
4145 SW Watson Avenue, Suite 400  
Beaverton, OR 97005

Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

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

February 20, 2024

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name >>:

Brazee & Huban, CPA ("Brazee & Huban") writes to notify you of an incident that may affect the privacy of certain information related to you. This letter includes information about the incident, our response, and resources we are making available to you.

**What Happened?** On November 17, 2023, Brazee & Huban became aware of unauthorized activity on our computer network and immediately began an investigation with the assistance of third-party specialists. The investigation determined an unauthorized party may have accessed certain files on our network for a limited period of time. Therefore, we began a thorough review of the potentially impacted data to determine the type of information contained therein and to whom the information related. Brazee & Huban completed its review on January 18, 2024 and determined information related to you was potentially impacted.

**What Information Was Involved?** We have determined that the information potentially impacted may have included your name, <<data elements>>.

**What Are We Doing?** In response to this incident, we conducted a full investigation into the nature and scope of the incident. Additionally, while we have no evidence that your information has or will be fraudulently misused as a result of this event, in an abundance of caution we are offering you access to twenty-four months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

**What You Can Do.** We encourage you to enroll in the complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services we are making available to you. Information about how to enroll in these services along with additional resources available to you are included in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information*.

**For More Information.** We understand you may have questions about this incident. You may call 1-800-939-4170 between 9am and 9pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or write to us at 55 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield MA 01201-6305.

We sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause you. The privacy and security of information is important to us, and we will continue to take steps to protect information in our care.

Sincerely,  
Brazee & Huban, CPA



## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

### *Enroll in Credit Monitoring / Identity Protection*

We encourage you to contact IDX with any questions and to enroll in free identity protection services by calling 1-800-939-4170, going to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>, or scanning the QR image and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is May 20, 2024.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that your information has been misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering. IDX representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

**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.

**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.

**Telephone.** Contact IDX at 1-800-939-4170 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*

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements and explanation of benefits forms for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

You have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you 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 your express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

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

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

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| <b>TransUnion</b><br>1-800-680-7289<br><a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a><br><br><b>TransUnion Fraud Alert</b><br>P.O. Box 2000<br>Chester, PA 19016-2000<br><br><b>TransUnion Credit Freeze</b><br>P.O. Box 160<br>Woodlyn, PA 19094 | <b>Experian</b><br>1-888-397-3742<br><a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a><br><br><b>Experian Fraud Alert</b><br>P.O. Box 9554<br>Allen, TX 75013<br><br><b>Experian Credit Freeze</b><br>P.O. Box 9554<br>Allen, TX 75013 | <b>Equifax</b><br>1-888-298-0045<br><a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a><br><br><b>Equifax Fraud Alert</b><br>P.O. Box 105069<br>Atlanta, GA 30348-5069<br><br><b>Equifax Credit Freeze</b><br>P.O. Box 105788<br>Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 |
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### Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. 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.

You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

*For Maryland residents*, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; and [www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us). Brazee & Huban, CPA is located at 55 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield MA 01201-6305.

*For 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: (i) the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; (ii) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; (v) you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; (vi) and you may seek damages from violators. You 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 you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\\_cfpb\\_summary\\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf), or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, FTC, 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 contacted at 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; and [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov). Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are  Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

*For Washington, D.C. residents*, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW #1100, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400, and <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>. Brazee & Huban, CPA is located at 55 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield MA 01201-6305.