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May 10, 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, The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (“SACNAS”) to notify your office of a cybersecurity incident that involved two Maryland residents’ personal information.

On April 10, 2024, SACNAS identified unauthorized access to one of their accounting systems. Upon identifying the incident, SACNAS immediately took steps to secure the system and began an investigation to determine what information may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized party. While the investigation is ongoing, SACNAS determined that the systems which may have been accessible included the names, address, Social Security number, and direct deposit account information of two Maryland residents.

On May 10, 2024, SACNAS mailed notifications to the Maryland residents via U.S. First-Class mail in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-3504.¹ A copy of the notification is enclosed. SACNAS is offering complimentary credit monitoring, fraud consultation, and identity theft restoration services through Experian to the Maryland residents.

¹ This report does not waive SACNAS’ objection that Maryland lacks regulatory authority over it related to any claims that may arise from this incident.

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To reduce the risk of a similar incident from occurring in the future, SACNAS has implemented additional security measures to enhance the security of its systems.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David H. Potter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'P'.

David Potter
Counsel

Enclosure



Tel 831 459 0170 ■ Fax 831 459 0194
P.O. Box 8526 ■ Santa Cruz ■ CA 95061-8526
info@sacnas.org ■ sacnas.org

*Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics
& Native Americans in Science*

<<First Name>> <<Last Name 2>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

<<Date>>

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (“SACNAS”) is writing to inform you of an incident that may have involved some of your information. This notice explains the incident, the measures we have taken, and some additional steps you may consider taking in response.

What Happened? On April 10, 2024, we identified unauthorized access to one of our accounting systems. We immediately took steps to secure the system and began an investigation.

What Information Was Involved? The systems which may have been accessible contain some of your personal information, such as your name, address, Social Security number, and direct deposit account information. While our investigation is ongoing, it is possible that this information may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized party.

What We Are Doing. We are offering you a complimentary one-year membership to Experian’s® IdentityWorksSM. This product provides you with identity detection and resolution of identity theft. It is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on IdentityWorksSM, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership, please see the additional information provided with this letter. To help prevent a similar incident in the future, we have implemented additional security measures to enhance the security of our systems.

What You Can Do. We wanted to let you know this happened and assure you that we take this seriously. We encourage you to sign up for the complimentary credit monitoring and to remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and credit reports for any unauthorized activity. If you see unauthorized charges or activity, please contact your financial institution immediately.

For More Information. We apologize for any concern this incident may cause you. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call 831-200-4419, Monday through Friday from 10:00AM to 4:00PM, Pacific Time, excluding certain major U.S. holidays.

Sincerely,

Juan Amador | Executive Director
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans
in Science

To help protect your identity, we are offering a **complimentary** one-year membership to Experian IdentityWorksSM. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection support focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft.

Activate IdentityWorks In Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: **August 30, 2024** (Your code will not work after 5:59pm CT on this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks website** to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
3. PROVIDE the **Activation Code**: <<**Activation Code**>>

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 877.890.9332. Be prepared to provide engagement number **B121486** 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 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 ExtendCARETM:** 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 877.890.9332 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 877.890.9332.

* 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. 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: 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.

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science can be reached at P.O. Box 8526 Santa Cruz, CA 95061 and by telephone at 831.459.0170.

Additional information for residents of:

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/

New York: You may contact and obtain information from these state agencies: New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection>; and New York State Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act: The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Your major rights under the FCRA are summarized below. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20552.

- You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.
- You have the right to know what is in your file.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- 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 reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You have a right to place a “security freeze” on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.