



MULLEN  
COUGHLIN<sup>LLC</sup>  
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July 31, 2024

**VIA E-MAIL**

Office of the Attorney General  
Attn: Security Breach Notification  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
E-mail: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

**Re: Notice of Data Event**

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent The Village of Hoffman Estates (the “Village”), located at 1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169, and are writing to notify your Office of an incident that may affect the security of information relating to certain Maryland residents. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice may be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, the Village does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law, the applicability of the Maryland data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

**Nature of the Data Event**

On or about October 20, 2023, the Village identified suspicious activity related to certain computer systems. The Village immediately took steps to secure its systems and launched an investigation to determine the nature and scope of the activity. Through this investigation, the Village determined that certain computer systems were subject to unauthorized access as a result of the event between October 16, 2023 and October 20, 2023. As a result, the Village undertook a comprehensive review process to identify the presence of sensitive information that may have been contained within the impacted systems and to identify the individuals to whom the information relates. While this review was ongoing, the Village began notifying potentially impacted individuals. On or about July 1, 2024, this review was completed. Although the information varies for each individual, the potentially impacted information includes name, Social Security number, and driver’s license or state identification number.

### **Notice to Maryland Residents**

On or about March 27, 2024, the Village began providing written notice of this incident to potentially impacted individuals. On or about July 31, 2024, written notice is being provided to additional individuals, including two (2) Maryland residents. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***.

### **Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken**

Upon discovering the event, the Village moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of the Village systems, and identify potentially affected individuals. Further, the Village notified federal law enforcement regarding the event and is working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. The Village is providing complimentary access to credit monitoring services for twelve (12) months, through Experian, to individuals whose information was potentially affected by this incident.

Additionally, the Village is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud including information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

### **Contact Information**

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4637.

Very truly yours,

Gregory Lederman of  
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

GCL/ncl  
Enclosure

# **EXHIBIT A**

# VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES

Return Mail Processing  
PO Box 999  
Suwanee, GA 30024

24 1 6801 \*\*\*\*\*SNGLP

SAMPLE A. SAMPLE - L01

APT ABC

123 ANY ST

ANYTOWN, US 12345-6789



July 31, 2024

## NOTICE OF [Extra2]

Dear Sample A. Sample:

The Village of Hoffman Estates (the “Village”) is writing to inform you of an event that may impact some of your information. While there is no evidence of actual or attempted misuse of your information, in an abundance of caution, we are providing you with information about the event, our response, and the steps you may take to further protect your information, should you feel it necessary to do so.

**What Happened?** On October 20, 2023, the Village identified suspicious activity related to certain computer systems. The Village immediately took steps to secure the network and launched an investigation to determine the nature and scope of the event. Through this investigation, the Village determined that certain computer systems were subject to unauthorized access as a result of the event between October 16, 2023 and October 20, 2023.

**What Information Was Involved?** The Village undertook, and recently completed, a comprehensive review of the contents of the involved systems and determined that the following types of information relating to you may have been affected: your name and [Extra1]. Please note, we are not aware of any identity theft or fraud as a result of this incident and are notifying you out of an abundance of caution.

**What We Are Doing.** We take this incident and the security of information in our care seriously. Upon discovering the incident, we promptly took steps to assess and secure our network and to investigate the scope of the incident. We are reviewing existing security policies and have implemented additional security measures to further protect against similar incidents moving forward.

As an added precaution, we are offering you access to complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft protection services for [Extra3] months, through Experian. You can find a description of these services and information on how to enroll in the below *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information*. We encourage you to enroll in these services as we are not able to do so on your behalf.

**What You Can Do.** We encourage you to remain vigilant against identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors. You can find out more about how to protect your information in the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information*. There you will also find more information on the credit monitoring services we are offering and how to enroll.

**For More Information.** We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call our dedicated assistance line at 1-833-918-9899 (toll free), Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 8 pm Central Time (excluding U.S. holidays). You may write to the Village at 1900 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Village of Hoffman Estates*

## Steps You Can Take To Help Protect Your Information

### Enroll in Monitoring Services

To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> for [Extra3] months.

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 [Extra3] 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 [www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration](http://www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration).

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 [Extra3]-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** October 31, 2024 (Your code will not work after this date.)
- **Visit** the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/credit>
- Provide your **activation code**: ABCDEFGHI

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 1-833-918-9899 by October 31, 2024. Be prepared to provide engagement number [Engagement Number] as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

### ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR [Extra3]-MONTH 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<sup>TM</sup>:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance<sup>\*\*</sup>:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

\* 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.

## **Monitor Your Accounts**

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order a free credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call, toll- free, 1-877-322-8228. Consumers may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of their credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1- year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer’s credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If consumers are the victim of identity theft, they are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should consumers wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers 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 the consumer’s express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in a consumer’s name without consent. However, consumers should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in their credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application they make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, consumers cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on their credit report. To request a credit freeze, individuals may need to provide some or all of the following information:

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

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

| <b>Equifax</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Experian</b>                                                             | <b>TransUnion</b>                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/">https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/</a> | <a href="https://www.experian.com/help/">https://www.experian.com/help/</a> | <a href="https://www.transunion.com/credit-help">https://www.transunion.com/credit-help</a> |
| 1-888-298-0045                                                                                                                  | 1-888-397-3742                                                              | 1-800-916-8800                                                                              |
| Equifax Fraud Alert,<br>P.O. Box 105069<br>Atlanta, GA 30348-5069                                                               | Experian Fraud Alert,<br>P.O. Box 9554,<br>Allen, TX 75013                  | TransUnion Fraud Alert,<br>P.O. Box 2000,<br>Chester, PA 19016                              |
| Equifax Credit Freeze,<br>P.O. Box 105788<br>Atlanta, GA 30348-5788                                                             | Experian Credit Freeze,<br>P.O. Box 9554,<br>Allen, TX 75013                | TransUnion Credit Freeze,<br>P.O. Box 160,<br>Woodlyn, PA 19094                             |

## **Additional Information**

Consumers may further educate themselves regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps they can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or their state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue 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. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. Consumers can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Consumers have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, consumers will likely need to provide some proof that they have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and the relevant state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

*For District of Columbia residents*, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; (202) 442-9828; and [oag.dc.gov](http://oag.dc.gov).

*For Maryland residents*, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-576-6300 or 1-888-743-0023; and <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/>.

*For New Mexico residents*, consumers have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in their credit file has been used against them, the right to know what is in their credit file, the right to ask for their credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to consumers' files is limited; consumers must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; consumers may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance based on information in their credit report; and consumers may seek damages from violators. Consumers 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 consumers to review their rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting [www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\\_cfpb\\_summary\\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf), or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 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 reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov); and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. There are approximately 0 Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.