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October 7, 2024

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

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 Dohman, Akerlund & Eddy, LLC (“DA&E”), an accounting firm in Aurora, Nebraska, in connection with the data security incident described in greater detail below. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the incident in accordance with Maryland’s data breach notification statute.

1. Nature of the Security Incident

On February 28, 2024, DA&E became aware of unusual activity related to its network. In response, DA&E took immediate steps to secure its digital environment and promptly launched an investigation. The investigation conducted by the third-party cybersecurity experts determined that an unknown actor accessed and acquired certain data without authorization. DA&E then commenced a comprehensive review of the affected data to determine whether any sensitive data was involved and whether personal information may have been affected.

On May 3, 2024 DA&E, notified six (6) residents of Maryland and the Maryland regulatory authorities of the incident. As detailed below, DA&E initiated a final round of mailing on October 7, 2024.

Please note that there is currently no evidence of fraud or misuse of any of the data, only evidence that data was accessed or acquired without authorization.

2. Number of Affected Maryland Residents & Information Involved

On October 7, 2024, DA&E notified an additional seventy-seven (77) Maryland residents. A combined total of eighty-three (83) residents have been notified of this incident.

The information for the affected Maryland residents may have included name, Social Security number, Taxpayer ID Number, and driver's license number.

3. Notification to the Affected Individuals

On October 7, 2024, notification letters were mailed to the affected Maryland resident by USPS First Class Mail. The notification letter provides resources and steps this individual can take to help protect their information. The notification letter also offers the individual the opportunity to enroll in 12 months of complimentary identity protection services, including credit monitoring, and identity remediation services, as well as access to a call center, should the individual have questions about the incident. Those services are offered by IDX, a company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services. A sample notification letter sent to the impacted individual is included with this correspondence.

4. Steps Taken Relating to the Incident

In response to the incident, DA&E retained cybersecurity experts and launched a forensics investigation to determine the source and scope of the compromise. DA&E also implemented additional security measures to further harden its email environment in an effort to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future.

Finally, DA&E is notifying the affected individuals and providing them with steps they can take to protect their personal information as discussed above. DA&E has also established a toll-free call center through IDX, a leader in risk mitigation and response, to answer any questions about the incident and address related concerns.

5. Contact Information

DA&E remains dedicated to protecting the personal information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Maria Efaplatidis at mefaplatidis@constangy.com.

Sincerely,

Maria Efaplatidis
Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP

Encl.: Sample Notification Letter

Dohman, Akerlund & Eddy, LLC

P.O. Box 989728
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9728

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address1>>
<<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>
<<Country>>

Enrollment Code: <<ENROLLMENT>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

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

October 7, 2024

Re: Notice of Data <<Security Incident/Breach>>

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

Dohman, Akerlund & Eddy, LLC ("DA&E") is writing to inform you of a data security incident that may have involved your personal information. Please read this letter carefully as it contains details about the incident and resources you can utilize to protect your information, including instructions for enrolling in complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft protection services.

What Happened? On February 28, 2024, DA&E experienced a network disruption. DA&E immediately took steps to secure the network environment and engaged cybersecurity experts to conduct an investigation. The investigation determined that certain files may have been acquired without authorization on or about February 28, 2024. We then conducted a comprehensive review of the affected data to determine whether personal information may have been involved. After a thorough review of the impacted data, on September 26, 2024, it was determined that some of your personal information was present in the impacted data set. We then took steps to notify you of the incident as quickly as possible.

What Information was Involved? The information potentially involved may include your name, <<Variable Text 1>>.

What We Are Doing. As soon as we discovered the incident, we took the steps described above and took steps to minimize the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future.

We are also offering you the ability to enroll in <<12/24>> months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services through IDX, a ZeroFox Company, and a national leader in identity protection services. The IDX services, which are free to you upon enrollment, include a <<12/24>>-month subscription for the following: credit monitoring, CyberScan dark web monitoring, fully managed identity recovery services, and \$1 million in identity theft insurance coverage. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

What You Can Do. You can follow the recommendations on the following page to help protect your personal information. You can also enroll in the IDX identity protection services, which are offered at no cost to you.

To enroll in the services provided through IDX, please scan the QR above, call 1-877-225-2058 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Central Time, or visit <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and insert the Enrollment Code provided above. Please note the deadline to enroll in these complimentary services is January 7, 2024. To receive credit monitoring services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the United States, have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file. Please do not discard this letter, as you will need the Enrollment Code provided above to access services.

For More Information: Further information about how to protect your personal information appears on the following page. If you have questions or need assistance, please call please call IDX at 1-877-225-2058. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Central Time. IDX representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

We regret any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Dohman, Akerlund & Eddy, LLC
1117 12th Street
Aurora, NE 68818

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Personal 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 credit reports closely. If you detect any suspicious activity on an account, you should promptly notify the financial institution or company with which the account is maintained. 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 (the “FTC”).

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 www.annualcreditreport.com/, calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, 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 also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax

P.O. Box 105851
Atlanta, GA 30348
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 Alert: You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least one year. 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. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at www.annualcreditreport.com.

Security Freeze: You have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file for up to one year at no cost. This 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. 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.

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.

Federal Trade Commission

600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20580
consumer.ftc.gov
877-438-4338

Maryland Attorney General

200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CPD
888-743-0023

Oregon Attorney General

1162 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301
www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection
877-877-9392

California Attorney General

1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.oag.ca.gov/privacy
800-952-5225

New York Attorney General

The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
800-771-7755
ag.ny.gov

Rhode Island Attorney General

150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
www.riag.ri.gov
401-274-4400

Iowa Attorney General
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov
888-777-4590

NY Bureau of Internet and Technology
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/
212.416.8433

Washington D.C. Attorney General
400 S 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection
202-442-9828

Kentucky Attorney General
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 118
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
www.ag.ky.gov
502-696-5300

NC Attorney General
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
ncdoj.gov/protectingconsumers/
877-566-7226

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include 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; as well as other rights. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/articles/pdf/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf.