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December 6, 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, Highgate Hotels, L.P. ("Highgate"), to provide notice to your office concerning a security incident involving Maryland residents. Highgate is located at 870 Seventh Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10019.

On March 26, 2024, Highgate detected unusual activity within its network, resulting in the unavailability of specific devices. Upon discovering the activity, Highgate immediately took containment measures and commenced an investigation. Highgate also sought assistance from a cybersecurity firm experienced in managing similar scenarios. Additionally, Highgate promptly informed law enforcement and is supporting its investigation.

There was unauthorized access within Highgate's network between March 25, 2024, and March 26, 2024. During this period, an unauthorized entity acquired files stored within the network. An unauthorized entity also accessed certain employee email accounts prior to December 28, 2023 and on certain dates until April 4, 2024. Highgate promptly conducted a careful review of the files, emails, and attachments involved and, between September 13, 2024 and September 25, 2024, determined that they contained information concerning 108 Maryland residents, including their names and one or more of the following: Social Security number, tax identification number, driver's license number, state identification card number, financial account information, payment card information, passport number or other government identification number, health information, and/or health insurance information.

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Today, December 6, 2024, Highgate is mailing notification letters via First-Class mail to the involved Maryland residents in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-3504. A copy of the notification letter is enclosed. Highgate is offering a complimentary, one-year membership to credit monitoring and identity protection services to the residents whose Social Security numbers, tax identification numbers, driver's license numbers, or state identification card numbers were involved. Highgate also has established a dedicated, toll-free call center that the residents can call to obtain more information regarding the incident.

To help prevent something like this from happening again, Highgate has taken steps to enhance its existing security measures.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Bruemmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph L. Bruemmer
Partner

Enclosure



HIGHGATE

Secure Mail Processing
25 Route 111, P.O. Box 1048
Smithtown, NY 11787

Postal Endorsement Line

<<Full Name>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<Address 3>>

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

<<Country>>

***Postal IMB Barcode

<<Date>>

Dear <<Full Name>>:

Highgate Hotels, L.P. recognizes the significance of safeguarding information. We are reaching out to inform you that we have identified and resolved an incident involving your information. While events such as this have become more common, we want you to know that we take it seriously and promptly took steps to address it. This communication provides details about the sequence of events, our responsive measures, and recommended actions you can take.

On March 26, 2024, we detected unusual activity within our network, resulting in the unavailability of specific devices. We immediately took decisive containment measures and commenced a fulsome investigation. We sought assistance from a cybersecurity firm experienced in managing similar scenarios. Additionally, we promptly informed law enforcement and are supporting its investigation.

There was unauthorized access within our network between March 25, 2024, and March 26, 2024. During this period, an unauthorized entity acquired files stored within our network. An unauthorized entity also accessed certain employee email accounts prior to December 28, 2023 and on certain dates until April 4, 2024. We promptly conducted a careful review of the files, emails, and attachments involved and determined that they contained some of your information, including your name, Social Security number, tax identification number, driver's license number, and/or state identification card number. In addition, for certain individuals, the information included financial account information, payment card information, passport number or other government identification number, health information, and/or health insurance information.

As part of our commitment to the security of your information and as a safeguard, we are covering the cost for you to receive one year of access to CyEx Identity Defense Total credit monitoring. This product is designed to detect potential misuse of your information and offers identity protection solutions aimed at promptly identifying and resolving any instances of identity theft. Activating this product will not impact your credit score negatively. For further guidance on identity theft prevention and details regarding CyEx Identity Defense Total, including instructions on how to activate your one-year access, along with additional precautionary measures you can take, please refer to the accompanying pages following this communication.

We regret the occurrence of this incident and extend our apologies for any inconvenience caused. To prevent similar occurrences in the future, we have strengthened our existing security measures. Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to call 888-498-3154, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Sincerely,

Highgate Hotels, L.P.



Enter your Activation Code: <<ActivationCode>>
Enrollment Deadline: <<Deadline>>
Service Term: <<CM Duration>>

Identity Defense Total Key Features

- 3-Bureau Credit Monitoring
- Monthly Credit Score and Tracker (VantageScore 3.0)
- Real-Time Authentication Alerts
- High-Risk Transaction Monitoring
- Address Change Monitoring
- Dark Web Monitoring
- Wallet Protection
- Security Freeze Assist
- \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**

Enrollment Instructions

To enroll in Identity Defense, visit app.identitydefense.com/enrollment/activate/hiho

1. Enter your unique Activation Code <<Activation Code>>
Enter your Activation Code and click 'Redeem Code'.
2. Create Your Account
Enter your email address, create your password, and click 'Create Account'.
3. Register
Enter your legal name, home address, phone number, date of birth, Social Security Number, and click 'Complete Account'.
4. Complete Activation
Click 'Continue to Dashboard' to finish enrolling.

The deadline to enroll is <<Deadline>>. After <<Deadline>>, the enrollment process will close, and your Identity Defense code will no longer be active. If you do not enroll by <<Deadline>>, you will not be able to take advantage of Identity Defense, so please enroll before the deadline.

If you need assistance with the enrollment process or have questions regarding Identity Defense, please call Identity Defense directly at 1.866.622.9303.

*Service Term begins on the date of enrollment, provided that the enrollment takes place during the approved enrollment period.

**Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten by insurance company subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. The description herein is a summary and intended for informational purposes only and does not include all terms, conditions, and exclusions of the policies described. 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, 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, 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 and Credit or Security Freezes:

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 2000, Chester, PA 19016, 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.

Highgate Hotels is located at 870 Seventh Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10019 and can be reached at 212-707-4322.

Additional Information for Residents of the Following States:

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>

North Carolina: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *North Carolina Attorney General's Office*, 9001 Mail Service Centre, Raleigh, NC 27699, 1-919-716-6000 / 1-877-566-7226, www.ncdoj.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.