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December 9, 2024

VIA E-MAIL

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
IDTheft@oag.state.md.us

Re: Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Brown,

Kennedys CMK, LLP (“Kennedys”) represents Dreyfuss & Blackford Architecture (“Dreyfuss & Blackford”), an architecture firm based in Sacramento, California.

We write to provide notice to your office of a data breach impacting the personal information of one (1) Maryland resident as required by Md. Code Ann., Com. Law §§ 14-3501 to 14-3508.

I. Nature of Security Incident

On September 5, 2024, Dreyfuss & Blackford became aware of technical issues related to systems in its network. Upon discovery, Dreyfuss & Blackford took immediate action to secure its network and to address and investigate the incident, which included retaining legal counsel and engaging outside IT experts. After a thorough investigation, Dreyfuss & Blackford learned that an unauthorized actor gained access to its systems between August 15, 2024 and September 4, 2024. After a comprehensive data review, it was determined on October 31, 2024, that certain personal information may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized actor.

II. Affected Maryland Residents

Dreyfuss & Blackford notified one (1) Maryland resident via U.S. mail on December 9, 2024. The personal information involved included the resident’s Social Security number and driver’s license number. A sample copy of the notification letter is enclosed.

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Attorney General Brown
December 9, 2024

III. Steps Taken in Response to the Incident

Dreyfuss & Blackford has taken steps in response to the incident to help mitigate the risk of a similar incident from occurring in the future, including replacing its firewalls, configuring multi-factor authentication on virtual private network connections, geoblocking and hardening login requirements. Dreyfuss & Blackford also offered notified individuals the opportunity to enroll in 12 months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services through TransUnion.

If you have any question or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Daniel A. Marvin

Partner
for Kennedys

Enclosures: Sample Consumer Notification Letter

Dreyfuss & Blackford Architecture
c/o TransUnion
PO Box 1286
Dearborn, MI 48120-9998

Dreyfuss + Blackford



December 9, 2024

NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear [REDACTED]:

We are writing to inform you of a data security incident experienced by Dreyfuss & Blackford Architecture (“Dreyfuss & Blackford”) that may have involved your information as described below. We take privacy and security very seriously and are providing notice about the incident and steps you can take to help protect your information.

What Happened: On September 5, 2024, Dreyfuss & Blackford became aware of technical issues related to systems in our network. Upon discovery, we took immediate action to secure our network and to address and investigate the incident, which included engaging outside IT experts and legal counsel. After a thorough investigation, we learned that an unauthorized actor gained access to our systems between August 15, 2024 and September 4, 2024. After a comprehensive data review, on October 31, 2024, it was determined your personal information may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized actor.

What Information Was Involved: The information involved includes your first and last name, in combination with the following data element(s): Social Security number and driver's license number.

What We Are Doing: Upon learning of the incident, we took immediate steps to address it, including securing our systems. We engaged outside forensic specialists and retained legal counsel to assist with determining the nature and scope of the incident as outlined above. We also notified law enforcement and will cooperate with their investigation.

We also are providing you with access to **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score** services at no cost to you. These services provide you with alerts for 12 months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Finally, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by Cyberscout, a TransUnion company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services. Instructions about how to enroll in these services and additional resources available to you are included in the enclosed “*Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information.*”

What You Can Do: To date, we are not aware of any reports of identity fraud or improper use of your information as a result of this incident. Nor do we have any indication that your information has been misused. However, it is always prudent for persons to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports and account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. If you discover any suspicious or unusual activity on your accounts, please promptly contact the financial institution or company. We have provided additional information below, which contains more information about steps you can take to help protect yourself against fraud and identity theft, as well as credit monitoring enrollment instructions.

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For More Information: Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact our dedicated assistance line with TransUnion at 1-800-405-6108, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday, excluding major U.S. holidays. Please know that the security of information is of the utmost importance to us. We stay committed to protecting your trust in us and continue to be thankful for your support during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'KJB', is positioned above a faint, rectangular grey stamp.

Kristopher Barkley,
Senior Design Principal
Dreyfuss & Blackford Architecture

Enclosure: *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information*

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Enrollment Instructions

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://bfs.cyberscout.com/activate> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: [REDACTED].

In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.



Monitor Your Accounts and Credit Reports

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 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 should 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:

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com TransUnion Fraud Alert P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000 TransUnion Credit Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094	Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com Experian Fraud Alert P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 Experian Credit Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	Equifax 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com Equifax Fraud Alert P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069 Equifax Credit Freeze P.O. Box 105788 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; 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 D.C. residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 441 4th Street NW #1100, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400, and <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>.

For Kentucky residents, the Kentucky Attorney General may be contacted at 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 118, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; 502-696-5300; and www.ag.ky.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at Office of the Attorney General, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; or www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov.

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, 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.

For Oregon residents, the Oregon Attorney General may be contacted at Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096; 1-877-877-9392; and <https://doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection/>.

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. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident.