# SANDY SPRING

A CENTER FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE Secure Processing Center 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



Dear << Full Name>>,

Sandy Spring Museum is writing to inform you of a security incident that may have impacted your name and some combination of the following data elements: <<Bre>Security incident that may have impacted your name and some combination of the following data elements: <<Bre>Security of your information is very important to us. This letter contains more information about the proactive measures we have taken in response and the identity protection services that we are offering you free of charge.

We want to assure you that we are taking steps to minimize the risk of this happening in the future. Since the incident, Sandy Spring Museum changed passwords, reformatted desktops, and implemented additional restrictions on accessing the network, among other measures. In addition, although there has been no evidence your information was misused, we are offering 24 months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft protection services through Epiq.

# <<VENDOR INSTRUCTIONS>>

You will find detailed instructions for enrollment on the enclosed Recommended Steps document. We also encourage you to vigilantly monitor your financial statements and credit reports and immediately report any suspicious activity.

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed regarding this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

You may also place a security freeze on your credit reports, free of charge. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing or other services. Under federal law, you cannot be charged to place, lift, or remove a security freeze.

You must place your request for a freeze with each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax (www.equifax.com); Experian (www.experian.com); and TransUnion (www.transunion.com). To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may send a written request by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below. You may also place a security freeze through each of the consumer reporting agencies' websites or over the phone, using the contact information below:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-349-9960

https://www.equifax.com/personal/cre dit-report-services/ Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742

https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.h

TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-909-8872

https://www.transunion.com/cred it-freeze

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide some or all of the following information to the credit reporting agency, depending on whether you do so online, by phone, or by mail:

- 1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security Number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
- 5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill, telephone bill, rental agreement, or deed;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
- 7. Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2;
- 8. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

The credit reporting agencies have one (1) to three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report, based upon the method of your request. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five (5) business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) or password (or both) that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze. It is important to maintain this PIN/password in a secure place, as you will need it to lift or remove the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide proper identification (including name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze, as well as the identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report. You may also temporarily lift a security freeze for a specified period of time rather than for a specific entity or individual, using the same contact information above. The credit bureaus have between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for request made by mail) after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for requests made by mail) after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

## For More Information:

Protecting your information is important to us, and we sincerely apologize for any concern this incident may cause you. If you have questions, please call 855-374-7051 Monday to Friday from 9:00 am Eastern Standard Time to 9:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

Sincerely,

Sandy Spring Museum

# Recommended Steps to help Protect your Information

1. Website and Enrollment.



<<Full Name>>

Enter your Activation Code: <<ACTIVATION CODE>>
Enrollment Deadline: <<Enrollment Deadline>>

# Equifax Credit Watch™ Gold

\*Note: You must be over age 18 with a credit file to take advantage of the product

# **Key Features**

- Credit monitoring with email notifications of key changes to your Equifax credit report
- Daily access to your Equifax credit report
- WebScan notifications<sup>1</sup> when your personal information, such as Social Security Number, credit/debit card or bank account numbers are found on fraudulent Internet trading sites
- Automatic fraud alerts<sup>2</sup>, which encourages potential lenders to take extra steps to verify your identity before
  extending credit, plus blocked inquiry alerts and Equifax credit report lock<sup>3</sup>
- Identity Restoration to help restore your identity should you become a victim of identity theft, and a dedicated Identity Restoration Specialist to work on your behalf
- Up to \$1,000,000 of identity theft insurance coverage for certain out of pocket expenses resulting from identity theft<sup>4</sup>

# **Enrollment Instructions**

Go to www.equifax.com/activate

Enter your unique Activation Code of <<ACTIVATION CODE>> then click "Submit" and follow these 4 steps:

#### 1. Register:

Complete the form with your contact information and click "Continue".

If you already have a myEquifax account, click the 'Sign in here' link under the "Let's get started" header.

Once you have successfully signed in, you will skip to the Checkout Page in Step 4

#### 2. Create Account:

Enter your email address, create a password, and accept the terms of use.

# 3. Verify Identity:

To enroll in your product, we will ask you to complete our identity verification process.

# 4. Checkout:

Upon successful verification of your identity, you will see the Checkout Page.

Click 'Sign Me Up' to finish enrolling.

## You're done!

The confirmation page shows your completed enrollment.

Click "View My Product" to access the product features.

WebScan searches for your Social Security Number, up to 5 passport numbers, up to 6 bank account numbers, up to 6 credit/debit card numbers, up to 6 email addresses, and up to 10 medical ID numbers. WebScan searches thousands of Internet sites where consumers' personal information is suspected of being bought and sold, and regularly adds new sites to the list of those it searches. However, the Internet addresses of these suspected Internet trading sites are not published and frequently change, so there is no guarantee that we are able to locate and search every possible Internet site where consumers' personal information is at risk of being traded.

The Automatic Fraud Alert feature is made available to consumers by Equifax Information Services LLC and fulfilled on its behalf by Equifax Consumer Services LLC.

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2. Review your credit reports. We recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, you also are entitled every 12 months to one free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies. To obtain a free annual credit report, go to <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or call 1-877-322-8228. You may wish to stagger your requests so that you receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

You should also know that you have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some kind of proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

3. Place Fraud Alerts with the three credit bureaus. If you choose to place a fraud alert, we recommend you do this after activating your credit monitoring. You can place a fraud alert at one of the three major credit bureaus by phone and also via Experian's or Equifax's website. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. The contact information for all three bureaus is as follows:

#### **Credit Bureaus**

Equifax Fraud Reporting
1-866-349-5191
1-888-397-3742
1-800-680-7289
P.O. Box 105069
P.O. Box 9554
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
Www.equifax.com
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19022-2000
Www.equifax.com
Www.transunion.com

It is necessary to contact only ONE of these bureaus and use only ONE of these methods. As soon as one of the three bureaus confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place alerts on their records as well.

You will receive confirmation letters in the mail and will then be able to order all three credit reports, free of charge, for your review. An initial fraud alert will last for one year.

Please Note: No one is allowed to place a fraud alert on your credit report except you.

- 4. Security Freeze. By placing a security freeze, someone who fraudulently acquires your personal identifying information will not be able to use that information to open new accounts or borrow money in your name. You will need to contact the three national credit reporting bureaus listed above to place the freeze. Keep in mind that when you place the freeze, you will not be able to borrow money, obtain instant credit, or get a new credit card until you temporarily lift or permanently remove the freeze. There is no cost to freeze or unfreeze your credit files.
- 5. You can obtain additional information about the steps you can take to avoid identity theft from the following agencies. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them.

All US Residents: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580, www.consumer.gov/idtheft, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), TTY: 1-866-653-4261.