Walter Shuffain Advisors, Inc. c/o Cyberscout 555 Monster Rd SW Renton, WA 98057 USBFS471







March 11, 2025

Dear :

# Please read this letter in its entirety.

On behalf of Walter Shuffain Advisors, Inc., we are sending this letter regarding a recent business email compromise event as part of our commitment to your privacy. We take the security of our clients and employees very seriously.

## **What Happened**

On December 11, 2024, we detected a cybersecurity incident affecting an internal email account. We immediately secured the compromised email account and engaged third party information technology and forensic specialists to assist with investigating the extent of the unauthorized activity. The initial forensic investigation revealed that an unauthorized party gained access to the email account on or around December 3, 2024. After a comprehensive forensic investigation, we were able to determine on February 21, 2025 that certain data, including personal information, from the affected email account may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized party.

## What Information Was Involved

At this time, based on the results of the forensic investigation, we believe that the potentially impacted personal information may include name and one (1) or more of either your date of birth (or date of death, as applicable), address, Social Security number, driver's license number or other state identification number, financial account number with routing number, or login information.

## What We Are Doing

We have taken a number of steps to ensure that our email and systems are secure. We notified law enforcement of this incident and worked with security experts to enact additional security measures designed to stop a similar occurrence in the future.

We encourage you to take immediate steps to safeguard your personal information. We will cover the cost of Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score

services. These services provide you with alerts for twenty-four (24) 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.

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:

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.

Please note that you can also obtain information from the following sources:

If you choose to place a fraud alert on your own, you will need to contact one of the three major credit agencies directly at:

Experian (1-888-397-3742) P.O. Box 4500

Allen, TX 75013 www.experian.com Equifax (1-800-525-6285) P.O. Box 740241

Atlanta, GA 30374 www.equifax.com

TransUnion (1-800-680-7289)

P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 www.transunion.com

Also, should you wish to obtain a credit report and monitor it on your own:

**IMMEDIATELY** obtain free copies of your credit report and monitor them upon receipt for any suspicious activity. You can obtain your free copies by going to the following website: <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or by calling them toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. (Hearing impaired consumers can access their TDD service at 1-877-730-4204.

**Upon receipt of your credit report,** we recommend that you review it carefully for any suspicious activity.

Be sure to promptly report any suspicious activity to Walter Shuffain Advisors, Inc.

We also recommend that you monitor account statements and credit bureau reports closely. If you think that your personal information is being improperly used, you can also contact local law enforcement to file a police report. You can also obtain more information from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about identity theft and ways to protect yourself. The FTC has an identity theft hotline: 877-438-4338; TTY: 1-866-653-4261. They also provide information on-line at <a href="https://www.ftc.gov/idtheft">www.ftc.gov/idtheft</a>.

#### For more information

Representatives are available for 90 days from the date of this letter, to assist you with questions regarding this incident, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through



Friday, excluding holidays. Please call the help line at 1-800-405-6108 and supply the fraud specialist with your unique code listed above.

We take our responsibilities to protect your personal information very seriously. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Yorks

Managing Shareholder

Walter Shuffain Advisors, Inc.

#### **Additional Information**

#### Security Freeze

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 your credit report without your 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 (3) major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may send a written request by regular, certified or overnight mail to 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:

- Experian Security Freeze: (888) 397-3742; https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html; P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013
- TransUnion Security Freeze: (888) 909-8872; https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze; P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094
- Equifax Security Freeze: (800) 349-9960;
   https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/; P.O. Box 105788,
   Atlanta, GA 30348

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 during the prior five (5) 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 requests 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.

# Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every twelve (12) months from each of the above three (3) major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call 1-877-322-8228 or request your free credit reports online at www.annualcreditreport.com. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

## State-Specific Information

For District of Columbia residents: You may obtain information about preventing identify theft from the District of Columbia Attorney General: 400 6th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 200001; www.oag.dc.gov; and 1-202-727-3400.

For Maryland residents: You may obtain information about preventing identify theft from the Maryland Attorney General: 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202; oag.state.md.us; and 1-888-743-0023.

For Massachusetts residents: Under Massachusetts law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event.

For New York residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft; Telephone: 800-771-7755.

For North Carolina residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina), 919-716-6000.

For Rhode Island residents: The Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; 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. Fees may be required to be paid to the consumer reporting agencies. There are approximately 0 Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.