

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

Postal Endorsement Line <<Full Name>><<Business or Representative Name>> <<Address 1>> <<Address 2>> <<Address 3>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>> <<Country>> ***Postal IMB Barcode

<<Date>>

Dear <<Full Name >><< Business or Representative Name>>:

The Houston Housing Authority values and respects the privacy of your information, which is why we are writing to advise you of an incident that may have involved some of your personal information. This letter explains the incident, the steps we have taken in response, and provides information on steps you may take to help protect your information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

What Happened? On September 22, 2024, we discovered that we were the victim of a cyber-attack. Upon learning of the incident, we promptly began an investigation and worked to restore our systems. We also notified law enforcement and cooperated with its investigation. We determined that an unknown, unauthorized third party accessed our computer systems and encrypted some of our computer files.

What Information Was Involved? On November 1, 2024, we also learned that the third party may have acquired certain files from our systems during this incident. We recently determined the acquired files may contain personal information that includes your name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, driver's license or state ID number, financial account number, medical information, and/or health insurance information.

What We Are Doing. In addition to the actions described above, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of this type of incident occurring in the future, including enhancing our technical security measures. We are also notifying you of the incident so that you can be aware and take steps to protect your information, if you feel it is appropriate to do so. Finally, although we are not aware of any instances of fraud or identity theft resulting from this incident, out of an abundance of caution, we are offering a complimentary two-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on prompt identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorks, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary two-year membership, please see the additional information attached to this letter.

What You Can Do. While we have no evidence that your personal information has been misused, we encourage you to take advantage of the complimentary credit monitoring included in this letter. You can also find more information on steps to protect yourself against possible identity theft or fraud in the enclosed Additional Important Information page.

For More Information. We value the trust you place in us to protect your privacy, take our responsibility to safeguard personal information seriously, and apologize for any inconvenience this incident might cause. For further information and assistance, please call toll free at between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday excluding major holidays.

Sincerely,

Houston Housing Authority

ACTIVATING YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CREDIT MONITORING

To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorksSM for 24 months.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for 24 months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is <u>immediately available to you</u>, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary 24-month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft.

To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you enroll by <<Enrollment Deadline>> (Your code will not work after this date.)
- Visit the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <u>https://www.experianidworks.com/credit</u>
- Provide your activation code: <<Activation Code>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at **1-877-288-8057** by May 29, 2025. Be prepared to provide engagement number <<**Engagement Number**>> as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- Experian credit report at signup: See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- Credit Monitoring: Actively monitors Experian file for indicators of fraud.
- Identity Restoration: Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARETM: You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

Additional Important Information

As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant to protect against potential fraud and/or identity theft by, among other things, reviewing your account statements and monitoring 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 should also promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidents of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, including the police and your state's attorney general, as well as the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC").

You may wish to review the tips provided by the FTC on fraud alerts, security/credit freezes and steps you can take to avoid identity theft. For more information and to contact the FTC, please visit www.ftc.gov/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338). You may also contact the FTC at Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to 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.

The District of Columbia and Massachusetts law also allow consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. A security freeze can be placed without any 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.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a written request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below or, if available, comply with the consumer reporting agencies' online security freeze request procedures:

Equifax Security Freeze	Experian Security Freeze	TransUnion Security Freeze
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-888-909-8872
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-	https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html	https://www.transunion.com/credit-
report-services/credit-freeze/	P.O. Box 9554	freeze
P.O. Box 105788	Allen, TX 75013	P.O. Box 160
Atlanta, GA 30348		Woodlyn, PA 19094

In order to request a security freeze, you may need to provide the following information:

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, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;

5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;

6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.); and

7. 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 three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. 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.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must call or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail or, if available, comply with the consumer reporting agencies' online procedures for lifting a security freeze, and include proper identification (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 or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days 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 send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail or, if available, comply with the consumer reporting agencies' online procedures for removing a security freeze, and include 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 three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

Credit Reports: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months from each of the three national credit reporting agencies by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com, by 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, print Atlanta. GA 30348. You can а copy of the request form at https://www.annualcreditreport.com/manualRequestForm.action.

Alternatively, you may elect to purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting one of the three national credit reporting agencies. Contact information for the three national credit reporting agencies for the purpose of requesting a copy of your credit report or for general inquiries is as follows:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
1-866-349-5191	1-888-397-3742	1-800-888-4213
www.equifax.com	www.experian.com	www.transunion.com
P.O. Box 740241	P.O. Box 9554	P.O. Box 1000
Atlanta, GA 30374	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016

Fraud Alerts: You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit report for one (1) year. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any new accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three national credit reporting agencies using the contact information listed above. Additional information is available at <u>www.annualcreditreport.com</u>.

District of Columbia Residents: District of Columbia residents can contact the Office of the Attorney general to obtain information about steps to take to avoid identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia at 441 4th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, 202-727-3400, <u>oag@dc.gov</u>, <u>https://oag.dc.gov/</u>. The District of Columbia law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports without any charge.