

14627

<<Date>>

<<Name>>
<<Address1>>
<<Address2>>
<<City>><<State>>><<ZIP>>

## **Notice of Data Security Incident**

Dear <<Name>>:

We are writing to notify you of a data security incident experienced by Lionel LaSalle, II CPA ("LaSalle CPA") that may have impacted your personal information, including your name, Social Security number, bank account information if you provided this to us, and other tax related information. We value and respect the privacy of your information, and sincerely apologize for any concern or inconvenience this may cause you. This letter contains information about steps you can take to protect your information, and resources we are making available to help you.

We are offering identity theft protection services through ID Experts®, the data breach and recovery services expert, to provide you with MyIDCare<sup>™</sup>. MyIDCare services include: 24 months of credit monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed id theft recovery services. With this protection, MyIDCare will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

We encourage you to contact ID Experts with any questions and to enroll in free MyIDCare services by calling (800) 939-4170 or going to <a href="https://ide.myidcare.com/lasallecpa">https://ide.myidcare.com/lasallecpa</a> and using the Enrollment Code provided above. MyIDCare experts are available Monday through Friday from 8 am - 7 pm Central Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is May 28, 2019.

If you received a fraudulent deposit from the IRS into your bank account as a result of this incident, the IRS has recommended the following:

- 1. Do not spend this money, as it must be returned to the IRS.
- 2. Contact your bank's fraud department and let them know that the money was deposited as a result of a fraudulent tax filing, and that the deposit should be reversed as soon as possible.
- 3. Do not return the money by check. The most reliable way for the money to be returned and credited to you is to instruct your bank to reverse the deposit.
- 4. If you have any issues with your bank and the return of the money, please contact your tax preparer at LaSalle CPA.

Additionally, if you know or suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, the IRS recommends the following steps:

- Respond immediately to any IRS written notice. The IRS will not contact you via phone.
- If you received a Letter 4883C from the IRS indicating that they received a suspicious tax return with your name on it, you should follow the instructions on that letter to verify your identity with the IRS. Once you verify your identity, you can advise the IRS that you did not file the suspicious tax return. Additionally, you may be asked to file a paper return for the current filing season.
- If you believe you may be a victim of tax fraud but have not received a Letter 4883C from the IRS, you should fill out and submit IRS Form 14039, which is available at IRS.gov. LaSalle CPA can provide you with a copy of that form and assist you with filling it out if you would like. If you plan on filing on extension, please contact your LaSalle CPA tax professional for more information.

If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, contact the IRS for specialized assistance at 1-800-908-4490. The IRS has teams available to assist. You may also visit https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection for more information.

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.

Massachusetts law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. 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.

If you have been a victim of identity theft, and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, the agency cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. Effective September 21, 2018, placing a freeze on your credit report is now free for all United States citizens. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a written request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax (www.equifax.com); Experian (www.experian.com) and TransUnion (www.transunion.com) by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below:

Equifax Security Freeze U.S. Consumer Services P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 TransUnion Security Freeze Fraud Victim Assistance Department P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92834

To place a security freeze on your credit report, each credit reporting agency has a dedicated web page for security freezes and fraud alerts or you can request a freeze by phone or by mail. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request may also require a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue.

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 and include proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN 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 and include proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

We also want you to know that we took immediate action to enhance our security and prevent a similar incident in the future. We implemented additional security protocols for any remote access to our system, and changed passwords to all employee accounts. We also provided your name and Social Security number to the IRS to help detect possible fraud.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call at (800) 939-4170, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 7 pm Central Time. Your trust is a top priority for LaSalle CPA, and we deeply regret any inconvenience or concern that this matter may cause you.

Sincerely,

Lionel LaSalle II, CPA