

WORCESTER COMMUNITY HOUSING RESOURCES, INC.

11 Pleasant Street, Suite 300, Worcester, MA 01609
508.799.0322 ■ fax 508.799.7771
www.wchr.org ■ Lender NMLS ID: 13635

To Enroll, Please Call:

1-800-939-4170

Or Visit:

<https://app.myidcare.com/account-creation/protect>

Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXX>>

<<First Name>><<Last Name>>

<<Address1>>

<<Address2>>

<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

15857

<<Date>>

Dear <<First Name>><<Last Name>>:

We are writing to inform you of a data security incident involving the Worcester Community Housing Resources that may have resulted in unauthorized access to some of your personal information, including your Social Security number. We take the privacy and protection of your personal information very seriously. Your trust is a top priority at Worcester Community Housing Resources, and we deeply regret any inconvenience this may cause. This letter contains information about steps we have taken and resources we are making available to you to protect your identity.

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, 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.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must make a direct request by telephone, secure electronic means (website), or written request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax; Experian; and TransUnion at the addresses and/or numbers below:

Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
my.equifax.com/consumer-registration
(800) 349-9960

Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
experian.com/freeze
(888) 397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze
Fraud Victim Assistance Dept.
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19022-2000
transunion.com/credit-freeze
(888) 909-8872

In order to request a security freeze, you will 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 (5) 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.)

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 one (1) business day after receiving a telephone or secure electronic request, or three (3) business days after receiving your written 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 permanently remove the security freeze, or to temporarily lift the security freeze for a specified period of time or to provide a specified entity access to your credit report, you must make a request either by phone, through secure electronic means (website), or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail. Requests must include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. To temporarily remove the security freeze, include the specific period of time you want the credit report available or the name of the entity you want to have access to your credit report.

In the case of a request by phone or secure electronic means, the security freeze will be lifted within one (1) hour after receiving the request for removal; or in the case of a request that is by mail, the credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to permanently or temporarily remove the security freeze.

As a precautionary measure, we are providing you with complimentary resources to help protect your identity. We have secured the services of ID Experts®, the data breach and recovery services expert, to provide you with MyIDCare™. MyIDCare services include: 18 months of Credit and CyberScan 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.

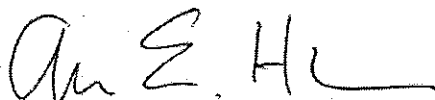
We encourage you to contact ID Experts with any questions and to enroll in free MyIDCare services by calling **1-800-939-4170** or going to **<https://app.myidcare.com/account-creation/protect>**; and using the Enrollment Code provided above. MyIDCare experts are available Monday through Friday from 6 am - 6 pm Pacific Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is January 10, 2020.

Please also review the enclosed "Additional Important Information" section included with this letter. This section describes additional steps you can take to help protect yourself, including recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission regarding identity theft protection and details on how to place a fraud alert on your credit file.

We are committed to ensuring security of all information in our control, and are taking steps to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future. This includes adding security protocols for two factor authentication, revising our Written Information Security Policy (WISP), and engaging a computer technology firm to supervise both the revisions and daily security for our system.

Please know that the protection of your personal information is a top priority, and we sincerely regret any concern or inconvenience that this matter may cause you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (508) 799-0322 Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

Sincerely,



Andy Howarth
Director of Development & Financing
Worcester Community Housing Resources



Recommended Steps to help Protect your Information

- 1. Website and Enrollment.** Go to <https://ide.myidcare.com/customending>; and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter.
- 2. Activate the credit monitoring** provided as part of your MyIDCare membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, MyIDCare will be able to assist you.
- 3. Telephone.** Contact MyIDCare at 1-800-939-4170 to gain additional information about this event and speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

Additional Important Information

For residents of Hawaii, Michigan, Missouri, Virginia, Vermont, and North Carolina: It is recommended by state law that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity.

For residents of Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, and West Virginia:

It is required by state laws to inform you that you may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

For residents of Iowa:

State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

For residents of Oregon:

State laws advise you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

For residents of Maryland, Rhode Island, Illinois, and North Carolina:

You can obtain information from the Maryland and North Carolina Offices of the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft.

Maryland Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
1-888-743-0023
www.oag.state.md.us

Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection
150 South Main Street
Providence RI 02903
1-401-274-4400
www.riag.ri.gov

North Carolina Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001
1-877-566-7226
www.ncdoj.com

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20580
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)
www.ftc.gov/idtheft

For residents of Massachusetts: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft

For residents of all states:

Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone and online with Equifax ([https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud Alert Request Form.pdf](https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud%20Alert%20Request%20Form.pdf)) or Experian (<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>). 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. As of September 21, 2018, initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years. The phone numbers for all three credit bureaus are at the bottom of this page.

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant and monitor your accounts for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse or a minor under the age of 16, 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 must also include 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. As of September 21, 2018, it is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You may also place a security freeze for children under the age of 16. You may obtain a free security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
www.freeze.equifax.com
800-525-6285

Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com/freeze
888-397-3742

TransUnion (FVAD)
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19022
freeze.transunion.com
800-680-7289

More information can also be obtained by contacting the Federal Trade Commission listed above.