## EBER AND COMPANY, INC.

2021 THE ALAMEDA, SUITE 380 SAN JOSE, CA 95126 PHONE: 408.931.6201 FAX: 408.216.9337 WWW.WEBERANDCOMPANYCPA.COM

[Date]

[Recipient's Name] [Address] [City, State, Zip]

## **NOTICE OF DATA BREACH**

Dear [Recipient's Name],

We are writing to notify you that there is a reasonable possibility that your personal information may have been accessed in late February, early March of 2020 at Weber and Company, Inc. due to a breach of security.

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. You may also report it to the Federal Trade Commission at https://www.identitytheft.gov/Assistant.

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 (<u>www.equifax.com</u>); Experian (<u>www.experian.com</u>); and TransUnion (<u>www.transunion.com</u>). 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	Experian Security Freeze	TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788	P.O. Box 2104	P.O. Box 160
Atlanta, GA 30348	Allen, TX 75013	Woodlyn, PA 19094
1-800-349-9960	1-888-397-3742	1-888-909-8872
hups://www.equifax.com/personal/cr	https://www.experian.com/freeze/ce	https://www.transunion.com/credit-
edit-report-services/	nter.html	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.

You may also take these additional steps to protect yourself against identity theft or other fraud including. Be vigilant in reviewing your bank accounts and brokerage statements, as well as free credit reports. We suggest you change any **bank account numbers** provided to us, and/or have a conversation with your bank regarding the monitoring to be provided by them as well as yourselves. It is also recommended that you change your **passwords** on all accounts, bank and brokerage. We recommend that you place a fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. You can call the three major credit agencies listed above and place a 90-day fraud alert on your accounts. To do so, their contact information is:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
P.O. Box 740241	P.O. Box 2104	P.O. Box 2000
Atlanta, GA 30374	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19022
1-800-525-6285	1-888-397-3742	1-800-680-7283
https://www.alerts.equifax.com/Aut oFraud_Online/jsp/fraudAlert.jsp	https://www.experian.com/ fraud/center.html	https://fraud.transunion.com/f a/fraudAlert/landingPage.jsp

You are also entitled to a free credit report every year from each of these three agencies at: www.annualcreditreport.com.

With the help of our IT consultants, the following steps have been taken: (1) new procedures have been put in place to prevent unauthorized access; (2) all network firewalls, computers and security protections are confirmed

to be properly functioning; (3) additional malware protection has been implemented into our systems for your protection; and (4) all pass words have been changed and a two-step authentication for access to our electronic system has been implemented. We will continue to work with IT consultants to keep the firm and clients safe from a future security breach.

We are providing clients who have been affected by the security breach with 18 months of complimentary credit monitoring from monitoring from Experian. Your activation code for the complimentary credit monitoring is as follows: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with superior identity protection support focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. You must use the activation code and enroll in the credit monitoring by July 1, 2020. Your code will not work after this date. Enclosed are detailed instructions on how to activate the credit monitoring as well as additional details regarding the credit monitoring services.

The protection and privacy of your information has always been a top priority for our firm. After our many years—and sometimes decades—of close business relationships with our clients, we have no words to express how devastating it is to have had this happen. If possible, please send us a copy of any IRS or FTB letters that you receive to keep us informed.

Protecting your information is incredibly important to us, as is addressing this incident with the information and assistance you may need. If you have any questions or concerns, call Monique Hagan, who is the office contact for this matter, at 1-408-931-6201; email Ms. Hagan at mhagan@weberandcompanycpa.com or write 2021 the Alameda, Suite 380, San Jose, CA 95126.

Sincerely,

Weber and Empory, Inc.

Weber and Company, Inc.

Enclosure