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October 5, 2020

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Recently, Massachusetts Maritime Academy was made aware of a security incident by our fundraising software vendor, Blackbaud. At that time, we requested a copy of our database from Blackbaud in order to perform a data forensics investigation to determine if personally identifiable information (PII) from any of our constituents could have been accessed.

We have completed the data forensics investigation and are contacting you to report that PII related to you was present in our database. The PII detected was from: **<INSERT REASON - SS, Bank Routing, Account Number>**. Since identifying this PII data in our Blackbaud database in the cloud, it has been deleted. Blackbaud has stated that the stolen data was deleted by the cybercriminals in exchange for a ransomware payment. Blackbaud also utilized law enforcement and a third-party to research the likelihood that this data would be misused or disseminated. From these findings, Blackbaud feels there is no reason to believe that any data went beyond the cybercriminals.

Cybercrime is a reality in our world today and, unfortunately, these types of breaches are all too common. Please be assured that the Academy takes your data and its security very seriously. We seek to work with companies that are similarly committed and that use the utmost care in handling information related to your interactions with us and your support of our cadets. Maintaining your trust is of the utmost importance to us.

In all candor, we are frustrated with the lack of information we've received from Blackbaud about this incident thus far and we sincerely apologize for this incident and regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Moving forward, the Academy will be working with other entities in Massachusetts, including the MA Executive Office of Education, the Comptroller's Office and other state universities to identify and implement security best practices to reduce the risk of future cybersecurity incidents. As we identify best practices not already in place, we plan on implementing them at the Academy.

Should you wish to explore credit protection services, please contact the Academy via email at mmanotice@maritime.edu, this is a dedicated email account set up to address the Blackbaud issue.

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Again, we sincerely apologize for this incident and regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Anne Marie Fallon
VP, Technology & Library Services

Elizabeth Simmons
VP, External Affairs