



<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first\_name>> <<middle\_name>> <<last\_name>> <<suffix>>  
<<address\_1>>  
<<address\_2>>  
<<city>>, <<state\_province>> <<postal\_code>>  
<<country>>

Dear <<First\_Name>> <<Last\_Name>>,

SouthStar Bank respects the privacy of information entrusted to us, which is why we are writing to advise you of an incident that may have involved some of your personal information. **At this time, we have no reason to believe that your personal information has been misused for the purpose of committing fraud or identity theft.** Nonetheless, we want to make you aware of the incident and provide you with guidance on what you can do to protect your information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

On November 6, 2023, we became aware of a phishing campaign targeting SouthStar Bank employees, and subsequently discovered one employee email account had been accessed as a result of that campaign. Upon learning of the situation, we promptly contained the incident by securing the account to prevent further access and began an initial internal investigation into the incident. We also hired a leading forensic security firm to further investigate the incident and confirm the security of our email systems. Our forensic investigation confirmed that an unauthorized third party accessed the email account between October 27, 2023 to November 6, 2023.

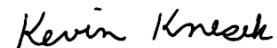
We do not believe that the unauthorized third party's motivation was to access the personal information contained in the email account and we have no indication that any such information has been used for fraud or identity theft purposes. However, out of an abundance of caution, we searched the email account for any personal information. On January 26, 2024, we learned that some of your personal information, including your <<b2b\_text\_1 (data elements)>> were contained in the compromised email account.

In addition to the actions described above, we are taking steps to reduce the risk of this type of incident occurring in the future, including reviewing our technical security measures. Again, although we are not aware of any instances of fraud or identity theft, we are offering a complimentary two-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks Credit 3B 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 Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary two-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.**

We encourage you to take advantage of the complimentary credit monitoring offered by SouthStar Bank and included in this letter. You can also find more information on steps to help protect yourself against possible identity theft or fraud in the enclosed *Additional Important Information* page.

We take our responsibility to safeguard personal information seriously and apologize for any inconvenience or concern this incident might cause. We are committed to taking steps to help prevent something like this from happening again, including strengthening email security. For further information and assistance, please call [xxx-xxx-xxxx](tel:xxx-xxx-xxxx) Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. Central time, excluding major U.S. holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Knesek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "K".

Kevin Knesek

EVP/Chief Operations Officer, Information Security Officer (ISO)

SouthStar Bank

To help protect your identity, we are offering a **complimentary** two-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B. 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.

### Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: <<b2b\_text\_6 (ActivationDeadline)>> (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
3. PROVIDE the Activation Code: <<Activation Code (S\_N)>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 1-877-288-8057. Be prepared to provide engagement number <<b2b\_text\_2(engagement number)>> as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

### ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **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, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** 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.

Activate your membership today at <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit> or call 1-877-288-8057 to register with the activation code above.

**What you can do to protect your information:** There are additional actions you can consider taking to reduce the chances of identity theft or fraud on your account(s). Please refer to [www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration](http://www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration) for this information. If you have any questions about IdentityWorks, need help understanding something on your credit report or suspect that an item on your credit report may be fraudulent, please contact Experian's customer care team at 1-877-288-8057.

\* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

\*\* The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

## 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](http://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.

Massachusetts law also allows 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 1-888-298-0045 <a href="https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/">https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/</a> P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348	Experian Security Freeze 1-888-397-3742 <a href="https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html">https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html</a> P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Security Freeze 1-888-909-8872 <a href="https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze">https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze</a> P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094
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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:** By law, you may obtain a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months from each of the three national credit reporting agencies. The three national credit reporting agencies have also agreed to provide free weekly online credit reports. You can obtain your free credit report by visiting [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://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, Atlanta, GA 30348. You can print a 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  
1-866-349-5191  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
P.O. Box 740241  
Atlanta, GA 30374

Experian  
1-888-397-3742  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
P.O. Box 2002  
Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion  
1-800-888-4213  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
P.O. Box 1000  
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 [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).