June 25, 2021





Re: Notice of a Data Breach

Dear Valued Client:

# Please read this letter in its entirety.

#### What happened?

We discovered that on April 27, 2021 there was a cybersecurity situation and took immediate steps to remediate this situation. In addition, we immediately engaged third-party expert assistance to help us investigate, evaluate and respond to the situation.

#### What information was involved?

Based on their review of the situation and an examination of the impacted computing devices, our forensics specialists have indicated that some personal data belonging to you may have potentially been exposed to the unauthorized intruder. This data may have included personally identifiable information (PII), such as some combination of your full name, address, date of birth, Social Security Number, and banking information.

While we have no evidence that any of your personal information was compromised or misused in any manner, we are taking appropriate precautionary measures to ensure your financial security and help alleviate concerns you may have.

#### What are we doing to address this situation?

Weiss & Company has made immediate enhancements to our systems, security and practices. Additionally, we have engaged industry experts to assist us in conducting a full review of our security practices and systems to ensure that appropriate security protocols are in place.

We also are committed to helping those people who may have been impacted by this unfortunate situation. That is why Weiss & Company is providing you with access to representatives who are available for 90 days from the date of this letter, to assist you with questions regarding this incident, between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Please call the help line at 1-800-405-6108 and supply the fraud specialist with your unique code listed below. To extend these services, enrollment in the monitoring services described below is required.

Additionally, we are providing you with access to **Triple Bureau Credit Monitoring/Triple Bureau Credit Report/Triple Bureau Credit Score/Cyber Monitoring\*** services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for 18 months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to any of one of your Experian, Equifax or TransUnion credit files occur. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Cyber monitoring will also look out for your personal data on the dark web and alert you if your personally identifiable information is found online. In addition, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud.

To enroll in Credit Monitoring\* services at no charge, please log on to https://www.myidmanager.com and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: kqijh26bv031

<sup>\*</sup> Services marked with an "\*" require an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

#### Additional steps you can take do to address this situation?

If you choose not to use the services described above, we are strongly urging all clients to consider doing the following:

If you choose to place a fraud alert on your own, you will need to contact one of the three major credit agencies directly at:

Experian (1-888-397-3742)

Equifax (1-800-525-6285) P.O. Box 740241 TransUnion (1-800-680-7289) P.O. Box 2000

P.O. Box 4500 Allen, TX 75013

www.experian.com

Atlanta, GA 30374 www.equifax.com

Chester, PA 19016 www.transunion.com

Also, should you wish to obtain a credit report and monitor it on your own:

- IMMEDIATELY obtain free copies of your credit report and monitor them upon receipt for any suspicious activity.
  You can obtain your free copies by going to the following website: <a href="www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or by calling them toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. (Hearing impaired clients can access their TDD service at 1-877-730-4204.
- Upon receipt of your credit report, we recommend that you review it carefully for any suspicious activity.
- Be sure to promptly report any suspicious activity to Weiss & Company.

You may choose to initiate a security freeze. A security freeze restricts access to your credit report, which means you — or others — will not be able to open a new credit account while the freeze is in place. You can temporarily lift the credit freeze if you need to apply for new credit. When the freeze is in place, you will still be able to do things like apply for a job, rent an apartment, or buy insurance without lifting or removing it. The credit freeze lasts until you remove it and is free of charge. Additional information about obtaining a security freeze is included with this letter. To inquire about a credit freeze, please contact each of the three credit bureaus listed above.

## IRS strongly advises obtaining an Identity Protections PIN

The Identity Protections ("IP") PIN is a 6-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers. It helps prevent identity thieves from filing fraudulent tax returns with stolen Social Security numbers (SSNs). An IP PIN also helps the IRS verify taxpayers' identities and accept their electronic or paper tax returns for processing. The IRS issues IP PINs to confirmed identity theft victims once their cases are resolved. This process is unchanged. What is new is that any taxpayers who wants an IP PIN, even if they are not victims of identity theft, may now obtain one as well.

#### Here's what you need to know before applying for your IP PIN:

- This is a voluntary program.
- You must pass a rigorous identity verification process to obtain an IP PIN.
- Spouses and dependents are also eligible for an IP PIN if they can verify their identities.
- An IP PIN is valid for a calendar year.
- You must obtain a new IP PIN each filing season, using the online IP PIN tool.
- The online IP PIN tool is unavailable generally mid-November through mid-January each year.
- Correct IP PINs must be entered on electronic and paper tax returns to avoid rejections and delays.

#### How to Get an IP PIN:

The fastest, easiest and preferred way is by using the Get an IP PIN online tool. Here is how it works:

- Go to IRS.gov/IPPIN, select the Get an IP PIN tool, verify your identity, and create an account
- Once you have a username, password and security code, you can enter the Get an IP PIN tool
- Once in, your IP PIN will be revealed to you.

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# Unable to pass the online identity proofing?

There are alternatives available, but there will be a delay in obtaining an IP PIN. Here is how it works:

- File a Form 15227 if you have a valid SSN or ITIN, an adjusted gross income of \$72,000 or less, and access to a telephone. An IRS assistor will call you, validate your identity and ensure that you receive an IP PIN the next filing season.
- If you are ineligible for Form 15227, call the IRS to learn about in-person options.

## Other important information:

You have the right to obtain a police report. You can also obtain more information about identity theft and ways to protect yourself from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC has an identity theft hotline: 877-438-4338; TTY: 1-866-653-4261. They also provide information on-line at <a href="https://www.ftc.gov/idtheft">www.ftc.gov/idtheft</a>.

#### For more information:

While representatives should be able to provide thorough assistance and answer most of your questions, you may still feel the need to speak with Weiss & Company regarding this incident. If so, please call me at 858-362-9999 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.

At Weiss & Company we take our responsibilities to protect your personal information very seriously. We are deeply disturbed by this situation and apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Weiss

Kenneth L. Weiss President of Weiss & Company

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# STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO FURTHER PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity: As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant and review your account statements and 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 incidence of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, your state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission (the "FTC").

Copy of Credit Report: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies once every 12 months by visiting <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com/">http://www.annualcreditreport.com/</a>, calling toll-free 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 also contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion	Free Annual Report
P.O. Box 105851	P.O. Box 9532	P.O. Box 1000	P.O. Box 105281
Atlanta, GA 30348	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016	Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-525-6285	1-888-397-3742	1-877-322-8228	1-877-322-8228
www.equifax.com	www.experian.com	www.transunion.com	www.annualcreditreport.com

**Fraud Alert:** You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least 90 days. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com">http://www.annualcreditreport.com</a>.

Security Freeze: In some U.S. states, you have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file. This will prevent new credit from being opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your consent. As a result, using a security freeze may interfere with or delay your ability to obtain credit. You must separately place a security freeze on your credit file with each credit reporting agency. In order to place a security freeze, you may be required to provide the consumer reporting agency with information that identifies you including your full name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, a copy of your state-issued identification card, and a recent utility bill, bank statement or insurance statement.

Additional Free Resources: You can obtain information from the consumer reporting agencies, the FTC or from your respective state Attorney General about steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. You may report suspected identity theft to local law enforcement, including to the FTC or to the Attorney General in your state. Residents of Maryland, North Carolina, and Rhode Island can obtain more information from their Attorneys General using the contact information below.

Federal Trade Commission	Maryland Attorney	North Carolina Attorney
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW	General	General
Washington, DC 20580	200 St. Paul Place	9001 Mail Service Center
consumer.ftc.gov, and	Baltimore, MD 21202	Raleigh, NC 27699
www.ftc.gov/idtheft	oag.state.md.us	ncdoj.gov
1-877-438-4338	1-888-743-0023	1-877-566-7226

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include knowing what is in your file; disputing incomplete or inaccurate information; and requiring consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, please visit https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf.

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