



January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Dear Advisory Client:

We are writing to inform you that one of the vendors Ladenburg Thalmann Asset Management (“Ladenburg”) employs to provide mailing services had a recent security incident that may have involved some of your personal information. The vendor, Quantum Group (“Quantum”) is not an affiliated entity. This letter explains the incident, measures we have taken, and steps you may consider taking.

***What Happened?***

Quantum was recently alerted to the possibility that there was unauthorized access to their network by an organization claiming to be a ransomware group. Although there was no ransomware attack on their network or known indications of compromise at that time, Quantum immediately initiated incident response protocols and began a prompt investigation. Quantum engaged a highly regarded computer forensics firm to determine the existence, cause, and scope of any compromise to their network or data. They also notified law enforcement and are continuing to work with them. The investigation determined there was unauthorized access to their network between August 17 and October 11, 2021. Quantum recently discovered that the threat actor group posted on its dark web site certain files it claims to have taken from Quantum’s network and which includes data they have now identified as belonging to Ladenburg. This was confirmed on December 27, 2021.

***What Information Was Involved?***

While we have no evidence that your personal information has been misused, Quantum’s investigation thus far has not been able to rule out that possibility. Quantum’s review determined that the Ladenburg files contained performance reports that included client names, addresses and account numbers which may have possibly been accessed in an unauthorized manner. The files did not include social security numbers.

***What We Are Doing:***

We regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause you. To help prevent something like this from happening in the future, Ladenburg has been assured that Quantum has taken additional steps to strengthen their existing security protocols and remains committed to the security of Ladenburg’s information, and they will continue to take proactive measures to safeguard their network and protect against future incidents. Additionally, in an abundance of caution, the custodian on your account, National Financial Services has placed enhanced security measures on the account.

***What You Can Do:***

While we have no indication that your information was actually viewed by an unauthorized person, or that it has been misused, we wanted to notify you of this incident and remind you over the next 12-24 months to remain vigilant for signs of unauthorized activity by reviewing your financial account statements. If you see changes or activity that you did not authorize, we suggest that you contact your financial professional immediately.

***For More Information:***

If you have any questions, please call Ladenburg at 1-800-995-5237, Monday through Friday, from 9a.m. to 5p.m. and ask to speak with Madeline Rutinel or Jaime Desmond.

**Residents of Massachusetts:** Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, [www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html](http://www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html)

Sincerely,

**Philip S. Blancato**  
CEO and President

## ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity over the next 12 to 24 months. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com), 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com), 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com), 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report.

Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)

### ***Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:***

**Fraud Alerts:** There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active-Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years unless you ask them not to.

**Credit or Security Freezes:** You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

*How do I place a freeze on my credit reports?* There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting

company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

You'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

*How do I lift a freeze?* A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

**Residents of Massachusetts:** Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General*, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, [www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html](http://www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html)