

WILLIAM MCNAMARA Comptroller

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

One Ashburton Place, 9th Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (617) 727-5000 Macomptroller.org



DATE

Dear X:

I am writing to notify you that there has been an unauthorized acquisition of your [explanation of breach].

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed regarding this incident. Given the nature of the inadvertent dissemination of your data, no police report has been filed by the Office of the Comptroller. 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 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. For information about placing a security freeze on your credit reports, please see Attachment A. Additionally, we would like to offer you two years of IdentityForce Identity Theft Protection with Credit Monitoring, free of charge. If you are interested in this service please contact the Office of the Comptroller's Chief Financial Officer, X at Email@Email.

We deeply regret this error and apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused. Please feel free to call me at PHONE NUMBER should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

## Attachment A Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit Report

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 (www.equifax.com); Experian (www.experian.com); and TransUnion (www.transunion.com). 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 P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-349-9960 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/

Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-909-8872 https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

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.