The St. Lucie County Tax Collector's Office c/o Cyberscout PO Box 1286 Dearborn, MI 48120-9998





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December 28, 2023

Dear

The St. Lucie County Tax Collector's Office ("SLCTC") writes to inform you of an event that may affect the security of your personal information. This notice provides you with resources available to you to help protect your information, should you feel it appropriate to do so. Due to the requirements of Massachusetts law, we are unable to provide further detail about the nature of the incident in this letter, however you may call the dedicated assistance line provided at the end of this letter if you have questions.

We take this incident and the security of information in our care seriously. Upon discovering the unusual activity, we took steps to mitigate and investigate the activity. We also reported the event to law enforcement and implemented additional safeguards related to data privacy and security. We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity.

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order your free credit report, visit <u>www.annualcreditreport.com</u> or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of your credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer's express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a security freeze, you may need to provide the following information, depending on whether you make the request online, by phone, or by mail:

- 1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. Addresses for the prior two to 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, etc.);
- 7. Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2;
- 8. 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.

Should you wish to place a credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-		https://www.transunion.com/credit-
report-services/	https://www.experian.com/help/	help
888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1 (800) 916-8800
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

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.

You may further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; <u>www.identitytheft.gov</u>; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

If you have questions, you can call our dedicated TransUnion assistance line at 1-833-961-6415 which is available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, excluding major U.S. holidays. You can also write to us at St. Lucie County Tax Collector's Office, P.O. Box 308, Ft. Pierce, FL 34954.

Sincerely,

Chris Craft St. Lucie County Tax Collector