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December 20, 2022

## **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Attorney General John Formella Office of the Attorney General New Hampshire Department of Justice 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 Email: attorneygeneral@doj.nh.gov

Re: Update to Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Formella:

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP ("Lewis Brisbois") represents the City of Wheat Ridge ("Wheat Ridge") in connection with the recent data security incident that was previously reported to your office on September 28, 2022. I am writing to provide an update with respect to additional New Hampshire residents that Wheat Ridge will be notifying of the incident.

# 1. Nature of the security incident.

On August 29, 2022, Wheat Ridge discovered that it had experienced an incident disrupting access to certain aspects of its systems. In response, Wheat Ridge took immediate steps to secure its systems and promptly launched an investigation. In so doing, Wheat Ridge engaged independent digital forensics and incident response experts and began working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the "FBI") to determine what happened and to identify any information that may have been impacted. On September 14, 2022, Wheat Ridge learned that personal information for current / former employees and certain of their dependents may have been impacted and issued notification letters to these individuals on September 28, 2022. Subsequently, Wheat Ridge determined that personal information belonging to members of the public who are not current / former employees or their dependents may also have been accessed or acquired without authorization in connection with the incident. Wheat Ridge then immediately undertook a comprehensive review process to determine the precise nature of the information involved and the identities of any other individuals who may have been affected. That review concluded on November 21, 2022. Wheat Ridge then worked to gather contact up-to-date mailing addresses for potentially impacted individuals and arranged for notification letters to be sent.

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The information that may have been accessible by the malicious actor(s) responsible for this incident includes name, Social Security number.

### 2. Number of New Hampshire residents affected.

Wheat Ridge will be notifying one (1) New Hampshire resident of this incident via first class U.S. mail on December 21, 2022. A sample copy of the notification letter is included with this correspondence.

### 3. Steps taken relating to the Incident.

As soon as Wheat Ridge discovered this incident, Wheat Ridge took steps to secure its systems and launched an investigation to determine what happened and whether personal information had been accessed or acquired without authorization. Wheat Ridge also reported the incident to the FBI and will cooperate in any investigation. In addition, Wheat Ridge has implemented enhanced safeguards to help ensure the security of its systems and to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future.

Wheat Ridge has established a toll-free call center through IDX, a leader in risk mitigation and response, to answer any questions about the incident and address related concerns. The call center is available at 1-833-875-0806 from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Mountain Time, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). In addition, while Wheat Ridge is not aware of the misuse of any information as a result of this incident, out of an abundance of caution, Wheat Ridge is also providing complimentary identity protection services to notified individuals.

#### 4. Contact information.

Wheat Ridge remains dedicated to protecting the personal information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Lewis Brisbois.

Best regards,

Alyssa R. Watzman LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

Enclosure: Sample Notification Letter



Return Mail Processing 10300 SW Greenburg Rd. Suite 570 Portland, OR 97223 To Enroll, Please Call: 1-800-939-4170 Or Visit: https://app.idx.us/account-

creation/protect
Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXX>>>

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>> <<Address1>> <<Address2>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>>

December 21, 2022

Subject: Notice of Data << Variable Text 1: Breach or Security Incident>>

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

I am writing to inform you of a recent data security incident experienced by the City of Wheat Ridge ("Wheat Ridge") that may have affected your personal information. Wheat Ridge takes the privacy and security of all personal information within its possession very seriously. Please read this letter carefully as it contains information regarding the incident and steps you can take to help protect your personal information.

What Happened? On August 29, 2022, Wheat Ridge discovered that it had experienced an incident disrupting access to certain of its systems. In response, Wheat Ridge took immediate steps to secure its systems and promptly launched an investigation. In so doing, Wheat Ridge engaged independent digital forensics and incident response experts and began working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the "FBI") to determine what happened and whether any sensitive information may have been impacted as a result. Following a thorough forensic investigation, Wheat Ridge learned that certain personal information was potentially accessed or acquired without authorization in connection with the incident, and undertook a comprehensive review process to determine the precise nature of that information and the individuals who may have been affected. That review concluded on November 21, 2022 and determined that your personal information was among the potentially impacted data which is the reason for this notification. Please note that Wheat Ridge has no evidence of the misuse or attempted misuse of this information.

**What Information Was Involved?** The information that was potentially impacted in connection with this incident may include your name as well as your << Variable Text 2 – Data Elements>>.

What Are We Doing? As soon as Wheat Ridge discovered this incident, Wheat Ridge took the steps described above. In addition, Wheat Ridge implemented measures to enhance the security of its systems in an effort to minimize the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future. Wheat Ridge also notified the FBI of this incident and will provide whatever cooperation is necessary to hold the perpetrator(s) of the incident accountable.

Although Wheat Ridge has no evidence of the misuse of any potentially impacted information, Wheat Ridge is providing you with information about steps that you can take to help protect your personal information and is offering you complimentary identity protection services through IDX – a data breach and recovery services expert. These services include <<12/24>> months of credit¹ and dark web monitoring, a \$1 million identity fraud loss reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services.

The deadline to enroll in these services is March 21, 2023. With this protection, IDX will help to resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> To receive credit monitoring services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.

**What You Can Do:** You can follow the recommendations on the following page to help protect your personal information. Wheat Ridge also encourages you to enroll in the complimentary services being offered to you through IDX by using the enrollment code provided above.

**For More Information:** Further information about how to protect your personal information appears on the following page. If you have questions or need assistance, please call IDX at 1-833-875-0806 from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Mountain Time, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). IDX call center representatives are fully versed on this incident and can answer any questions that you may have.

Please accept my sincere apologies and know that Wheat Ridge takes this matter very seriously and deeply regrets any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Goff, City Manager City of Wheat Ridge

#### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

**Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity:** As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing 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 also should 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 (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 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 also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
P.O. Box 105851	P.O. Box 9532	P.O. Box 1000
Atlanta, GA 30348	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016
1-800-525-6285	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
www.equifax.com	www.experian.com	www.transunion.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 one year. 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:** You have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file for up to one year at no cost. 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 fraud alerts, security freezes, and 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.

Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20580 consumer.ftc.gov, and www.ftc.gov/idtheft 1-877-438-4338	Maryland Attorney General 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202 oag.state.md.us 1-888-743-0023	New York Attorney General Bureau of Internet and Technology Resources 28 Liberty Street New York, NY 10005 1-212-416-8433
North Carolina Attorney General 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699 ncdoj.gov 1-877-566-7226	Rhode Island Attorney General 150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903 <a href="http://www.riag.ri.gov">http://www.riag.ri.gov</a> 1-401-274-4400	Washington D.C. Attorney General 441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 oag.dc.gov 1-202-727-3400

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; as well as other rights. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit <a href="https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf">https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf</a>.