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February 14, 2023

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# VIA E-MAIL (ATTORNEYGENERAL@DOJ.NH.GOV)

The Honorable Gordon MacDonald Attorney General of the State of New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General 33 Capitol Street Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Notification of a Potential Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

We represent Town of Stowe, Vermont ("Stowe"), 67 Main Street, Stowe, Vermont, 05672 in connection with a recent incident that may have involved the personal information of eight (8) New Hampshire residents, and we provide this notice on behalf of Stowe pursuant to N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 359-C:20. This notice will be supplemented, if necessary, with any new, significant facts discovered subsequent to its submission. While Stowe is notifying you of this incident, Stowe does not waive any rights or defenses relating to the incident, this notice, or the applicability of New Hampshire law on personal jurisdiction.

## NATURE OF THE INCIDENT

On August 30, 2022, Stowe identified suspicious activity in one (1) Stowe email account when the account began sending spam emails. Upon learning of the incident, Stowe promptly secured the email account and began an internal investigation. Stowe also engaged a forensic security firm to investigate and confirm the security of its email and computer systems. The forensic investigation recently concluded and determined that an unknown, unauthorized third party accessed five (5) Stowe email accounts from August 29, 2022 to September 7, 2022. The investigation did not find evidence confirming that the third party actually viewed any personal information in the accounts. Nevertheless, because there was unauthorized access to the email accounts, Stowe reviewed the contents of accounts to determine if they contained any personal information that may have been accessible to the third party. On December 15, 2022, Stowe determined that the personal information contained in the accounts included the name, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license/state ID number, passport number, financial account number, medical treatment/diagnosis information, and/or health insurance information of New Hampshire residents. Stowe then looked for addresses for the

Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California



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individuals whose personal information was contained in the email accounts so that notice could be provided.

#### NOTICE TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS

Stowe is mailing the notification letters to the eight (8) New Hampshire residents today, February 14, 2023. The notification letter will include an offer for twelve (12) months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft protection. Enclosed is a copy of the notice that is being sent to the residents via first-class United States mail.

## STEPS TAKEN RELATING TO THE INCIDENT

Upon learning of the incident, Stowe promptly contained the incident by securing the email accounts to prevent further access. It also engaged a forensic security firm through counsel to investigate and confirm the security of its email and computer systems. Stowe is undertaking efforts to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future, including enhancing its technical security measures. Finally, as discussed above, Stowe is notifying the involved residents with an offer for one year of complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft protection.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide you with any further information concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

Bruce A. Radke

Enclosure



Return Mail Processing Center P.O. Box 6336 Portland, OR 97228-6336

<<MailID>>
<<Name 1>>
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RE: NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear << Name 1>>:

The Town of Stowe, Vermont ("Stowe") values and respects the privacy of your information, which is why we are writing to advise you of a recent incident that may have involved some of your personal information. We have no reason to believe that your personal information has been misused for the purpose of committing fraud or identity theft. Nonetheless, we are writing to advise you about the incident and to provide you with guidance on what you can do to protect yourself, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

What Happened? On August 30, 2022, Stowe identified suspicious activity in one (1) Stowe email account. Upon learning of the incident, we promptly secured the email account and began an internal investigation. We also engaged a forensic security firm to investigate and confirm the security of our email and computer systems. The forensic investigation recently concluded and determined that an unknown, unauthorized third party accessed certain Stowe email accounts from August 29, 2022 to September 7, 2022.

**What Information Was Involved?** We reviewed the contents of the accounts to determine if they contained any personal information. On December 15, 2022, we determined that the accounts contained personal information that included your name, together with your <<Br/>Breached elements>>.

What We Are Doing. In addition to the actions described above, we have also taken steps to reduce the risk of this type of incident occurring in the future, including enhancing our technical security measures. We are also notifying you of the incident so that you can be aware and take steps to protect yourself. Finally, although we are not aware of any instances of fraud or identity theft resulting from this incident, out of an abundance of caution, we are offering a complimentary one-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks Credit 3B is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary, one-year membership, please see the additional information attached to this letter.

What You Can Do. While we have no evidence that your personal information has been misused, we encourage you to take advantage of the complimentary credit monitoring included in this letter. You can also find more information on steps to protect yourself against possible identity theft or fraud in the enclosed *Additional Important Information* page.

**For More Information.** We value the trust you place in us to protect your privacy, take our responsibility to safeguard your personal information seriously, and apologize for any inconvenience or concern this incident might cause. For further information and assistance, please call 888-594-7069 from 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Eastern, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Sincerely,

Cindy Fuller Finance Director Town of Stowe, Vermont

## ACTIVATING YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CREDIT MONITORING

To help protect your identity, we are offering a **complimentary** one-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with superior identity protection support focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft.

# Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

- 1. ENROLL by: May 31, 2023 (Your code will not work after this date.)
- 2. VISIT the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit
- 3. PROVIDE the Activation Code: << Activation code>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 877-288-8057. Be prepared to provide engagement number as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

# ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately** regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- Experian credit report at signup: See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.\*
- Credit Monitoring: Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE<sup>TM</sup>: You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- Up to \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance\*\*: Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

Activate your membership today at <a href="https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit">https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit</a> or call 877-288-8057 to register with the activation code above.

What you can do to protect your information: There are additional actions you can consider taking to reduce the chances of identity theft or fraud on your account(s). Please refer to www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration for this information. If you have any questions about IdentityWorks, need help understanding something on your credit report or suspect that an item on your credit report may be fraudulent, please contact Experian's customer care team at 877-288-8057.

<sup>\*</sup> Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

#### **Additional Important Information**

As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant to protect against potential fraud and/or identity theft by, among other things, reviewing your account statements and monitoring 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 incidents of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, including the police and your state's attorney general, as well as the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC").

You may wish to review the tips provided by the FTC on fraud alerts, security/credit freezes and steps you can take to avoid identity theft. For more information and to contact the FTC, please visit www.ftc.gov/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338). You may also contact the FTC at Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Credit Reports: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months from each of the three national credit reporting agencies by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com, by 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 can print a copy of the request form at https://www.annualcreditreport.com/manualRequestForm.action.

Alternatively, you may elect to purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting one of the three national credit reporting agencies. Contact information for the three national credit reporting agencies for the purpose of requesting a copy of your credit report or for general inquiries is as follows:

 Equifax
 Experian
 TransUnion

 1-866-349-5191
 1-888-397-3742
 1-800-888-4213

 www.equifax.com
 www.experian.com
 www.transunion.com

 P.O. Box 740241
 P.O. Box 2002
 P.O. Box 2000

 Atlanta, GA 30374
 Allen, TX 75013
 Chester, PA 19016

<u>Fraud Alerts</u>: You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit report for one (1) year. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any new accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three national credit reporting agencies using the contact information listed above. Additional information is available at <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a>.

<u>Credit and Security Freezes</u>: You may have the right to place a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A credit freeze can be placed without any charge and is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a credit freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a credit freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a credit freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. Since the instructions for how to establish a credit freeze differ from state to state, please contact the three major credit reporting companies as specified below to find out more information:

Equifax Security Freeze
1-888-298-0045
1-888-397-3742
1-888-909-8872
www.equifax.com
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
Experian Security Freeze
1-888-909-8872
www.experian.com
www.transunion.com
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
Woodlyn, PA 19094

This notification was not delayed by law enforcement.

<u>Maryland Residents</u>: Maryland residents can contact the Office of the Attorney General to obtain information about steps you can take to avoid identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's office at: Office of the Attorney General, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, (888) 743-0023, <a href="https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/">http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/</a>.

<u>New York State Residents</u>: New York residents can obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office at: Office of the Attorney General for the State of New York, Bureau of Consumer Frauds & Protection, The Capitol, Albany, New York 12224-0341; <a href="https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft">https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft</a>; (800) 771-7755.

North Carolina Residents: North Carolina residents can obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office at: North Carolina Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 877-5-NO-SCAM (Toll-free within North Carolina); 919-716-6000; <a href="https://www.ncdoj.gov">www.ncdoj.gov</a>.

<u>Vermont Residents:</u> If you do not have internet access but would like to learn more about how to place a security freeze on your credit report, contact the Vermont Attorney General's Office at 802-656-3183 (800-649-2424 toll free in Vermont only).