# RECEIVED



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**CONSUMER PROTECTION** 

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75 S. Clinton Avenue, Suite 510 Rochester, NY 14604

October 28, 2021

# VIA U.S. MAIL

Consumer Protection Bureau Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301

Re:

**Notice of Data Event** 

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent Strategic Benefits Advisors, Inc. ("SBA"), a third-party benefits consulting firm located at 2392 Mt Vernon Rd #200, Atlanta, Georgia 30338, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of some personal information relating to thirty-eight (38) New Hampshire residents. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, SBA does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law, the applicability of the New Hampshire data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

### Nature of the Data Event

On or about September 19, 2021, SBA became aware of suspicious activity relating to certain systems, including the encryption of files. Upon discovery, SBA engaged our law firm to investigate the nature and scope of the activity. We have determined that certain unencrypted information within SBA's systems was accessed and/or exfiltrated by an unauthorized actor. In response, SBA began a deliberate and thorough assessment of the information impacted during this event and to whom that information pertained. On or about October 11, 2021, SBA confirmed that files containing the names, addresses and Social Security numbers for certain New Hampshire residents could have been subject to unauthorized access, in a total amount yet to be determined.

# Notice to New Hampshire Residents

On or about October 19, 2021, SBA provided a first wave of written notice of this incident to affected individuals, which includes thirty-eight (38) New Hampshire residents. SBA will

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continue to send notification as its investigation continues, which we anticipate will include a total of four (4) waves. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as *Exhibit A*.

# Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, SBA moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of SBA systems, and notify potentially affected individuals. SBA is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. SBA is providing access to credit monitoring services for two (2) years, through Experian, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, SBA is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. SBA is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, information on protecting against tax fraud, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

#### **Contact Information**

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4741.

Very truly yours,

James Paulino of

MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

JMP/ljw Enclosure (1)

# **EXHIBIT A**



Return Mail Processing PO Box 999 Suwanee, GA 30024

October 19, 2021

RE: Palm Tran, Inc./ATU 1577 Pension Plan | Credit Monitoring Offer

Dear Sample A. Sample:

Strategic Benefits Advisors, Inc. ("SBA") is the third-party administrator of the Palm Tran, Inc./ATU 1577 Pension Plan (the "Pension Plan") and writes to notify you of a recent incident that may affect the privacy of some of your information. SBA takes the protection of your information very seriously and, although we have no evidence of actual or attempted misuse of your information relating to this incident, this letter provides details regarding the incident, our response, and access to resources so that you can protect your personal information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so. We also are offering you 24 months of complimentary credit and fraud monitoring, with \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance; enrollment instructions can be found in the following pages.

What Happened? On September 19, 2021, SBA learned that it was the victim of a criminal cyberattack. We promptly took steps to secure our systems and commenced an investigation into the nature and scope of the incident. We have been working diligently to determine what may have happened and what information may have been affected. Our investigation was able to confirm that a limited number of files were accessed or acquired by the criminal actor, and on October 11, 2021, SBA's investigation confirmed that the potentially impacted data included certain information relating to you.

What Information Was Involved? Although we are unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of your information, we are providing you this notification out of an abundance of caution because certain information relating to you was accessed and/or acquired during this event. The impacted information relating to you includes your name and [Extra1].

What We Are Doing. The privacy and security of information are among one of our highest priorities and SBA has strict security measures in place to protect information in our care. Upon discovering this incident, we immediately took steps to secure the environment and to conduct an investigation to determine the scope of any unauthorized access to legally protected information. We also commenced a review of existing security policies and are implementing additional measures and enhanced security tools to further protect information in our systems. We are also implementing additional safeguards and are providing additional training to our employees on data privacy and security. Finally, we have reported this incident to law enforcement, and will participate with any criminal investigation into this matter.

In addition to providing notice of this event, we are also providing identity theft and credit monitoring protection services for 24 months through Experian at no cost to you. Information and instructions on how to enroll in these complimentary services can be found in the "Steps You Can Take To Protect Personal Information" attached to this letter.

What You Can Do. While SBA is not aware of any actual or attempted misuse of information as a result of this incident, we nonetheless encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity. You may review the information contained in the attached "Steps You Can Take To Protect Personal Information." You may also enroll to receive the identity protection services we are making available to you. There is no charge to you for the cost of this service; however, you will need to enroll yourself in this service.

For More Information. We understand you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. We've set up a dedicated assistance line to answer your privacy questions. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call us toll-free at (855) 223-4413, 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday and 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Time, Saturday and Sunday (excluding U.S. holidays).

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this incident may cause you. Protecting information provided to SBA is very important to us, and we remain committed to safeguarding the information in our care.

Sincerely,

Strategic Benefits Advisors, Inc.

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

### **Enroll in Credit Monitoring Services**

To help protect your identity, we are offering a complimentary 24-month membership of Experian's<sup>®</sup> IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup>. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To activate your membership and start monitoring your personal information please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you enroll by: January 31, 2022 (Your code will not work after this date.)
- Visit the Experian Identity Works website to enroll: https://www.experianidworks.com/credit
- Provide your 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 (855) 223-4413 by January 31, 2022. Be prepared to provide engagement number as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITY WORKS MEMBERSHIP:

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

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 file for indicators of fraud.
- Identity Restoration: Identity Restoration agents 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.

## **Monitor Your Accounts**

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 <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> 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 one 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

<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.

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 credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 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.); and
- 7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if you are a victim of 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.experian.com/help/ | https://www.transunion.com/credit- |
| report-services/                         |                                | help                               |
| 1-888-298-0045                           | 1-888-397-3742                 | 1-833-395-6938                     |
| Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069     | Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box | TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box   |
| Atlanta, GA 30348-5069                   | 9554, Allen, TX 75013          | 2000, Chester, PA 19016            |
| Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788   | Experian Credit Freeze, P.O.   | TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O.     |
| Atlanta, GA 30348-5788                   | Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013      | Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094         |

## **Additional Information**

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; <a href="www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>; 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.

For New Mexico residents, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violator. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting <a href="https://www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra">www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra</a>. pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th St NW, Washington, DC 20001, USA; 202-727-3400; and <a href="mailto:oag@dc.gov">oag@dc.gov</a>.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and <a href="https://www.oag.state.md.us">www.oag.state.md.us</a>. SBA is located at 2392 Mt Vernon Rd #200, Atlanta, GA 30338.

For New York residents, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or <a href="https://ag.ny.gov/">https://ag.ny.gov/</a>.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and <a href="https://www.ncdoj.gov">www.ncdoj.gov</a>.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; <a href="www.riag.ri.gov">www.riag.ri.gov</a>; and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are 2 Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.