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July 14, 2020

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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 Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

We represent Merani Hospitality, Inc. (“Merani”) in connection with a recent incident that may have impacted the personal information of certain New Hampshire residents. Merani is reporting the incident 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 Merani is notifying you of this incident, Merani does not waive any rights or defenses relating to the incident or this notice, or the applicability of New Hampshire on personal jurisdiction.

NATURE OF THE SECURITY BREACH OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OR ACCESS

Merani recently discovered that a third-party placed unauthorized computer code on payment processing system used at the Parkway Prime Restaurant located at 401 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14303. The code may have targeted certain personal information of customers who made credit card purchases at the restaurant between February 16, 2017 and May 20, 2020. This information included customer names, credit or debit card numbers, CVV codes and expiration dates.

Upon learning of the incident, Merani promptly removed the code from its systems and retained a forensic security firm to investigate the incident. It has also notified law enforcement. Additionally, Merani has taken steps to alert the credit card brands of the incident so they can monitor affected customers’ credit and debit card accounts for potential fraudulent activity. Finally, Merani has taken additional technical steps to further secure the restaurant’s payment processing system to prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future.

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Given that nature of this incident and that the information regarding the subject credit and debit card transactions is limited to customers' names and credit/debit card information (and not addresses), Merani is not able to confirm that New Hampshire residents have been impacted by this incident and if so, the specific number of impacted New Hampshire residents. However, Merani currently believes that approximately one hundred and seven (107) New Hampshire residents may have been affected.

NUMBER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS AFFECTED

On July 10, 2020, Merani notified potentially affected customers by posting a notice on its website <https://www.meranihotelgroup.com/news/notice-of-a-data-incident/> and to the New Hampshire Union Leader. These notifications include a telephone number that affected customers can call if they have any questions regarding the incident.

STEPS TAKEN RELATING TO THE INCIDENT

Upon learning of the incident, Merani promptly retained a forensic security firm to investigate the incident. Merani also removed the malicious code from its payment processing system. Additionally, Merani has taken steps to alert the credit card companies of the incident so they can monitor the affected individuals' accounts for potential fraudulent activity. Finally, Merani has taken additional technical steps to further secure its payment processing system and prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce A. Radke".

Bruce A. Radke