

## NOTICE OF DATA SECURITY EVENT

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (“HACLA”) is providing notice of an incident that may affect the privacy of personal information. This notification provides details of the incident, our response, and resources available to you to help protect your information from possible misuse, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

**What Happened?** On December 31, 2022, HACLA discovered encrypted files on certain computer systems. HACLA learned that it had been the victim of a complex cyber-attack. HACLA immediately shut down its servers and launched an investigation with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists to determine the nature and scope of the incident. The forensic investigation determined there was unauthorized access to certain servers between January 15, 2022 through December 31, 2022. HACLA immediately undertook a comprehensive review of all data contained on its systems that may have been the subject of any unauthorized access or acquisition. On February 13, 2023, HACLA completed this review and determined that the impacted systems contained certain personal information.

**What Information Was Involved?** While the specific data elements vary for each potentially affected individual, the scope of information potentially involved includes an individual’s name, Social Security number, date of birth, passport number, driver’s license number or state identification number, tax identification number, military identification number, government issued identification number, credit/debit card number, financial account number, health insurance information, and medical information.

**What We Are Doing.** HACLA mailed notice letters to individuals for whom they have valid mailing addresses whose protected information was contained in the potentially impacted files. HACLA takes the confidentiality, privacy, and security of information in its care seriously. Upon discovery, HACLA immediately commenced an investigation to confirm the nature and scope of the incident. HACLA reported this incident to local, state, and federal law enforcement and relevant regulatory agencies. Additionally, HACLA is taking steps to implement additional safeguards and review policies and procedures relating to data privacy and security.

**What You Can Do.** You can review the below *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Personal Information*. We also encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity.

**For More Information.** We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this notice. If you have additional questions, please call our dedicated assistance line at 1-800-459-4196 Monday – Friday, 6:00am to 8:00pm PT, Saturday – Sunday, 8:00am to 5:00pm PT. You may also write to HACLA at Attention: Incident Response, 2600 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90057.

HACLA takes the privacy and security of the information in our care seriously. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause you.

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

### 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 [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) 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 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:

<b>Equifax</b>	<b>Experian</b>	<b>TransUnion</b>
<a href="https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/">https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/</a>	<a href="https://www.experian.com/help/">https://www.experian.com/help/</a>	<a href="https://www.transunion.com/credit-help">https://www.transunion.com/credit-help</a>
1-888-298-0045	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

## **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; [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov); 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 California residents:* Visit the California Office of Privacy Protection ([www.oag.ca.gov/privacy](http://www.oag.ca.gov/privacy)) for additional information on protection against identity theft.

*For Massachusetts residents,* 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.

*For District of Columbia residents,* the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; and [www.oag.dc.gov](http://www.oag.dc.gov).

*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 [www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us).

*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 the 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 [http://www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\\_cfpb\\_summary\\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf), or by writing to: Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

*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 <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

*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 [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov).

*For Rhode Island residents,* the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov); and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident.