

Donna Maddux 888 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 900 Portland, Oregon 97204-2025 Donna.Maddux@lewisbrisbois.com Direct: 971.334.7001

December 1, 2021

# VIA WEBSITE PORTAL

Attorney General Aaron Frey Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division Security Breach Notification 111 Sewall Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Augusta, ME 04330

## Re: Notification of Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Frey:

Lewis Brisbois represents Tsao & McKown Architects ("TMA") in conjunction with a recent data security incident described in greater detail below. TMA is a privately held architecture firm located in Brooklyn, New York serving commercial and individual clients. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the incident in accordance with Maine state law.

## 1. Nature of the Security Incident

On July 19, 2021, TMA experienced a network disruption. Upon discovering this activity, TMA immediately took steps to secure its environment and engaged cybersecurity experts to assist with an investigation. The investigation determined that an unknown actor gained access to and may have obtained data from the TMA network without authorization. On November 4, 2021, TMA determined that some personal information may have been involved in the incident. TMA then worked diligently to notify impacted consumers.

## 2. Type of Information and Number of Maine Residents Affected

TMA notified three (3) residents of Maine of this data security incident via first class U.S. mail on December 1, 2021. The name and Social Security number of the impacted resident(s) was potentially involved. A sample copy of the notification letter sent to the affected individuals is included with this correspondence.

## 3. Steps Taken Relating to the Incident

TMA has implemented additional security features in an effort to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. Further, TMA reported this matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and

Attorney General Frey December 1, 2021 Page 2

will provide whatever assistance is necessary to hold the perpetrator(s) of this incident responsible. In addition, although TMA is not aware of any misuse of personal information, TMA has offered the affected individuals twelve (12) months of credit monitoring and identity remediation services through notification services vendor, IDX.

# 4. Contact Information

TMA 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 me at (971) 334-7001 or by e-mail at <u>Donna.Maddux@lewisbrisbois.com</u>. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

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Donna Maddux of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

DM Attachment: Consumer Notification Letter Template Tsao & McKown Architects Return to: IDX 10300 SW Greenburg Rd. Suite 570 Portland, OR 97223

# TsAO & McKOWN

To Enroll, Please Call: 1-800-939-4170 Or Visit: <u>https://app.idx.us/account-</u> <u>creation/protect</u> Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXX>>

December 1, 2021

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

#### **Re: Notice of Data Security Incident**

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

We are writing to inform you of a data security incident that may have affected your personal information. Tsao & McKown Architects ("TMA") takes the privacy and security of your personal information very seriously. This is why we are informing you of this incident, providing you with steps you can take to help protect your personal information, and offering you complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

**What Happened:** On July 19, 2021, TMA experienced a network disruption. We immediately took steps to secure our environment and engaged cybersecurity experts to assist us with an investigation. The investigation determined that an unknown actor gained access to and may have obtained data from the TMA network without authorization. On November 4, 2021, we determined that some of your personal information may have been involved in the incident. We currently have no reason to believe your information was misused as a result of this incident, only that it was potentially accessed.

What Information Was Involved: The information affected my have included your name and <<<DATA SETS>>.

What We Are Doing: As soon as we discovered the incident, we took the steps referenced above. We also implemented additional security features to reduce the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future. We also reported this incident to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will provide whatever cooperation is necessary to attempt to hold the perpetrators of this incident accountable, if possible. We are further notifying you of this event and advising you about steps you can take to help protect your information.

Additionally, we are offering you complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for 12 months through IDX, a national leader in identity protection services. The IDX services, which are free to you upon enrollment, include a one-year subscription for the following: single bureau credit monitoring, CyberScan dark web monitoring, fully-managed identity recovery services, and \$1 million in identity theft insurance coverage. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

What You Can Do: Please review this letter carefully, along with the guidance included with this letter about additional steps you can take to protect your information. In addition, we encourage you to enroll in the credit monitoring and identity theft protection services we are offering through IDX. 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.

You can enroll in the free IDX identity protection services by calling 1-800-939-4170 or going to <u>https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect</u> and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST. Please note the deadline to enroll is March 1, 2022.

**For More Information:** If you have questions or need assistance, please call 1-800-939-4170, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, or visit <u>https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect</u>. IDX representatives are fully versed on this incident and can help answer questions you may have regarding the protection of your information.

Please accept our sincere apologies and know that we deeply regret any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Cobus Gauche Director of Operations Tsao & McKown Architects

#### Steps You Can Take to Further 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 <u>http://www.annualcreditreport.com/</u>, calling toll-free 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 this form at <u>https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/requestformfinal.pdf</u>. You also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

TransUnion	Experian	Equifax	Free Annual Report
P.O. Box 1000	P.O. Box 9532	P.O. Box 105851	P.O. Box 105281
Chester, PA19016	Allen, TX 75013	Atlanta, GA 30348	Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-909-8872	1-888-397-3742	1-800-685-1111	1-877-322-8228
www.transunion.com	www.experian.com	www.equifax.com	www.annualcreditreport.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 90 days. 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:** Under U.S. law, 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. 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. Contact information for the FTC is: Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580, <u>www.consumer.ftc.gov</u> and <u>www.ftc.gov/idtheft</u>, 1-877-438-4338. You may also contact Tsao & McKown Architects at 76 4th St, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Residents of New York, Maryland, North Carolina, Washington D.C., and Rhode Island can obtain more information from their Attorneys General using the contact information below.

Federal Trade Commission	Ι
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW	2
Washington, DC 20580	I
consumer.ftc.gov, and	<u>(</u>
www.ftc.gov/idtheft	1
1-877-438-4338	

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; www.ncdoj.gov. Maryland Attorney General 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202 <u>oag.state.md.us</u> 1-888-743-0023

Rhode Island Attorney General 150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903 <u>http://www.riag.ri.gov</u> 1-401-274-4400 New York Attorney General Bureau of Internet and Technology Resources 28 Liberty Street New York, NY 10005 1-212-416-8433

Washington D.C. Attorney General 441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 <u>oag.dc.gov</u> 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 <u>https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf</u>.