

[Letterhead]

[NAME 1]
[ADDRESS OF NAME 1]
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

August [REDACTED], 2020

Dear [NAME 1]:

At Vermont Public Radio, we understand the importance of securing and protecting the personal information we maintain. I am writing to notify you that we and many other institutions were recently notified by Blackbaud that it experienced a security incident. This notice explains the incident, measures we have taken, and some steps you can take in response.

Blackbaud is a cloud-based software company that provides services to VPR and thousands of schools, hospitals, and other non-profits. On July 16, 2020, Blackbaud notified us that it had discovered a ransomware attack on Blackbaud's network in May 2020. Blackbaud reported that it conducted an investigation, determined that backup files containing information from its clients had been taken from its network, and an attempt was made to encrypt files to convince Blackbaud to pay a ransom. Blackbaud paid a ransom and obtained confirmation that the files that had been removed had been destroyed. Blackbaud reported that it has been working with law enforcement.

Upon learning of the incident from Blackbaud, we conducted our own investigation of the Blackbaud services we use, and the information provided by Blackbaud to determine what information was involved in the incident. The backup files contained member demographic information, contact information, donation dates and amounts. On July 29, 2020, we determined that the backup files contained an image of a check with your name and account number ending in -XXXX.

Blackbaud assured us that no encrypted data such as Social Security numbers and credit and debit card information was accessible to the unauthorized person. Blackbaud also assured us that the backup file has been destroyed by the unauthorized individual and there is no reason to believe any data was or will be misused or will be disseminated or otherwise made available publicly. Blackbaud has hired a third-party team of experts to continue monitoring for any such activity. Although we have no indication that your information has been misused, we encourage you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements for any unauthorized activity. For more information on identity theft prevention, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

We are notifying you of this incident and sharing the steps that we, and Blackbaud, are taking in response. Blackbaud has informed us that they identified and fixed the vulnerability associated with this incident, implemented several changes that will better protect your data from any subsequent incidents, and are undertaking additional efforts to harden their environment through enhancements to access management, network segmentation, and deployment of additional endpoint and network-based platforms. VPR has implemented additional check imaging procedures to redact account number from check images.

Your confidence and trust are important to us, and we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at membership@vpr.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature Graphic]
[printed name]
[title]

Additional Steps You Can Take

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

Credit or Security Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports? There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com

- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

You'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

How do I lift a freeze? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

Additional information for residents of the following states:

New York: You may contact and obtain information from these state agencies: *New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection*, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection>; and *New York State Office of the Attorney General*, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>