



# GOLDWATER BANK

## NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

September 10, 2021

<< Name1 >>  
<< Address1 >>  
<< City State Zip >>

Dear << Borrower >>

We are contacting you to make you aware of a data breach incident that recently occurred in connection with a ransomware attempt by unknown individuals. As set forth below, although Goldwater Bank, N.A. (“Goldwater Bank”) personnel were able to prevent the ransomware attack from being completed, hackers were able to gain access to sensitive consumer information. At this time, there is no indication that your information has been misused, but we recommend that you take precautions, including those outlined below, to mitigate the risk of identity theft or other misuse of your information.

Below, we provide more detailed information for you and respond to questions you may have regarding this matter.

### **What Happened?**

- Goldwater Bank believes that it was the subject of what appears to be an attempted ransomware attack on May 21, 2021.
- On that date, Goldwater Bank’s IT vendor received alerts of unusual network activity and was able to quickly respond and stop the unauthorized access in process and prevent further infiltration.
- Goldwater Bank reported the event to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has worked to investigate the event to determine what happened, what data was impacted, and who was responsible.
- Through our investigatory efforts, we identified a location where some of the impacted data was being stored and worked quickly to secure its removal.
- We have not received any evidence to date that any of the accessed data has been otherwise misused.

### **What Information Was Involved?**

The files that were accessed included customer names and contact information as well as account information. The impacted information may include names, addresses, telephone numbers, social

security numbers, account numbers, and tax identification numbers. At this time, we do not believe the passwords or log-in credentials for financial accounts were compromised.

## What We Are Doing

Keeping your information confidential is one of our most important responsibilities. We are notifying you so that we may work together to protect your information. We have taken the following precautions:

- We conducted our own internal investigation to protect and minimize any financial impact to you.
- In addition to notifying individuals whose personal information may have been involved, we have thoroughly evaluated our existing cybersecurity infrastructure and processes. While we have a number of safeguards in place to protect information from unauthorized access, we are also always working to strengthen them so we can stay ahead of this type of threat activity.
- We are working with law enforcement to identify and pursue the responsible parties.
- As an additional measure of protection, Goldwater Bank has arranged for a complimentary one-year membership in an identity privacy protection service provided by IdentityForce. **You will not be billed for this service.** This product provides you with, among other things, advanced fraud monitoring, dark web monitoring, identity restoration services, and identity theft insurance. **This service will expire at the conclusion of the complimentary period and will not automatically renew.** Any renewal of service elected by the consumer is paid for by the customer and done directly through IdentityForce. To learn more about the complimentary membership and enroll, go to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/goldwater> and enter the verification code provided below to complete enrollment.

Verification Code: << VCode >>

## What You Can Do

We recommend you take the following additional precautions to protect your personal and account information:

- Get your free credit reports from [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com). Check for any accounts or charges you don't recognize. You can order a free report from each of the three credit reporting companies once a year.
- Please promptly review your credit reports and account statements over the next 12 to 24 months and notify us of any unauthorized transactions or incidents of suspected identity theft related to your accounts with Goldwater Bank.
- If you ever suspect that you are the victim of identity theft or fraud, you can contact your local police.

- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you place a free fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. Contact any one of the three major credit bureaus. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place fraud alerts. The initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You can renew it after one year.
  - Equifax: [equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](https://equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services) or 1-800-685-1111
  - Experian: [experian.com/help](https://experian.com/help) or 1-888-397-3742
  - TransUnion: [transunion.com/credit-help](https://transunion.com/credit-help) or 1-888-909-8872
- Ask each credit bureau to send you a free credit report after it places a fraud alert on your file. Review your credit reports for accounts and inquiries you don't recognize. These can be signs of identity theft. If your personal information has been misused, visit the FTC's site at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://IdentityTheft.gov) to report the identity theft and get recovery steps. Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the FTC recommends that you check your credit reports periodically so you can spot problems and address them quickly.
- You may also want to consider placing a free credit freeze. A credit freeze means potential creditors cannot get your credit report. That makes it less likely that an identity thief can open new accounts in your name. To place a freeze, contact each of the major credit bureaus at the links or phone numbers above. A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it.
- Try to file your taxes early — before a scammer can. Tax identity theft happens when someone uses your Social Security number to get a tax refund or a job. Respond right away to letters from the IRS.
- If you wish to close your existing account and replace it with a new account number, please contact the Bank to do so.

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions regarding this incident or your accounts, please contact Goldwater Bank's dedicated response professionals toll-free at 800-476-5031.

Sincerely,

Goldwater Bank, N.A.