

<<Name 1>> <<Name 2>> <<Address 1>> <<Address 2>> <<City>>><State>><<Zip>>>

July 10, 2023

#### **Notice of Data Breach**

Dear <<Name>> <<Name 2>>:

We write to notify you of an incident that impacted our third party e-commerce platform, CommerceV3, that may have involved some of your payment card information. CommerceV3 provides the e-commerce platform we use to process payment card information when an order is placed on our website. This incident occurred at CommerceV3 and not at Whitley's Peanut Factory. We are writing to provide you with information regarding the incident and steps you can take in response.

## What Happened?

CommerceV3 learned that an unauthorized party obtained access to its systems between November 24, 2021 and December 14, 2022. Immediately upon learning of this issue, CommerceV3 conducted a thorough forensic investigation alongside third-party cybersecurity experts to assess whether any cardholder data was involved. CommerveeV3 also worked alongside the major card brands and banks during this forensic investigation.

## What We Are Doing.

On May 3, 2023, after an extensive forensic investigation, CommerceV3 discovered that cardholder data collected on Whitley's Peanut Factory's behalf was potentially accessed and/or acquired by an unauthorized party as a result of the incident. CommerceV3 notified Whitley's Peanut Factory of this incident on June 6, 2023. We then worked with CommerceV3 to identify the individuals whose payment card information was involved. In response to the incident, CommerceV3 has implemented additional security measures.

# What Information Was Involved?

The information that was potentially accessed and/or acquired as a result of this incident included your name, email address, billing address, payment card number ending in <<variable text>>, card expiration date, and the card verification code (CVV).

### What You Can Do.

We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your payment card account statement. If you see charges or activity that you did not authorize, contact your payment card company immediately. The telephone number is on the back of your payment card. Please review the following pages for more information on ways to protect yourself.

# For More Information.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please contact (888) 220-5369. This response line is available Monday through Friday, 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time.

Sincerely,

Todd Smith

Whitley's Peanut Factory

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### 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 <a href="www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> 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, 1-888-378-4329
- Experian, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion, PO Box 1000, 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), <a href="https://www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>

## **Fraud Alerts and 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:

- Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com
- Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, www.transunion.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.

Whitley's Peanut Factory can be reached at 800-470-2244. Its mailing address is P.O. Box 647, 2371 Hayes Road, Hayes, VA 23072.