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FOUNDED 1866

April 28, 2017

The Honorable Tom Miller  
Attorney General of Iowa  
Consumer Protection Division  
Security Breach Notification  
Hoover State Office Building  
1305 E. Walnut St.  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Attorney General Miller:

We write on behalf of our client the Gannett Company, Inc. (“Gannett”) to inform you of a data security incident involving the personal information of certain current and former Gannett employees and/or their beneficiaries, including approximately 634 Iowa residents.

On March 30, 2017, Gannett discovered that several members of its human resources department were victims of a phishing attack that compromised their Office 365 account credentials, including their Gannett email. The perpetrator used those credentials to send further phishing emails from some of the impacted personnel’s accounts, and also attempted to use an account for a fraudulent corporate wire transfer request. This attempt was identified as suspicious and was unsuccessful.

Gannett took immediate action to lock down the affected accounts and alert other Gannett employees about the phishing email. Gannett quickly disabled and isolated the impacted accounts, and changed the credentials for each impacted employee. The company conducted a forensic investigation to confirm that no other systems were impacted, and that no personal data had been emailed out of the impacted accounts, and reported the incident to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Gannett will also continue to provide regular reminders and training for employees on how to spot and avoid being victimized by phishing emails in the future.

At this time, Gannett is not aware of any acquisition of sensitive personal data. Nevertheless, it is providing notice out of an abundance of caution because personal information was available through some of the affected HR account credentials, and potential access to or acquisition of those files before the accounts were locked down could not be definitively ruled out.

Information that may have been available through the impacted employee credentials include names, contact information, social security numbers, dates of birth, bank account numbers, bank routing numbers, dates of employment, salary information, benefits election and insurance policy



information, and other related information maintained for HR purposes, as well as correspondence related to insurance eligibility and claims escalations.

Gannett estimates that approximately 18,100 individuals were affected by this incident and will be providing notice, including to approximately 634 Iowa residents, beginning April 28, 2017. As a precautionary measure, Gannett is also providing one year of credit monitoring and identity theft protection services to potentially affected individuals through AllClear ID, as described in the attached sample notice letter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Theresa Brown".

Colleen Theresa Brown  
Partner  
Sidley Austin LLP  
(202) 736-8465

# GANNETT

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00001  
JOHN Q. SAMPLE  
1234 MAIN STREET  
ANYTOWN US 12345-6789

April 28, 2017

## **NOTICE OF DATA BREACH**

Dear John Sample,

We are writing to tell you about a situation that may have exposed some of your personal information. We take the protection of your information very seriously and are contacting you directly to explain the circumstances, steps we are taking in response, and resources we are making available to you.

### **What Happened?**

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, we discovered that several members of our HR department were victims of a phishing attack that compromised their Office 365 account login credentials, including their Gannett email. The perpetrator used those credentials to send further phishing emails from some of the impacted personnel's accounts, and also attempted to use an account for a fraudulent corporate wire transfer request. This attempt was identified by our finance team as suspicious and was unsuccessful.

Upon discovering this incident, we took immediate action to lock down the impacted accounts and alert other Gannett employees about the phishing email to prevent others from being victimized by the phishing scheme as well. We also began an investigation to understand the scope of the incident, confirmed that other Gannett systems were unaffected, and contacted federal law enforcement.

At this time, there is no indication that there was any acquisition of any sensitive personal data. Nevertheless, we are providing this notice out of an abundance of caution because your information was available through some of the affected HR account login credentials, and potential access to or acquisition of that information, before the accounts were locked down, could not be definitively ruled out.

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

Information that may have been available through the impacted employee credentials includes names, contact information, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, bank account numbers, bank routing numbers, dates of employment, salary information, benefits election and insurance policy information, and other related information maintained for HR purposes.

### **What We Are Doing.**

Upon discovery of the phishing attack, the Gannett cybersecurity team immediately sent out an alert to warn other potential recipients of the phishing email, and to identify all employees who may have been impacted. The Gannett cybersecurity team quickly disabled and isolated the impacted accounts, and changed the credentials for each impacted employee. We also conducted a forensic investigation to confirm that no other company systems were impacted, and that no company or personal data had been emailed out of the impacted accounts. Furthermore, we promptly reported the incident to federal law enforcement.



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We also will continue to provide regular reminders and training for employees on how to spot and avoid being victimized by phishing emails in the future. Cybercriminals will continue to find new ways to target company employees, and we must all continue to be vigilant against increasingly sophisticated phishing schemes.

Additionally, we have taken security measures to strengthen our network against similar incidents in the future. Also, we have included in this letter steps you can take to protect your personal information.

### **What You Can Do.**

We want to make sure you are aware of steps you may take to guard against potential identity theft or fraud. Please review the enclosed "Information about Identity Theft Protection" for information about what you can do.

As an added precaution, we have arranged to have AllClear ID protect your identity for twelve months at no cost to you. The following identity protection services start on the date of this notice and you can use them at any time during the next twelve months. We are offering this credit monitoring out of an abundance of caution to comply with guidance in certain states, and is not intended and should not be taken to suggest that recipients of the offer are at any substantial risk of harm.

AllClear Identity Repair: This service is automatically available to you. If a problem arises, simply call 1-855-270-9179 and a dedicated investigator will help recover financial losses, restore your credit and make sure your identity is returned to its proper condition.

AllClear Credit Monitoring: This service offers additional layers of protection including credit monitoring and a \$1 million identity theft insurance policy. For a child under 18 years old, AllClear ID ChildScan identifies acts of credit, criminal, medical or employment fraud against children by searching thousands of public databases for use of your child's information. To use this service, you will need to provide your personal information to AllClear ID. You may sign up online at [enroll.allclearid.com](http://enroll.allclearid.com) or by phone by calling 1-855-270-9179 using the following redemption code: Redemption Code.

Please note: Additional steps may be required by you in order to activate your phone alerts and monitoring options.

### **For More Information.**

If you have further questions or concerns about this incident, you can find more information by calling 1-855-270-9179, Monday through Saturday, 8 am – 8 pm CT.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern caused by this incident.

Sincerely,



Pat McClanahan, Vice President, People Operations  
GANNETT  
7950 Jones Branch Dr.  
McLean, VA 22107

## Information about Identity Theft Protection

We recommend that you regularly review statements from your accounts and periodically obtain your credit report from one or more of the national credit reporting companies. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report online at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), by calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by mailing an Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281. You may also purchase a copy of your credit report by contacting one or more of the three national credit reporting agencies listed below.

**Equifax:** P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, Georgia 30374-0241, 1-800-685-1111, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
**Experian:** P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013, 1-888-397-3742, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
**TransUnion:** P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022, 1-800-888-4213, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

When you receive your credit reports, review them carefully. Look for accounts or creditor inquiries that you did not initiate or do not recognize. Look for information, such as home address and Social Security number, that is not accurate. If you see anything you do not understand, call the credit reporting agency at the telephone number on the report.

We recommend you remain vigilant with respect to reviewing your account statements and credit reports, and **immediately report any suspicious activity or suspected identity theft to us and to the proper law enforcement authorities**, including local law enforcement, your state's attorney general and/or the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). You may contact the FTC or your state's regulatory authority to obtain additional information about avoiding identity theft.

### **Federal Trade Commission, Identity Theft Clearinghouse**

600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov) and [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) You can also request a copy of the publication, "Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft" from <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idth04.pdf>.

**For residents of Maryland:** You may also obtain information about preventing and avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General:

**Maryland Office of the Attorney General**, Consumer Protection Division  
200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023, [www.oag.state.md.us/idtheft/index.htm](http://www.oag.state.md.us/idtheft/index.htm)  
**Or contact the Identity Theft Unit directly:**  
2000 St. Paul Place, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-567-6491

**For residents of Massachusetts:** You also have the right to obtain a police report.

**For residents of North Carolina:** You may also obtain information about preventing and avoiding identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office:

**North Carolina Attorney General's Office**, Consumer Protection Division  
9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, 1-877-5-NO-SCAM, [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov)

**For residents of Vermont:** You may learn helpful information about fighting identity theft, placing a security freeze, and obtaining a free copy of your credit report on the Vermont Attorney General's website at <http://www.atg.state.vt.us>.

## **Information about personal health information and medical records**

We recommend that you regularly review the explanation of benefits statement that you receive from your insurer. If you see any service that you believe you did not receive, please contact your insurer at the number on the statement. If you do not receive regular explanation of benefits statements, contact your provider and request them to send such statements following the provision of services in your name or number.

You may want to order copies of your credit reports and check for any medical bills that you do not recognize. If you find anything suspicious, call the credit reporting agency at the phone number on the report. Keep a copy of this notice for your records in case of future problems with your medical records. You may also want to request a copy of your medical records from your provider, to serve as a baseline. If you are a California resident, we suggest that you visit the web site of the California Office of Privacy Protection at [www.privacy.ca.gov](http://www.privacy.ca.gov) to find more information about your medical privacy.

### **Suggestions if You Are a Victim of Identity Theft:**

- *File a police report.* Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of a crime.
- *Contact the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC).* The FTC provides useful information to identity theft victims and maintains a database of identity theft cases for use by law enforcement agencies. File a report with the FTC by



calling the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline: 1- 877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); online at <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft>; or by mail at Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

- *Keep a record of your contacts.* Start a file with copies of your credit reports, the police reports, any correspondence, and copies of disputed bills. It is also helpful to keep a log of your conversations with creditors, law enforcement officials, and other relevant parties.

**Fraud Alerts:** There are also two types of fraud alerts that 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 at least 90 days. 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. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by calling the toll-free fraud number of any of the three national credit reporting agencies listed below.

Equifax: 1-888-766-0008, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
Experian: 1-888-397-3742, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289, [fraud.transunion.com](http://fraud.transunion.com)

**Credit Freezes (for Non-Massachusetts Residents):** You may have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A credit freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a credit freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a credit freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit. In addition, you may incur fees to place, lift and/or remove a credit freeze. Credit freeze laws vary from state to state. If you have been a victim of identity theft, and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. In other situations, the cost of placing, temporarily lifting, and removing a credit freeze also varies by state, generally \$5 to \$20 per action at each credit reporting company. *Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a credit freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company.*

Because the instructions for how to establish a credit freeze differ from state to state, please contact the three major credit reporting companies as specified below to find out more information:

Equifax: P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
Experian: P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
TransUnion LLC: P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA, 19022-2000, [freeze.transunion.com](http://freeze.transunion.com)

The credit reporting agencies have three business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) or password, or both that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze. You can obtain more information about fraud alerts and credit freezes by contacting the FTC or one of the national credit reporting agencies listed above.

**Credit Freezes (for Massachusetts Residents):** Massachusetts law gives you the right to place a security freeze on your consumer reports. A security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. Using a security freeze, however, may delay your ability to obtain credit. You may request that a freeze be placed on your credit report by sending a request to a credit reporting agency by certified mail, overnight mail or regular stamped mail to the address below:

Equifax: P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
Experian: P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
TransUnion LLC: P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA, 19022-2000, [freeze.transunion.com](http://freeze.transunion.com)

*Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a credit freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company.* The following information should be included when requesting a security freeze (documentation for you and your spouse must be submitted when freezing a spouse's credit report): full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; Social Security number; date of birth (month, day and year); current address and previous addresses for the past five (5) years; and applicable fee (if any) or incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Department of Motor Vehicles. The request should also include a copy of a government-issued identification card, such as a driver's license, state or military ID card, and a copy of a utility bill, bank or insurance statement. Each copy should be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue (statement dates must be recent). The credit reporting company may charge a reasonable fee of up to \$5 to place a freeze or lift or remove a freeze, unless you are a victim of identity theft or the spouse of a victim of identity theft, and have submitted a valid police report relating to the identity theft to the credit reporting company.

## AllClear Identity Repair Terms of Use

If you become a victim of fraud using your personal information without authorization, AllClear ID will help recover your financial losses and restore your identity. Benefits include:

- 12 months of coverage with no enrollment required.
- No cost to you — ever. AllClear Identity Repair is paid for by the participating Company.

### **Services Provided**

If you suspect identity theft, simply call AllClear ID to file a claim. AllClear ID will provide appropriate and necessary remediation services (“Services”) to help restore the compromised accounts and your identity to the state prior to the incident of fraud. Services are determined at the sole discretion of AllClear ID and are subject to the terms and conditions found on the AllClear ID website. AllClear Identity Repair is not an insurance policy, and AllClear ID will not make payments or reimbursements to you for any financial loss, liabilities or expenses you incur.

### **Coverage Period**

Service is automatically available to you with no enrollment required for 12 months from the date of the breach incident notification you received from Company (the “Coverage Period”). Fraud Events (each, an “Event”) that were discovered prior to your Coverage Period are not covered by AllClear Identity Repair services.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for Services under AllClear Identity Repair coverage, you must fully comply, without limitations, with your obligations under the terms herein, you must be a citizen or legal resident eighteen (18) years of age or older, and have a valid U.S. Social Security number. Minors under eighteen (18) years of age may be eligible, but must be sponsored by a parent or guardian. The Services cover only you and your personal financial and medical accounts that are directly associated with your valid U.S. Social Security number, including but not limited to credit card, bank, or other financial accounts and/or medical accounts.

### **How to File a Claim**

If you become a victim of fraud covered by the AllClear Identity Repair services, you must:

- Notify AllClear ID by calling 1.855.434.8077 to report the fraud prior to expiration of your Coverage Period;
- Provide proof of eligibility for AllClear Identity Repair by providing the redemption code on the notification letter you received from the sponsor Company;
- Fully cooperate and be truthful with AllClear ID about the Event and agree to execute any documents AllClear ID may reasonably require; and
- Fully cooperate with AllClear ID in any remediation process, including, but not limited to, providing AllClear ID with copies of all available investigation files or reports from any institution, including, but not limited to, credit institutions or law enforcement agencies, relating to the alleged theft.

### **Coverage under AllClear Identity Repair Does Not Apply to the Following:**

Any expense, damage or loss:

- Due to
  - Any transactions on your financial accounts made by authorized users, even if acting without your knowledge, or
  - Any act of theft, deceit, collusion, dishonesty or criminal act by you or any person acting in concert with you, or by any of your authorized representatives, whether acting alone or in collusion with you or others (collectively, your “Misrepresentation”);
- Incurred by you from an Event that did not occur during your coverage period; or
- In connection with an Event that you fail to report to AllClear ID prior to the expiration of your AllClear Identity Repair coverage period.

### **Other Exclusions:**

- AllClear ID will not pay or be obligated for any costs or expenses other than as described herein, including without limitation fees of any service providers not retained by AllClear ID; AllClear ID reserves the right to investigate any asserted claim to determine its validity.
- AllClear ID is not an insurance company, and AllClear Identity Repair is not an insurance policy; AllClear ID will not make payments or reimbursements to you for any loss or liability you may incur.
- AllClear ID is not a credit repair organization, is not a credit counseling service, and does not promise to help you improve your credit history or rating beyond resolving incidents of fraud.
- AllClear ID reserves the right to reasonably investigate any asserted claim to determine its validity. All recipients of AllClear Identity Repair coverage are expected to protect their personal information in a reasonable way at all times. Accordingly, recipients will not deliberately or recklessly disclose or publish their Social Security number or any other personal information to those who would reasonably be expected to improperly use or disclose that Personal Information.

### **Opt-out Policy**

If for any reason you wish to have your information removed from the eligibility database for AllClear Identity Repair, please contact AllClear ID:

<b>E-mail</b> support@allclearid.com	<b>Mail</b> AllClear ID, Inc. 823 Congress Avenue Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78701	<b>Phone</b> 1.855.434.8077
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