

In December 2023, the City of Chicago was required to produce records as part of a personal injury lawsuit concerning a September 4, 2022, vehicle accident. On December 11, 2023, as part of that lawsuit, the City produced, to the other parties in the lawsuit, a one-page Chicago Fire Department record. That page also contained a reference to a separate incident that also occurred on September 4, 2022, and that involved an EMS response at a particular address. The information about that EMS response is very limited: only the date, the general nature of the EMS response, the location of the EMS response, and an “Event Query” number (an internal incident-tracking number) were included. No names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security Numbers, account numbers, or any other direct identifiers were disclosed.

The City of Chicago is posting this notice to notify an individual for whom we have insufficient address information to contact individually regarding this incident, which was discovered on December 22, 2023. While we are not aware of any reported uses of this information, and do not believe there is a cause for alarm, the City of Chicago regrets this incident. Having investigated this matter, we are implementing additional measures including entering a qualified protective order in the personal injury case to prevent further disclosure of the information and providing additional training to our personnel.

In addition to City efforts to protect personal health information, it is always important to the members of the public to protect themselves against potential fraud. For example, you might wish to place a 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. You can place a free fraud alert by calling any one of the three major credit bureaus: Equifax (800-525-6285), Experian (888-397-3742), or TransUnion (800-680-7289). As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place fraud alerts. If you would like to receive a copy of your credit report, you can visit www.annualcreditreport.com and a credit report will be sent to you, free of charge, for your review. Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. You can find more information at www.ftc.gov/idtheft or 1-877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338).

If you have questions or would like to know whether information relating to EMS Service you received was contained in the record, please contact Margaret Mendenhall Casey, Deputy Corporation Counsel, at 312-744-6961.