

In October 2023, the City of Chicago was required to produce records as part of a personal injury lawsuit concerning a September 15, 2020, vehicle accident. On October 17, 2023, as part of that lawsuit, the City produced, to the other parties in the lawsuit, Office of Emergency Management and Communications audio dispatches describing calls for EMS services and the associated responses by Chicago Fire Department and EMS personnel. The audio involves EMS responses at particular addresses in the City of Chicago between September 15, 2020 and September 16, 2020. The information about the EMS responses is limited: only the date, approximate time, addresses of the call for EMS service, and general nature of the calls, including very limited clinical information (for example: chest pains or broken leg) were included. In some instances, the addresses were patients' home addresses, and in others they were not. No names, dates of birth, Social Security Numbers, account numbers, or other direct identifiers were included.

The City of Chicago is posting this notice to notify the individuals for whom we have insufficient address information to contact individually regarding this matter, which was discovered on December 28, 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 matter. 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 records, please contact Margaret Mendenhall Casey, Deputy Corporation Counsel, at 312-744-6961.