

Memorandum



Date: June 27, 2014

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Identity Theft of County Employees

The recent news report regarding a "Data Breach" of employee information has understandably raised concerns that County employees' personally identifiable information may have been compromised. More specifically, the news report that County employees' personally identifiable information has been obtained and used to file fraudulent unemployment claims.

The County is not presently aware of any internal or external breaches of our systems containing personally identifiable information. Staff from various County departments is working with the US Department of Labor, the County's Office of Inspector General on the fraudulent unemployment claims that were filed on behalf of County employees as well as to identify and bring to justice the other responsible parties. In addition to identifying the responsible parties, the source of the breach is also being sought.

The County places paramount importance on assuring the security and confidentiality of its systems and data, and employs a variety of technology and security measures to prevent unauthorized access. Furthermore, the County actively monitors and enhances security to address new threats and align our security program with industry best practices.

In the 2013 Top National Consumer Complaints Report, the Federal Trade Commission lists identity theft as the top complaint, with Florida as the state with the highest complaints per capita rate of reported identity theft and fraud. Recent breaches continue to highlight how vulnerable our personal information is, including County employees who may have conducted business with companies such as Target, Michaels Stores, American Express, Experian Credit Bureau, eBay and most recently P.F. Chang. Data breaches continue to grow in frequency and our personal information may already be exposed. It is therefore important that everyone be proactive by frequently monitoring their financial and credit accounts for unauthorized activity.

Online information is not the only area of privacy concerns. We have also been advised of an ongoing telephone scam where unknown individuals are posing as AvMed Insurance representatives contacting legitimate AvMed customers in an attempt to solicit their personal information, including date of birth and social security number. The caller identification does not show a telephone number, but the caller identifies themselves as representing AvMed. Miami-Dade County AvMed Services was contacted and has confirmed that they would not solicit this information, via the telephone in the manner described. As a best practice, employees are reminded they should never give their personal information over the phone to unsolicited callers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angel Petisco, Information Technology Department Director, at 305-596-8455.

c: R. A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Department Directors
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor