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From: [Donald Moritz](#)

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To: [Full Time Employees](#)

Subject: Fraudulent Unemployment Claims be Filed

Sensitivity: Normal

FRAUDULENT UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BEING FILED

We have become aware of fraudulent unemployment claims being filed by individuals posing as City employees. This seems to be occurring in various cities throughout the region. **To our knowledge, there has been no data breach within our systems or data storage.** Currently, it is unknown how others have gained access to individual personal information. It is hypothesized that this may be the result of recent large scale data breaches that you may have read about in the news in the recent past. We learn of these fraudulent unemployment claims either by a current employee informing us that they have received communications from the Washington State Employment Security Department for a claim they didn't file; or when we receive a claim notice from the Employment Security Department for an active employee. The fraudulent claims use personal identifying information, including a home address and social security number to file a claim for benefits with the State Employment Security Department (ESD). So far, we are aware of three (3) incidences of fraudulent claims filed using our employee names. As we identify these false claims, we will reach out to the individually employee to inform them that someone is using their personal information to make a fraudulent unemployment claim.

When HR receives a unemployment claim notice from ESD for an employee who is still working, we respond and note that the employee is still actively employed. We also flag the claim as potentially fraudulent. Even though we respond with this information, ESD will not close the claim based on the Human Resources department's information or communication alone. The State unemployment office will pay the weekly claims filed until you inform them that the claim is fraudulent and ask them to cancel the claim. The City of Shoreline cannot stop the claim payment. You can read more about unemployment fraud on ESD's [webpage](#).

If you become aware of a false unemployment claim filed using your name and personal information, you should contact ESD at: ESDFRAUD@ESD.WA.GOV or fax to 360-902-9771, or call them at 1-800-246-9763 and provide the following information directly to ESD:

- Your name;
- Last 4 numbers of your Social Security Number;
- Date of Birth;
- Address;
- A copy of your driver's license;
- A brief description of your knowledge that a claim was filed using your personal information.
- If a claim was filed using your information, you'll need to confirm that you give ESD permission to deny and cancel it.

Additional questions you have about unemployment claims should be directed to ESD. Unfortunately, their representatives will not discuss individual cases with anyone other than the claimant of record.

It is unfortunate that during times such as now, people try to take advantage of the crises for their own personal gain. See KOMO news article link: [Criminals exploiting COVID-19 to commit widespread unemployment fraud](#). This article talks about the things to consider due to these fraudulent claims.

IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

We are fortunate to have some top notch I.T. professionals working here at the City. This group has provided the information below about Identity theft protection services. You may want to consider subscribing to one of the services if you are concerned about your personal information getting into the wrong hands. While we cannot recommend a specific service, there are reference links included to help you assess which service may be right for you. There are many available. The links below will take you to some resources, including the FTC.gov website which describes Identify Theft Protection services that are available as well as a link to a Cnet article (a reputable site) that lists the top 10 services for 2020.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0235-identity-theft-protection-services>

[Identity Theft Protection Services | FTC Consumer Information](#)

Identity recovery services are designed to help you regain control of your good name and finances after identity theft occurs. Usually, trained counselors or case managers walk you through the process of addressing your identity theft problems. They may help you write letters to creditors and debt collectors, place a freeze on your credit ...

www.consumer.ftc.gov



<https://www.cnet.com/news/best-identity-theft-protection-monitoring-services-in-2020/>

[Best identity theft protection and monitoring services in 2020 - CNET](#)

The base UltraSecure program for IdentityForce is \$149.90 a year. Its UltraSecure Plus Credit program, which provides you with your credit reports and score, is \$199.50. We liked how the credit ...
www.cnet.com



Be healthy, be safe.

Sincerely,

Don

Donald Moritz
Human Resources and Organizational Development Director
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Ave N.
Shoreline, WA 98133
Phone: 206.801.2241
Web site: www.shorelinewa.gov
Email: dmoritz@shorelinewa.gov
General Fax: 206.801.2781
Confidential Fax: 206.801.2317