December 6, 2024

Via Email (reports@ilga.gov)

Re: Unauthorized Dissemination of Social Security Numbers

Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

Pursuant to the Personal Information Protection Act, 815 ILCS 530/25 and 815 ILCS 530/12(f), I am writing to report the inadvertent dissemination of personal information by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board (PRB) on:

- 1. August 15, 2024 (2)
- 2. October 8, 2024
- 3. October 17, 2024

The incidents were the result of four responses to FOIA requests seeking a database on past and current Clemency petitioners. The columns holding social security numbers were hidden within the shared databases rather than being properly deleted by former PRB FOIA Officer Miranda Livingston. On Thursday, December 5, 2024, I was notified that the personal information of those citizens had been compromised. I received additional information on Friday, December 6th that thousands of people were potentially impacted. Since the incidents were discovered, the Prisoner Review Board has undertaken a thorough search of all FOIA requests for this type of database.

In short order, appropriate notification will be furnished to all whose personal information has been compromised. Additionally, we are taking steps including but not limited to, additional FOIA and Microsoft Excel training to prevent future incidents of this nature. It is our intention for this to not happen again.

Should you have questions or comments concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kahalah Clay
General Counsel and Ethics Officer
Illinois Prisoner Review Board