



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
JIMMY PATRONIS  
STATE OF FLORIDA

July 20, 2020

Commissioner Rick Swearingen  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Post Office Box 1489  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489

Dear Commissioner Swearingen:

As you are aware, hackers took over a number of high-profile, verified Twitter accounts last week for the purposes of perpetuating a cryptocurrency scam, uncovering problematic security concerns within Twitter regarding their internal systems controls and limited use of end-to-end encryption. Twitter rightfully called the breach "embarrassing," but I would also characterize it as dangerous; Twitter has clearly been culpably negligent in allowing this infiltration to occur.

Given the prolific nature of the use of Twitter and other applications as important communications systems used by state and local officials for dissemination of official information, this catastrophic security breach has far-reaching implications. I am requesting the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (Department) review frequently used communications applications for the purpose of understanding the imminent concerns.

The attack represents a threat beyond that to all users' privacy and data security, though those are credible threats given that Florida is experiencing an ongoing fraud epidemic. This coordinated attack threatens the underpinnings of how the State of Florida shares important information about elections, disasters and other emergencies, and consumer services. One tweet could cause conflicts or send our state's economy into a tailspin. As Florida's CFO, I have a fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers to understand threats to our economy and am relying on you for an investigation into these issues.

In this review, I ask you leverage the Department's cyber security experts and marshal your relationships with federal partners through the Fusion Center to partner with the State Board of Administration and Division of Bond Finance to understand how these security risks pose economic risks to the state. Proper information and guidance would assist the Cabinet in empowering these entities to protect Florida's interests. Understanding these activities can strengthen shared efforts to minimize fraud, ensure Florida has the tools and enhanced technology needed to monitor and detect these events, and gain an assessment of further resources that are needed or may be leveraged at the state, local and federal level.

I appreciate the time and effort that you and your staff will contribute to gathering and compiling the information for this review. Please contact my office with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Patronis".

Jimmy Patronis  
Chief Financial Officer