



April 3, 2020

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED AND EMAIL

To: Barry Augustinsky SIPJoin Holdings Corp.

> Suffolk, VA baug@sipjoin.com

## **Re:** Official Correspondence from the Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission

Dear Mr. Augustinsky,

We have determined that SIPJoin Holdings Corp. (SIPJoin) is apparently routing and transmitting Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) scam robocall traffic originating from VoIPMax. We request that you cease routing and transmitting such traffic immediately.

On March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1</sup> Fraudsters and unscrupulous actors have taken advantage of this national health crisis to send scam robocalls to consumers across the United States. These unwanted robocalls include fraudulent offers of COVID-19 home testing kits. This activity has the potential to inflict severe harm on consumers. Our agencies will aggressively pursue legal action against unlawful robocallers and, where appropriate, pursue legal action against voice providers routing or transmitting such traffic on their networks.<sup>2</sup>

Investigations conducted by our agencies, in conjunction with the USTelecom Industry Traceback Group, revealed that SIPJoin is a gateway voice provider for apparently fraudulent COVID-19 robocalls originating from VoIPMax. We will take all necessary and appropriate action to prevent these robocalls from entering U.S. networks.

## If after 48 hours of issuance of this letter SIPJoin continues to route or transmit harmful robocall traffic from VoIPMax, the FCC will authorize other U.S. voice providers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak, The White House (Mar. 13, 2020), <u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-novel-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Federal Trade Commission recently obtained a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against a VoIP provider, Globex Telecom, for assisting and facilitating illegal robocalls. <u>https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2019/12/court-halts-operations-voip-service-provider-after-ftc-ohio</u>

to block all calls from SIPJoin and take any other steps as needed to prevent further transmission of unlawful calls from SIPJoin, and we will evaluate whether further action is appropriate in connection with your activity.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this letter to Kristi Thompson of the FCC at Kristi.thompson@fcc.gov or 202-418-1318 or to Ian Barlow of the FTC at ibarlow@ftc.gov or 202-326-3120.

Sincerely,

Rosemary C. Harold Chief, Enforcement Bureau Federal Communications Commission

A.C.A

Lois C. Greisman Associate Director, Division of Marketing Practices Federal Trade Commission