



Financial Industry Regulatory Authority

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**By: Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and E-mail
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June 21, 2016

Timber Hill LLC
2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 280E
Washington, DC 20037

Attn: Scott M. Litvinoff, Esq.
Associate General Counsel

**RE: Payment of Fine in Connection with Executed Letter of Consent
FINRA Matter No. 20140438294**

Dear Mr. Litvinoff:

Enclosed is an executed copy of the Letter of Consent (“LOC”), signed by David M. Battan, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Timber Hill LLC (the “Firm”) and countersigned by Edward Deitzel, Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Officer, Business Conduct Committee, at the Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC. Please consider this correspondence as notice to the Firm that this LOC has been accepted, and as a result, the Firm must promptly remit payment of the agreed upon sanction. Please make the payment to Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC.

The payment should be sent to the below address if payment is by check:

Scott M. Litvinoff, Esq.
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If payment is by wire, wiring instructions are as follows:

JP Morgan Chase
ABA# 021000021
To the further credit of MIAX Options
Account #153297200
Reference Number: Matter No. 20140438294

Pursuant to MIAX Rule 1011, after seven calendar days' notice in writing, the Exchange may summarily suspend a Member that fails to pay promptly a fine when such fine becomes finally due and payable.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone me.

Sincerely,



Enclosure

cc: Larry O'Leary, VP Regulation, Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC
(via e-mail to loleary@miaxoptions.com)

This letter is issued on behalf of the Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, by FINRA Market Regulation pursuant to a grant of authority to FINRA. Accordingly, this constitutes a letter by the Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC

**MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES EXCHANGE, LLC
LETTER OF CONSENT**

NO. 20140438294-01

**TO: Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC
c/o Department of Market Regulation
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")**

**RE: Timber Hill LLC, Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 33319**

Pursuant to Rule 1003 of the Rules of the Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC ("MIAX"), Timber Hill LLC (the "firm" or "Timber Hill") submits this Letter of Consent ("LOC") for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This LOC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, MIAX will not bring any future actions against the firm alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Timber Hill hereby accepts and consents, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of MIAX, or to which MIAX is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by MIAX:**

BACKGROUND

Timber Hill has been a member of MIAX since December 7, 2012; its registration remains in effect. At all relevant times, Timber Hill was approved to conduct business as a Primary Lead Market Maker ("PLMM") on MIAX.

SUMMARY

FINRA's Market Regulation Options Regulation staff ("staff") conducted an investigation on behalf of MIAX concerning the firm's compliance with quoting obligations in the opening rotation on MIAX during the periods between February 1, 2013 and October 31, 2014 (the "first review period"), during August 2015 (the "second review period"), and during October 2015 (the "third review period").

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

- 1. During the review periods, MIAX Rules 503(e) and 603(e) required, among other things, the PLMM assigned in a particular equity option class to enter valid width quotes not later than one minute following the dissemination of a quote or trade by the market for the underlying security.**

2. During the first review period, on 256 out of 441 trade dates (58.05%), Timber Hill, a PLMM, failed to disseminate quotes at the opening or during a re-opening within one minute of the dissemination of a quote or trade by the primary market for the underlying security, or failed to open or re-open series in various appointed classes. On 100 of the 256 of those violative trade dates, the firm had opening quoting non-compliance rates in excess of 10%, including 18 trade dates on which the firm failed to meet its opening quoting obligation in a range from 40% to 71% of its assigned options series.
3. During the second review period, on one out of 21 trade dates (4.76%), Timber Hill failed to disseminate quotes at the opening or during a re-opening within one minute of the dissemination of a quote or trade by the primary market for the underlying security, or failed to open or re-open series in various appointed classes.
4. During the third review period, on three out of 22 trade dates (13.64%), Timber Hill failed to disseminate quotes at the opening or during a re-opening within one minute of the dissemination of a quote or trade by the primary market for the underlying security, or failed to open or re-open series in various appointed classes.
5. The foregoing conduct constituted separate and distinct violations of MIAX Rules 503(e) and 603(c).

B. The firm also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

- a censure, and
- a fine of \$45,000.

The firm agrees to pay the monetary sanction(s) upon notice that this LOC has been accepted and that such payment(s) are due and payable. It has submitted an Election of Payment form showing the method by which it proposes to pay the fine imposed.

The firm specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that it is unable to pay, now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction(s) imposed in this matter.

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by MIAX.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

The firm specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under MIAX Rules:

- A. To have a Statement of Charges issued specifying the allegations against the firm;
- B. To be notified of the Statement of Charges and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a Hearing Panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and

- D. To appeal any such decision to MIAX's Board of Directors and then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.**

Further, the firm specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim bias or prejudice of the Chief Regulatory Officer ("CRO"), as well as the Business Conduct Committee ("BCC") in connection with participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this LOC, or other consideration of this LOC, including acceptance or rejection of this LOC.

The firm further specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of MIAX Rule 1006, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this LOC, or other consideration of this LOC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

The firm understands that:


- A. Submission of this LOC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by the CRO and the BCC, pursuant to MIAX Rule 1003;**
- B. If this LOC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against the firm; and**
- C. If accepted:**
- 1. This LOC will become part of the firm's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by MIAX or any other regulator against the firm;**
 - 2. This LOC will be published on a website maintained by MIAX; and**
 - 3. The firm may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this LOC or create the impression that the LOC is without factual basis. The firm may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of MIAX, or to which MIAX is a party, that is inconsistent with any part of this LOC. Nothing in this provision affects the firm's: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which MIAX is not a party.**
- D. The firm may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this LOC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. The firm understands that it may not deny the charges or make any statement that is inconsistent with the LOC in this Statement. This Statement does not constitute factual or legal findings by MIAX, nor does it reflect the views of MIAX or its staff.**

The undersigned, on behalf of the firm, certifies that a person duly authorized to act on its behalf has read and understands all of the provisions of this LOC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that it has agreed to the LOC's provisions voluntarily; and that no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Statement of Charges, has been made to induce the firm to submit it.

3/15/16

Date

Respondent
Timber Hill LLC

By: 

Name: DAVID M. BATTAN

Title: EVP General Counsel

Reviewed by:



Scott M. Litvinoff
Associate General Counsel
Council for Respondent
Interactive Brokers LLC
2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 280E
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: 202-349-3846

Accepted by Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC:

6-20-16
Date


Edward Deltzel
Executive Vice President and
Chief Regulatory Officer
Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC

Decision of the Business Conduct Committee:

Accept Decline

6/20/16



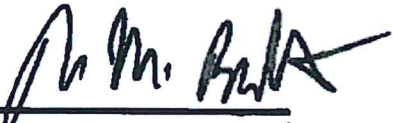
ELECTION OF PAYMENT FORM

The firm intends to pay the fine proposed in the attached Letter of Consent by the following method (check one):

- A firm check or bank check for the full amount;
- Wire transfer;

Respectfully submitted,
Respondent
Timber Hill LLC

3/15/16
Date

By: 
Name: DAVID M. BATTAN
Title: EVF + General Counsel