| Page 1 of * 24  |   | SECURITIES AND EXCHA<br>WASHINGTON, I<br>Form 19b | D.C. 20549           |                                      | File No. * SR<br>t No. (req. for Am |                       |  |  |
|---|---|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Filing by Nasda   | aq PHLX LLC   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Pursuant to Rule  | e 19b-4 under the Securities Excha  | ange Act of 1934                                  |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Initial *   | Amendment *   | Withdrawal  | Section 19(b         | )(2) * Section 19(b)                 | )(3)(A) * §                         | Section 19(b)(3)(B) * |  |  |
|   |   |   |                      | Rule                                 |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Pilot   | Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *  | Date Expires *                                    |                      | 19b-4(f)(1)                          | 19b-4(f)(4)                         |                       |  |  |
| Ш   |   |   |                      | √ 19b-4(f)(2)                        | 19b-4(f)(5)                         |                       |  |  |
|   |   |   |                      | 19b-4(f)(3)                          | 19b-4(f)(6)                         |                       |  |  |
| Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010  Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Section 806(  | e)(1) *   | Section 806(e)(2) * Section                       |                      | Section 3C(b)(2) *                   | ction 3C(b)(2) *                    |                       |  |  |
| Ш   |   |   |                      | Ш                                    |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document  |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Descriptio  | an .  |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).   |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
|   |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| A proposal to amend the Exchanges schedule of fees and credits at Equity 7 Section 3  |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
|   |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
|   |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
|   |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
|   | name, telephone number, and e-m<br>respond to questions and commen  |   | staff of the self-re | egulatory organization               |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Eta ( Nicasa +  | LZ II   | Last Name * Hopl                                  | 1.1                  |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| First Name *  | Katie   | Last Name Hopi                                    | KITIS                |                                      | _                                   |                       |  |  |
| Title *   | Associate General Counsel   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| E-mail *  | Katie.Hopkins@nasdaq.com  |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Telephone *   | (301) 232-4067  | Fax   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Signature   |   |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Pursuant to   | the requirements of the Securities used this filing to be signed on its b   |   |                      | ed.                                  |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Date  | 01/03/2023  |   | (Title *)            |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| Ву  | John Zecca  | EVP   | and Chief Legal      | Officer                              |                                     |                       |  |  |
| '   | (Name *)  |   |                      |                                      |                                     |                       |  |  |
| form. A digital s   | the signature block at right will initiate digitally ignature is as legally binding as a physical sig is form cannot be changed | y signing the nature, and                         | for A. fee           | Date: 2023.01.03<br>12:11:22 -05'00' |                                     |                       |  |  |

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

| Form 19b-4 Information *  |        |      |  |  |  |  |
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| SR-Phlx-2023-01 19b-4.doc |        |      |  |  |  |  |
|                           |        |      |  |  |  |  |

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

# Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \*

Add Remove View

SR-Phlx-2023-01 Exhibit 1.doc

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies \*

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

# Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction  $\mathsf{F}$ , they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction  $\mathsf{G}$ .

# Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit Sent As Paper Document** 

# Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

#### **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

#### **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

Add Remove View
SR-Phlx-2023-01 Exhibit 5.doc

The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

#### **Partial Amendment**

Add Remove View

If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

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# 1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend the Exchange's schedule of fees and credits at Equity 7, Section 3, as described further below.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

# 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board"). Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Katie Hopkins Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 301-232-4067

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

### a. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's schedule of fees and credits at Equity 7, Section 3. First, the Exchange proposes to remove a \$0.0029 per share executed fee for member organizations that remove liquidity from the Exchange. Second, the Exchange proposes to remove several credits for displayed Quotes/Orders, including credits of \$0.0035, \$0.0034, and \$0.0032 per share executed. Third, the Exchange proposes to add a new credit for displayed Quotes/Orders of \$0.0032 per share executed.

# Discontinued Fee to Remove Liquidity

The Exchange proposes to amend its pricing schedule, at Equity 7, Section 3, to remove a current \$0.0029 per share executed fee for a member organization that removes liquidity from the Exchange to the extent that the member organization: (i) adds a daily average of at least 2 million shares of liquidity in all securities from the Exchange during the month; (ii) increases its average daily volume added to the Exchange by 50% or more during the month relative to the month of January 2022; (iii) increases its average daily volume added to and removed from the Exchange by 100% or more during the month relative to the month of January 2022; and (iv) adds and removes a daily average of at least 10 million shares of liquidity in all securities from the Exchange during the month. Currently, the \$0.0029 per share executed fee represents a discount relative to the fee of \$0.0030 per share executed for all other orders that do not meet the criteria to qualify for the \$0.0029 per share executed fee. Therefore, the effect of removing the \$0.0029 per share executed fee is that all orders that remove liquidity from the Exchange would be

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subject to the \$0.0030 per share executed fee. The Exchange proposes to make a conforming change to the existing \$0.0030 per share executed fee to reflect the fact that, going forward, it will apply to all orders that remove liquidity from the Exchange. The Exchange has limited resources available to it to offer its members market-improving incentives, and it allocates those limited resources to those segments of the market where it perceives the need to be greatest and/or where it determines that the incentive is likely to achieve its intended objective. The Exchange proposes to discontinue the \$0.0029 per share executed fee because it has not induced members to grow materially the extent to which they add liquidity to the Exchange over time.

#### Discontinued Rebates to Add Displayed Liquidity

The Exchange proposes to remove the following credits presently offered to member organizations that add displayed liquidity to the Exchange: (1) \$0.0035 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.10% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month; (2) \$0.0034 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.05% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month and removes 0.02% of total Consolidated Volume during the month; and (3) \$0.0032 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that: (i) provides a daily average of at least 2 million shares of liquidity in all securities on the Exchange during the month; and (ii) increases its average daily volume of Quotes/Orders added to the Exchange by 75% or more during the month relative to the month of March 2022. The Exchange offers these credits as a means of improving market quality by providing its members with an incentive to increase liquidity on the Exchange. The Exchange has limited resources available to it to offer its

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members market-improving incentives, and it allocates those limited resources to those segments of the market where it perceives the need to be greatest and/or where it determines that the incentive is likely to achieve its intended objective. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to eliminate the credits noted above.

#### New Rebate to Add Displayed Liquidity

The Exchange proposes to establish a new credit that will reward a member organization with a credit of \$0.0032 per share executed for Quotes/Orders that provides 0.05% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month. The proposed new credit will provide an incentive to member organizations to add liquidity to the Exchange. To the extent that the proposed new credit succeeds in increasing liquidity on the Exchange, the Exchange hopes that additional liquidity will improve the quality of the market and help to grow it over time.

## b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>3</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange's proposed changes to its schedule of credits are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for equity securities transaction services that constrain

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In <a href="NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange">NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange</a>
<a href="Commission">Commission</a>, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."

\*\*Total Commission\*\*

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The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for equity security transaction services. The Exchange is only one of several equity venues to which market participants may direct their order flow. Competing equity exchanges offer similar tiered

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>NetCoalition v. SEC</u>, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

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pricing structures to that of the Exchange, including schedules of rebates and fees that apply based upon members achieving certain volume thresholds.

Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market share relative to its competitors.

The Exchange believes it is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory to eliminate the \$0.0029 per share executed fee for member organizations that remove liquidity from the Exchange and make conforming changes to the fee schedule. The fee has not been successful in inducing members to grow materially the extent to which they add liquidity to the Exchange over time. The Exchange has limited resources to allocate to incentives and it must, from time to time, reallocate those resources to maximize their net impact on the Exchange, market quality, and participants.

It is also reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory for the Exchange to streamline its schedule of credits for adding displayed liquidity to the Exchange, including removing three credits and adding a new credit. These adjustments will better align incentives with the Exchange's needs. Again, the Exchange has limited resources to devote to incentive programs, and it is appropriate for the Exchange to reallocate these incentives periodically in a manner that best achieves the Exchange's overall mix of objectives.

Those participants that are dissatisfied with the proposed changes to the Exchange's schedule of fees and credits are free to shift their order flow to competing venues that provide more generous incentives or less stringent qualifying criteria.

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# 4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

# **Intramarket Competition**

The Exchange does not believe that its proposals will place any category of Exchange participant at a competitive disadvantage.

The Exchange intends for its proposed changes to its fees and credits to reallocate its limited resources more efficiently and to align them with the Exchange's overall mix of objectives. The Exchange notes that its members are free to trade on other venues to the extent they believe that these proposals are not attractive. As one can observe by looking at any market share chart, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and credit changes.

#### **Intermarket Competition**

In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its credits and fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own credits and fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to

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which credit or fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited. The proposals are reflective of this competition.

Even as one of the largest U.S. equities exchanges by volume, the Exchange has less than 20% market share, which in most markets could hardly be categorized as having enough market power to burden competition. Moreover, as noted above, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and credit changes. This is in addition to free flow of order flow to and among off-exchange venues, which comprises upwards of 50% of industry volume.

In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

- 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
   Not applicable.

No written comments were either solicited or received.

7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the selfregulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

- 8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission
   Not applicable.
- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
   Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

#### 11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.
- 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

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**EXHIBIT 1** 

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-Phlx-2023-01)

January , 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend its Schedule of Fees and Credits at Equity 7, Section 3

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on January 3, 2023, Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the</u>
Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's schedule of fees and credits at Equity 7, Section 3. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/phlx/rules">https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/phlx/rules</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u>
<u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

### 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's schedule of fees and credits at Equity 7, Section 3. First, the Exchange proposes to remove a \$0.0029 per share executed fee for member organizations that remove liquidity from the Exchange. Second, the Exchange proposes to remove several credits for displayed Quotes/Orders, including credits of \$0.0035, \$0.0034, and \$0.0032 per share executed. Third, the Exchange proposes to add a new credit for displayed Quotes/Orders of \$0.0032 per share executed.

# Discontinued Fee to Remove Liquidity

The Exchange proposes to amend its pricing schedule, at Equity 7, Section 3, to remove a current \$0.0029 per share executed fee for a member organization that removes liquidity from the Exchange to the extent that the member organization: (i) adds a daily average of at least 2 million shares of liquidity in all securities from the Exchange during the month; (ii) increases its average daily volume added to the Exchange by 50% or more during the month relative to the month of January 2022; (iii) increases its average daily volume added to and removed from the Exchange by 100% or more during the month relative to the month of January 2022; and (iv) adds and removes a daily average of at least 10 million shares of liquidity in all securities from the Exchange during the month. Currently, the \$0.0029 per share executed fee represents a discount relative to the fee of \$0.0030 per share executed for all other orders that do not meet the criteria to qualify for

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the \$0.0029 per share executed fee. Therefore, the effect of removing the \$0.0029 per share executed fee is that all orders that remove liquidity from the Exchange would be subject to the \$0.0030 per share executed fee. The Exchange proposes to make a conforming change to the existing \$0.0030 per share executed fee to reflect the fact that, going forward, it will apply to all orders that remove liquidity from the Exchange. The Exchange has limited resources available to it to offer its members market-improving incentives, and it allocates those limited resources to those segments of the market where it perceives the need to be greatest and/or where it determines that the incentive is likely to achieve its intended objective. The Exchange proposes to discontinue the \$0.0029 per share executed fee because it has not induced members to grow materially the extent to which they add liquidity to the Exchange over time.

## Discontinued Rebates to Add Displayed Liquidity

The Exchange proposes to remove the following credits presently offered to member organizations that add displayed liquidity to the Exchange: (1) \$0.0035 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.10% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month; (2) \$0.0034 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.05% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month and removes 0.02% of total Consolidated Volume during the month; and (3) \$0.0032 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that: (i) provides a daily average of at least 2 million shares of liquidity in all securities on the Exchange during the month; and (ii) increases its average daily volume of Quotes/Orders added to the Exchange by 75% or more during the month relative to the month of March 2022. The Exchange offers these credits as a means of

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improving market quality by providing its members with an incentive to increase liquidity on the Exchange. The Exchange has limited resources available to it to offer its members market-improving incentives, and it allocates those limited resources to those segments of the market where it perceives the need to be greatest and/or where it determines that the incentive is likely to achieve its intended objective. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to eliminate the credits noted above.

# New Rebate to Add Displayed Liquidity

The Exchange proposes to establish a new credit that will reward a member organization with a credit of \$0.0032 per share executed for Quotes/Orders that provides 0.05% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month. The proposed new credit will provide an incentive to member organizations to add liquidity to the Exchange. To the extent that the proposed new credit succeeds in increasing liquidity on the Exchange, the Exchange hopes that additional liquidity will improve the quality of the market and help to grow it over time.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>3</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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The Exchange's proposed changes to its schedule of credits are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for equity securities transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange

Commission, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

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example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for equity security transaction services. The Exchange is only one of several equity venues to which market participants may direct their order flow. Competing equity exchanges offer similar tiered pricing structures to that of the Exchange, including schedules of rebates and fees that apply based upon members achieving certain volume thresholds.

Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market share relative to its competitors.

The Exchange believes it is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory to eliminate the \$0.0029 per share executed fee for member organizations that remove liquidity from the Exchange and make conforming changes to the fee schedule. The fee has not been successful in inducing members to grow materially the extent to which they add liquidity to the Exchange over time. The Exchange has limited resources to allocate to incentives and it must, from time to time, reallocate those resources to maximize their net impact on the Exchange, market quality, and participants.

It is also reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory for the Exchange to streamline its schedule of credits for adding displayed liquidity to the Exchange, including removing three credits and adding a new credit. These adjustments will better align incentives with the Exchange's needs. Again, the Exchange has limited resources to devote to incentive programs, and it is appropriate for the Exchange to reallocate these incentives periodically in a manner that best achieves the Exchange's overall mix of objectives.

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Those participants that are dissatisfied with the proposed changes to the Exchange's schedule of fees and credits are free to shift their order flow to competing venues that provide more generous incentives or less stringent qualifying criteria.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## **Intramarket Competition**

The Exchange does not believe that its proposals will place any category of Exchange participant at a competitive disadvantage.

The Exchange intends for its proposed changes to its fees and credits to reallocate its limited resources more efficiently and to align them with the Exchange's overall mix of objectives. The Exchange notes that its members are free to trade on other venues to the extent they believe that these proposals are not attractive. As one can observe by looking at any market share chart, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and credit changes.

#### **Intermarket Competition**

In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its credits and fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from

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compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own credits and fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which credit or fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited. The proposals are reflective of this competition.

Even as one of the largest U.S. equities exchanges by volume, the Exchange has less than 20% market share, which in most markets could hardly be categorized as having enough market power to burden competition. Moreover, as noted above, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and credit changes. This is in addition to free flow of order flow to and among off-exchange venues, which comprises upwards of 50% of industry volume.

In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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# III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>7</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2023-01 on the subject line.

#### Paper comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2023-01. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2023-01 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

J. Matthew DeLesDernier Assistant Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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#### **EXHIBIT 5**

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is <u>underlined</u>.

NASDAQ PHLX LLC RULES

\* \* \* \* \*

**Equity Rules** 

\* \* \* \* \*

**Equity 7 Pricing Schedule** 

\* \* \* \* :

Section 3 Nasdaq PSX Fees

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Order Execution and Routing**

(a) The following charges and credits shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the Nasdaq PSX System by member organizations for all securities that it trades priced at \$1 or more per share:

(1) Fees for Execution of Quotes/Orders in Nasdaq-Listed Securities, Securities Listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and Securities Listed on Exchanges other than Nasdaq and NYSE. As used in this rule, the term "Consolidated Volume" shall mean the total consolidated volume reported to all consolidated transaction reporting plans by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities during a month in equity securities, excluding executed orders with a size of less than one round lot. For purposes of calculating Consolidated Volume and the extent of a member's trading activity the date of the annual reconstitution of the Russell Investments Indexes shall be excluded from both total Consolidated Volume and the member's trading activity.

Charge to member organization entering order that executes in Nasdaq PSX:

[\$0.0029 per share executed for orders entered by a member organization that: (i) adds a daily average of at least 2 million shares of liquidity in all securities from the Exchange during the month; (ii) increases its average daily volume added to the Exchange by 50% or more during the month relative to the

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month of January 2022; (iii) increases its average daily volume added to and removed from the Exchange by 100% or more during the month relative to the month of January 2022; and (iv) adds and removes a daily average of at least 10 million shares of liquidity in all securities from the Exchange during the month;]

\$0.0030 per share executed[ for all other orders]

Credit to member organization providing liquidity through the Nasdaq PSX System:

Displayed Quote/Order:

[\$0.0035 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.10% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month

\$0.0034 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.05% or more of total Consolidated Volume during the month and removes 0.02% of total Consolidated Volume during the month

\$0.0032 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that: (i) provides a daily average of at least 2 million shares of liquidity in all securities on the Exchange during the month; and (ii) increases its average daily volume of Quotes/Orders added to the Exchange by 75% or more during the month relative to the month of March 2022]

\$0.0032 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that provides 0.05% or

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# more of total Consolidated Volume during the month

\$0.0030 per share executed for Quotes/Orders entered by a member organization that: (i) provides a daily average of at least 1 million shares of liquidity in all securities on the Exchange during the month; and (ii) increases its average daily volume of Quotes/Orders added to the Exchange by 100% or more during the month relative to the month of October 2021

\$0.0020 per share executed for all other Quotes/Orders

\* \* \* \* \*