Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.							OMB Number: 3235-0045 Estimated average burden hours per response	
Page 1 o	f * 19		EXCHANGE (TON, D.C. 2 orm 19b-4			File No. Iment No. (req. for	* SR - 2021 - * 033 r Amendments *)	
Filing by The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC								
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934								
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(o)(2) *	Section	19(b)(3)(A) * Rule	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *	
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *			19b-4(f)(19b-4(f)(19b-4(f)(2) 19b-4(f)(5))	
	of proposed change pursuant n 806(e)(1) *	to the Payment, Cleari Section 806(e)(2) *	ng, and Settle	nent Act of 2			vap Submission pursuant kchange Act of 1934 (2) *	
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document								
Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). A proposal to extend the expiration date of the temporary amendments concerning video conference hearings from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021.								
Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.								
First N	ame * Olumuyiwa		Last Name *	Odeniyide				
Title * Enforcement Counsel								
E-mail * Olumuyiwa.Odeniyide@nasdaq.com								
Teleph	one * (301) 590-6852	Fax						
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.								
(Title *) EVP and Chief Legal Counsel								
Date	04/28/2021		EVP and Chie	T Legal Cou	insel			
Ву	John Zecca (Name *)							
NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.								

OMB APPROVAL

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549						
For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.						
Form 19b-4 Information * Add Remove View	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	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 Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * Add Remove View	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, security-based swap submission, or advance notice 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 Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.					
Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	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 CopiesAddRemoveView	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.					
Add Remove View	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.					

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

(a) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to extend the expiration date of the temporary amendments in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076 from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021.³ The proposed rule change would not make any changes to the text of the Exchange rules.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached as <u>Exhibit 1</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") on November 5, 2020. 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.

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ If the Exchange seeks to provide additional temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposed rule change beyond August 31, 2021, the Exchange will submit a separate rule filing to further extend the temporary extension of time. The amended Exchange rules will revert to their original form at the conclusion of the temporary relief period and any extension thereof.

become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, so that the Exchange can

implement the proposed rule change immediately.

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

Olumuyiwa Odeniyide Enforcement Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 301-590-6852

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 Exchange proposes to continue to harmonize Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 with recent changes by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") to its Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 in response to the COVID-19 global health crisis and the corresponding need to restrict in-person activities. The Exchange originally filed proposed rule change SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, which allows the Exchange's Office of Hearing Officers ("OHO") and the Exchange Review Council ("ERC") to conduct hearings, on a temporary basis, by video conference, if warranted by the current COVID-19-related public health risks posed by an in-person hearing. In December 2020, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change, SR-NASDAQ-2020-092, to extend the expiration date of the temporary amendments in SR- NASDAQ-2020-076 from December 31, 2020, to April 30, 2021.⁴ While there are signs of improvement, the COVID-19 conditions necessitating these temporary amendments persist and, based on its assessment of current COVID-19 conditions and the lack of certainty as to when

 <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90774 (December 22, 2020), 85 FR
 86614 (December 30, 2020) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File
 No. SR-NASDAQ-2020-092).

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COVID-19-related health concerns and corresponding restrictions will meaningfully subside, the Exchange has determined that there is a continued need for this temporary relief for several months beyond April 30, 2021. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary rule amendments in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076 from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021.

On November 5, 2020, the Exchange filed, and subsequently extended to April 30, 2021, SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, to temporarily amend Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 to grant OHO and the ERC authority⁵ to conduct hearings in connection with appeals of Membership Application Program decisions, disciplinary actions, eligibility proceedings and temporary and permanent cease and desist orders by video conference, if warranted by the COVID-19-related public health risks posed by an in-person hearing.⁶

As set forth in the previous filings, the Exchange also relies on COVID-19 data and the guidance issued by public health authorities to determine whether the current public health risks presented by an in-person hearing may warrant a hearing by video conference.⁷ Based on that data and guidance, the Exchange does not believe the

⁵ For OHO hearings under Exchange Rules 9261 and 9830, the proposed rule change temporarily grants authority to the Chief or Deputy Chief Hearing Officer to order that a hearing be conducted by video conference. For ERC hearings under Exchange Rules 1015 and 9524, this temporary authority is granted to the ERC or relevant Subcommittee.

 <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90390 (November 10, 2020), 85 FR 73302 (November 17, 2020) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-NASDAQ-2020-076); <u>supra</u> note 4.

⁷ As noted in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, the temporary proposed rule change grants discretion to OHO and the ERC to order a video conference hearing. In deciding whether to schedule a hearing by video conference, OHO and the ERC may consider a variety of other factors in addition to COVID-19 trends.

COVID-19- related health concerns necessitating this relief will meaningfully subside by April 30, 2021, and has determined that there will be a continued need for this temporary relief for several months beyond that date. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary rule amendments originally set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076 from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021. The extension of these temporary amendments allowing for specified OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference will allow the Exchange's critical adjudicatory functions to continue to operate effectively in these extraordinary circumstances – enabling the Exchange to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets – while also protecting the health and safety of hearing participants.

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, so the Exchange can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest, by continuing

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

to provide greater harmonization between the Exchange rules and FINRA rules of similar purpose,¹⁰ resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance.

The proposed rule change, which extends the expiration date of the temporary amendments to the Exchange rules set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, will continue to aid the Exchange's efforts to timely conduct hearings in connection with its core adjudicatory functions. Given current COVID-19 conditions and the uncertainty around when those conditions will meaningfully improve, without this relief allowing OHO and ERC hearings to continue to proceed by video conference, such hearings may need to be postponed indefinitely. The Exchange must be able to perform its critical adjudicatory functions in order to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets. As such, this relief is essential to the Exchange's ability to fulfill its statutory obligations and allows hearing participants to avoid the serious COVID-19related health and safety risks associated with in-person hearings.

Among other things, this relief will allow OHO to conduct temporary cease and desist proceedings by video conference so that the Exchange can take immediate action to stop ongoing customer harm and will allow the ERC to timely provide members, disqualified individuals and other applicants an approval or denial of their applications. As set forth in detail in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, this temporary relief allowing OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference accounts for fair process considerations and will continue to provide fair process while avoiding the COVID-19-related public health risks for hearing participants. Accordingly, the proposed rule change extending this temporary relief is in the public interest and consistent with the Act's purpose.

¹⁰ <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 91495 (April 7, 2021), 86 FR 19306 (April 13, 2021) (SR-FINRA-2021-006).

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

The Exchange does not believe that the temporary proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, the proposed rule change is intended solely to extend temporary relief necessitated by the continued impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and the related health and safety risks of conducting in-person activities. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will prevent unnecessary impediments to its operations, including its critical adjudicatory processes, and its ability to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets that would otherwise result if the temporary amendments were to expire on April 30, 2021.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

- <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u> Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated</u> <u>Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section

 $19(b)(3)(A)(iii)^{11}$ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder¹² in that it effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the requirement that the proposed rule change, by its terms, not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing as set forth in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹³ so that the proposed rule change may become operative immediately. Waiver of the operative delay would allow the proposed changes, which are designed to minimize disruptions to the Exchange's operations in order to maintain fair processes and fulfill its obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets, to be operative on the date of filing. Given that the need for the temporary relief provided originally by the Exchange persists, waiving the 30-day operative delay would provide continuation and an uninterrupted extension of this necessary relief.¹⁴

Furthermore, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)¹⁵ requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change under that subsection at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has provided such notice.

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁴ The Exchange notes that waiver of the 30-day operative period here is consistent with previous extensions of this temporary relief. <u>See, e.g.</u>, SR-NASDAQ-2020-092, <u>supra</u> note 4.

¹⁵ <u>Supra</u> note 13.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization</u> or of the Commission

The proposed rule changes are based on similar FINRA rule changes.¹⁶

- 9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u> Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

- 11. <u>Exhibits</u>
 - 1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.

¹⁶ <u>Supra</u> note 10.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2021-033)

April ___, 2021

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Expiration Date of the Temporary Amendments Concerning Video Conference Hearings

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on April 28, 2021, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" 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 Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,³ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. 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> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary

amendments in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076 from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021.⁴ The proposed rule change would not make any changes to the text of the Exchange rules.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁴ If the Exchange seeks to provide additional temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposed rule change beyond August 31, 2021, the

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at

https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/nasdaq/rules, 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 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 Exchange proposes to continue to harmonize Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 with recent changes by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") to its Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 in response to the COVID-19 global health crisis and the corresponding need to restrict in-person activities. The Exchange originally filed proposed rule change SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, which allows the Exchange's Office of Hearing Officers ("OHO") and the Exchange Review Council ("ERC") to conduct hearings, on a temporary basis, by video conference, if warranted by the current COVID-19-related public health risks posed by an in-person hearing. In December 2020, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change, SR-NASDAQ-2020-092, to

Exchange will submit a separate rule filing to further extend the temporary extension of time. The amended Exchange rules will revert to their original form at the conclusion of the temporary relief period and any extension thereof.

extend the expiration date of the temporary amendments in SR- NASDAQ-2020-076 from December 31, 2020, to April 30, 2021.⁵ While there are signs of improvement, the COVID-19 conditions necessitating these temporary amendments persist and, based on its assessment of current COVID-19 conditions and the lack of certainty as to when COVID-19-related health concerns and corresponding restrictions will meaningfully subside, the Exchange has determined that there is a continued need for this temporary relief for several months beyond April 30, 2021. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary rule amendments in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076 from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021.

On November 5, 2020, the Exchange filed, and subsequently extended to April 30, 2021, SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, to temporarily amend Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 to grant OHO and the ERC authority⁶ to conduct hearings in connection with appeals of Membership Application Program decisions, disciplinary actions, eligibility proceedings and temporary and permanent cease and desist orders by video conference, if warranted by the COVID-19-related public health risks posed by an in-

 ⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90774 (December 22, 2020), 85 FR
 86614 (December 30, 2020) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File
 No. SR-NASDAQ-2020-092).

⁶ For OHO hearings under Exchange Rules 9261 and 9830, the proposed rule change temporarily grants authority to the Chief or Deputy Chief Hearing Officer to order that a hearing be conducted by video conference. For ERC hearings under Exchange Rules 1015 and 9524, this temporary authority is granted to the ERC or relevant Subcommittee.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90390 (November 10, 2020), 85 FR 73302 (November 17, 2020) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-NASDAQ-2020-076); supra note 5.

As set forth in the previous filings, the Exchange also relies on COVID-19 data and the guidance issued by public health authorities to determine whether the current public health risks presented by an in-person hearing may warrant a hearing by video conference.⁸ Based on that data and guidance, the Exchange does not believe the COVID-19- related health concerns necessitating this relief will meaningfully subside by April 30, 2021, and has determined that there will be a continued need for this temporary relief for several months beyond that date. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary rule amendments originally set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076 from April 30, 2021, to August 31, 2021. The extension of these temporary amendments allowing for specified OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference will allow the Exchange's critical adjudicatory functions to continue to operate effectively in these extraordinary circumstances – enabling the Exchange to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets – while also protecting the health and safety of hearing participants.

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, so the Exchange can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

⁸ As noted in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, the temporary proposed rule change grants discretion to OHO and the ERC to order a video conference hearing. In deciding whether to schedule a hearing by video conference, OHO and the ERC may consider a variety of other factors in addition to COVID-19 trends.

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2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest, by continuing to provide greater harmonization between the Exchange rules and FINRA rules of similar purpose,¹¹ resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance.

The proposed rule change, which extends the expiration date of the temporary amendments to the Exchange rules set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, will continue to aid the Exchange's efforts to timely conduct hearings in connection with its core adjudicatory functions. Given current COVID-19 conditions and the uncertainty around when those conditions will meaningfully improve, without this relief allowing OHO and ERC hearings to continue to proceed by video conference, such hearings may need to be postponed indefinitely. The Exchange must be able to perform its critical adjudicatory functions in order to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets. As such, this relief is essential to the Exchange's ability to fulfill its statutory obligations and allows hearing participants to avoid the serious COVID-19related health and safety risks associated with in-person hearings.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹¹ <u>See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 91495 (April 7, 2021), 86 FR 19306</u> (April 13, 2021) (SR-FINRA-2021-006).

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Among other things, this relief will allow OHO to conduct temporary cease and desist proceedings by video conference so that the Exchange can take immediate action to stop ongoing customer harm and will allow the ERC to timely provide members, disqualified individuals and other applicants an approval or denial of their applications. As set forth in detail in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, this temporary relief allowing OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference accounts for fair process considerations and will continue to provide fair process while avoiding the COVID-19-related public health risks for hearing participants. Accordingly, the proposed rule change extending this temporary relief is in the public interest and consistent with the Act's purpose.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the temporary proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-076, the proposed rule change is intended solely to extend temporary relief necessitated by the continued impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and the related health and safety risks of conducting in-person activities. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will prevent unnecessary impediments to its operations, including its critical adjudicatory processes, and its ability to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets that would otherwise result if the temporary amendments were to expire on April 30, 2021.

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.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹² and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹³

A proposed rule change filed under Rule $19b-4(f)(6)^{14}$ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁵ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately 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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

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 (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov.</u> Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2021-033 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.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2021-033. 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

(http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml).

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-NASDAQ-2021-033 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

J. Matthew DeLesDernier Assistant Secretary

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).