

**Frost Brokerage Services, Inc.**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2015**

**Note 1 - Organization and Nature of Operations**

Frost Brokerage Services, Inc. is registered as a fully disclosed, introducing broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The terms "the Company," "we," "us" and "our" mean Frost Brokerage Services, Inc., when appropriate. We principally engage in executing general securities transactions on behalf of our clients. We operate under a clearing agreement with National Financial Services Company ("NFS"), whereby NFS assumes and maintains our customer accounts on a fully disclosed basis.

We are a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") and are subject to regulation by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and FINRA. We are also a member of the Securities Investors Protection Company ("SIPC"), a nonprofit membership company designed to protect, up to specified amounts, customers' cash and securities in the event of the liquidation of a broker-dealer.

We are a wholly owned subsidiary of Frost Bank, a wholly owned banking subsidiary of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. ("Cullen/Frost").

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

We follow accounting and financial reporting policies that conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and to general practices within the securities industry.

*Subsequent Events.* We have evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition and/or disclosure through the date these financial statements were issued. No subsequent events occurred during this period that require recognition or disclosure in these financial statements.

*Estimates.* The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Revenue Recognition.* We derive commission and trading revenues from customer transactions in securities, annuities and life insurance. Commission and trading revenues and related expenses from transactions are recognized on a trade-date basis. Nearly all of our revenue is generated from customers located in Texas. Based on existing agreements, we receive cash marketing allowances from third party mutual fund companies to be used for marketing-related expenditures. Marketing allowances are accounted for as a reduction of marketing expenses when the marketing expense is incurred. The remaining marketing allowance balance at December 31, 2015, is reported as deferred income in the accompanying Statement of Financial Condition, as these are the estimated marketing expenses.

*Securities Owned.* Securities owned are valued at estimated fair value as determined by quoted market values. The resulting differences between cost and fair value are included as a component of trading income in the accompanying statement of income.

*Brokerage Commissions Receivable, Net.* Brokerage commissions receivable is comprised of revenue related to brokerage commissions, 12b-1 fees and mutual funds concessions, interest income and other income receivable for transactions cleared through various third parties. Brokerage commission receivable are presented net of fees payable due to the third parties. We consider brokerage commissions receivable fully collectible as all receivables have been collected subsequent to period end but before the date these financial statements were issued; therefore management has concluded that no allowance is required.

*Trading Income Receivable.* Trading income receivable represents the markup earned from fixed income security trade transactions and not yet received. We consider trading income receivable fully collectible as all receivables have been collected subsequent to period end; therefore management has concluded that no allowance is required.



*Income taxes:* Our operations are included in the consolidated federal income tax return filed by Cullen/Frost using a calendar year-end. Our federal income tax provision is determined as if we filed a separate return using the consolidated statutory federal income tax rate for Cullen/Frost (35% during the period presented), as this is the rate charged to us by Cullen/Frost.

### **Note 3 - Transactions with Customers**

NFS clears transactions for our customers and carries the accounts of such customers on a fully disclosed basis as customers of NFS. We do not hold customer cash or securities in connection with such transactions.

We do not generally extend credit to customers. However, in the limited instances where we do extend credit to customers through the clearing broker, we seek to control the risks associated with these activities by requiring customers to maintain margin collateral in compliance with various regulatory and internal guidelines. We, in addition to the clearing broker, monitor required margin levels daily and, pursuant to such guidelines, request customers to deposit additional collateral or reduce securities positions when necessary.

As an introducing broker, we clear all transactions with and for customers on a fully disclosed basis with a clearing broker and promptly transmit all customer funds and securities to the clearing broker who carries all of the accounts of such customers. These activities expose us to off-balance-sheet risk in the event that the customer and/or clearing broker is unable to fulfill its obligations. We have agreed to indemnify the clearing broker for any losses sustained from customer accounts we introduced. At December 31, 2015, there were no material amounts to be indemnified to the clearing broker for such customer accounts.

### **Note 4 - Securities Owned**

At December 31, 2015, trading securities totaled \$16.4 million and consisted entirely of short-term U.S. Treasury securities reported at estimated fair value with changes in unrealized holding gains and losses included in income. These securities are not purchased to be resold to customers and are for our investment and liquidity purposes only. All securities owned at December 31, 2015 will contractually mature within one year. Securities with carrying amounts totaling \$59 thousand at December 31, 2015, were pledged to NFS for surety purposes.

### **Note 5 - Employee Benefit Plans**

As a subsidiary, we participate in various employee benefit plans offered by Cullen/Frost, including a 401(k) stock purchase plan, a defined benefit pension plan, a profit sharing plan and various stock-based compensation plans. Expenses related to these plans are included in employee compensation and benefits in the accompanying Statement of Income.

The 401(k) stock purchase plan is a defined contribution plan whereby participants are permitted to make before- or after-tax contributions in an amount no less than 2% and not exceeding 50% of eligible compensation and subject to dollar limits from Internal Revenue Service regulations. We match 100% of employee contributions to the plan based on the amount of each participant's contributions up to a maximum of 6% of eligible compensation. The matching contribution is initially invested in Cullen/Frost common stock. However, employees may immediately reallocate the matching portion, as well as invest their individual contribution, to any of a variety of investment alternatives offered under the plan. Eligible employees must complete 90 days of service in order to enroll and vest in matching contributions immediately. The plan covers substantially all eligible employees. Expense related to this plan totaled \$392 thousand during 2015.

The defined benefit pension plan (the "Retirement Plan") is a non-contributory plan that was frozen as of December 31, 2001. The plan provides pension and death benefits to substantially all employees who had attained the age of 21 years and had completed at least one year of service prior to December 31, 2001. Expense is recognized based upon actual contributions to the plans. There were no contributions, and thus no expense, related to this plan during 2015.

The profit-sharing plan is a defined contribution retirement plan that allows us to make discretionary annual contributions to individual eligible employee accounts based upon Cullen/Frost's fiscal-year profitability. Eligible employees must have completed at least one year of service and are age 21 or older. Contributions are allocated to



eligible participants pro rata, based upon compensation, age, and other factors. Plan participants self-direct the investment of allocated contributions by selecting from a variety of investment alternatives offered under the plan. Account assets are subject to withdrawal restrictions and participants vest in their accounts after three years of service. Expense related to this plan totaled \$492 thousand during 2015.

Certain employees are granted stock-based compensation awards. Compensation expense is based on the fair value of awards on the measurement date, which is generally the date of grant, and is recognized ratably over the requisite service period of the award. Stock-based compensation expense totaled \$158 thousand during 2015.

#### Note 6 - Income Taxes

We are included in the consolidated federal income tax return filed by Cullen/Frost. Our income tax provision is computed in accordance with a tax sharing agreement whereby we are paid for the tax benefit of any loss provided to Cullen/Frost, or alternatively, we pay Cullen/Frost for the incremental tax liability resulting from any profit we realize. We file separate or combined state and local income/margin tax returns where applicable. State and local taxes have been provided for in these financial statements.

The components of income tax expense for 2015 are presented in the table below:

Current income tax expense:	
Federal	\$ 628,795
State	17,812
Deferred income tax benefit	(67,024)
Income tax expense, as reported	<u>\$ 579,583</u>

Reported income tax expense for 2015 differs from the amount computed by applying the U.S. federal statutory income tax rate of 35% to income before income taxes as follows:

Income tax expense computed at the statutory rate	\$ 557,404
Meals and entertainment	8,933
Dues and membership	1,668
State tax expense	11,578
Income tax expense, as reported	<u>\$ 579,583</u>

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are the expected future tax amounts resulting from the temporary differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and the tax bases of assets and liabilities, computed using enacted tax rates. Deferred taxes at December 31, 2015 were as follows.

Deferred tax assets:	
Stock-based compensation	\$ 259,912
Deferred tax liabilities:	
Prepaid expenses	(39,517)
Net deferred tax asset	<u>\$ 220,395</u>

No valuation allowance for deferred tax assets was recorded at December 31, 2015, as management believes it is more likely than not that all of the deferred tax assets will be realized as we will be paid for the benefit of any losses we provide to the consolidated entity pursuant to the tax sharing agreement.

Accounting Standards Codification ASC 740, Income Taxes, prescribes criteria for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. There were no significant tax positions taken by management that required accrual as of December 31, 2015.



## Note 7 - Related-Party Transactions

*Intercompany Management and Administrative Expenses.* Frost Bank provides us certain management and administrative services in accordance with a management services agreement that is reviewed and updated annually. The services provided include, but are not limited to, payroll processing, audit, marketing support, technical support, and financial operations. We reimbursed Frost Bank for the cost of these services, which totaled \$358 thousand for 2015 and is included in general and administrative expense in the accompanying Statement of Income.

*Rental Expense.* Effective June 1, 2013, we entered into a five-year rental agreement with Frost Bank to lease our existing corporate office space. In addition, effective January 1, 2015, we entered into a desk rental licensing agreement with Frost Bank wherein Frost Bank provides us with office space at various Frost Bank branch locations. Under the terms of the agreement, the license period commenced on January 1, 2015 and continues for successive 12-month periods until terminated by sixty days' prior written notice by either party. Rental expense for the corporate office lease and the desk rental license agreement totaled \$120 thousand and \$91 thousand, respectively, for 2015 and is included in occupancy and equipment expenses in the accompanying Statement of Income.

Future minimum payments due under our non-cancelable corporate office lease and desk rental license agreement at December 31, 2015, are as follows:

2016	\$ 135,344
2017	120,240
2018	50,100
	<u>\$ 305,684</u>

*Managed Accounts at Frost Bank.* Certain of our employees who perform brokerage duties for us also manage fiduciary investment accounts for Frost Bank. During 2015, Frost Bank reimbursed us \$2.5 million related the management of these fiduciary investment accounts by our employees. This reimbursement was included as a reduction to employee compensation and benefits expense in the accompanying Statement of Income.

## Note 8 - Net Capital Requirements

The Company is subject to the SEC Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1 (and the rule of the applicable exchange also provides that equity capital may not be withdrawn or cash dividends be paid if the resulting net capital ratio exceeds 10 to 1). At December 31, 2015, we had net capital of \$16.5 million, which was \$16.2 million in excess of our required net capital of \$250 thousand. At such date, the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 4.23%.

## Note 9 - Marketing Allowances

We have entered into agreements with various mutual fund companies which allows us to receive cash marketing allowances to pay for certain marketing-related expenditures. Marketing allowances received are accounted for as a reduction of marketing expenses when the marketing expenses are incurred. As of December 31, 2015, deferred income related to the estimated marketing expenses to be incurred in future periods that relate to marketing allowances received in the prior year, totaled \$28 thousand.

## **Note 10 - Fair Value Measurements**

The fair value of an asset or liability is the price that would be received to sell that asset or paid to transfer that liability in an orderly transaction occurring in the principal market (or most advantageous market in the absence of a principal market) for such asset or liability. In estimating fair value, we utilize valuation techniques that are consistent with the market approach. Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 820 "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures" establishes a fair value hierarchy for valuation inputs that gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs. The fair value hierarchy includes (i) Level 1 inputs that are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, (ii) Level 2 inputs that are inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly and (iii) Level 3 inputs that are unobservable inputs for determining the fair values of assets or liabilities that reflect assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the assets or liabilities.

All of our securities owned are reported at fair value utilizing Level 1 inputs. For these securities, we obtain fair value measurements from an independent pricing service. We review the fair value measurements for reasonableness to ensure such prices are aligned with traditional pricing matrices.

## **Note 11 - Accounting Standards Updates**

*ASU 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)."* ASU 2014-09 implements a common revenue standard that clarifies the principles for recognizing revenue. The core principle of ASU 2014-09 is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. To achieve that core principle, an entity should apply the following steps: (i) identify the contract(s) with a customer, (ii) identify the performance obligations in the contract, (iii) determine the transaction price, (iv) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract and (v) recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. ASU 2014-09 was originally going to be effective for us on January 1, 2017; however, the FASB recently issued *ASU 2015-14, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) – Deferral of the Effective Date"* which deferred the effective date of ASU 2014-09 by one year to January 1, 2018. We are currently evaluating the potential impact of ASU 2014-09 on our financial statements.

*ASU 2015-01, "Income Statement - Extraordinary and Unusual Items (Subtopic 225-20) - Simplifying Income Statement Presentation by Eliminating the Concept of Extraordinary Items."* ASU 2015-01 eliminates from U.S. GAAP the concept of extraordinary items, which, among other things, required an entity to segregate extraordinary items considered to be unusual and infrequent from the results of ordinary operations and show the item separately in the income statement, net of tax, after income from continuing operations. ASU 2015-01 is effective for us beginning January 1, 2016, though early adoption is permitted. ASU 2015-01 is not expected to have a significant impact on our financial statements.