

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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**ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT**

SEC FILE NUMBER
8-39031

**FORM X-17A-5**

**PART III**

**FACING PAGE**

**Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder**

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/18 AND ENDING 12/31/18  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION**

NAME OF BROKER - DEALER:

Middlegate Securities Ltd.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FIRM ID. NO.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

8 West 40<sup>th</sup> Street, 4th Floor  
(d Street)

New York NY 10018-3805  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

Howard Spindel (212) 897-1688  
(Area Code - Telephone No.)

**B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION**

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*

Mazars USA LLP

(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)

135 West 50th Street New York NY 10020  
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

**CHECK ONE:**

- ☒ Certified Public Accountant  
☐ Public Accountant  
☐ Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

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\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2). SEC 1410 (3-91)

# Middlegate Securities Ltd.

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**This report \*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):**

- ☒ Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- ☒ Facing Page.
- ☒ Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☐ Statement of Operations.
- ☐ Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity.
- ☐ Statement of Cash Flows.
- ☐ Statement of Changes in Subordinated Loans Payable (not applicable).
- ☐ Computation of Net Capital for Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Rule 15c3-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- ☐ Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements for Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- ☐ Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements for Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (not applicable).
- ☐ A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanations, of the Computation of Net Capital Pursuant to Rule 15c3-1 (included with item (g)) and the Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3 (included in item (g)).
- ☐ A Reconciliation Between the Audited and Unaudited Statements of Financial Condition With Respect to Methods of Consolidation (not applicable).
- ☒ An Affirmation.
- ☐ A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- ☐ Independent Accountants' Report on Statement of Exemption from Rule 15c3-3
- ☐ Statement of Exemption from Rule 15c3-3

**\*\*** For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

**MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**


**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

# **AFFIRMATION**

I, Steven Ostrofsky, affirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the accompanying statement of financial condition pertaining to Middlegate Securities Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2018, is true and correct. I further affirm that neither the Company nor any officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer.

  
Signature

President  
Title

  
Notary Public

<p>KIM R CREAN Notary Public, State of New York Registration #01CR6306616 Qualified In Queens County Commission Expires June 23, 2022</p>
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## *Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm*

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
*Middlegate Securities Ltd.*

### **Opinion on the Financial Statement**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Middlegate Securities Ltd., (the “Company”), as of December 31, 2018, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statement”). In our opinion, the statement of financial condition presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company, as of December 31, 2018, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinion**

This financial statement is the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statement based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Mazars USA LLP*

We have served as the Company’s auditor since 2014.

New York, NY  
February 26, 2019

MAZARS USA LLP

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MAZARS USA LLP IS AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER FIRM OF MAZARS GROUP.



# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2018

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### ASSETS

Cash	\$ 490,450
Securities owned, at fair value	31,359,959
Receivable from clearing broker, net	2,076,920
Interest receivable	131,225
Prepaid expenses and other assets	116,474
Due from stockholders, net	7,901,630
Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements less accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$959,051	103,516
Restricted collateral deposit	<u>64,320</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 42,244,494</u>

### LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

#### Liabilities

Payable to clearing broker, net	\$ 13,734,003
Securities sold short, at fair value	12,145,243
Interest payable	180,366
Accrued expenses payable	1,273,126
Subordinated loans payable	2,500,000
Deferred rent payable	558,231
Income tax payable	<u>11,765</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>30,402,734</u>

#### Stockholders' Equity

Common stock, no par value, 200 shares authorized 100 shares issued and outstanding	400,000
Retained earnings	<u>11,441,760</u>
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>11,841,760</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$ 42,244,494</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.



# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement December 31, 2018

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### 1. ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF BUSINESS

Middlegate Securities Ltd. (the "Company"), a New York State "S" Corporation, is a broker-dealer registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"). The Company clears all of its customer transactions through two clearing broker-dealers on a fully disclosed basis and buys and sells primarily corporate securities and municipal bonds.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Use of Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statement. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Securities** – The Company's securities owned and securities sold short are stated at fair value (See Note 5).

**Depreciation and Amortization** - Depreciation on furniture and equipment is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the remaining term of the lease.

**Income Taxes** - The provision for income taxes is based on income and expenses reported in the financial statements. The Company has elected to be treated as an "S" Corporation under Federal and New York State income tax law. Accordingly, no provision has been made for Federal income tax because Federal income taxes are imposed on the stockholders based on their respective allocation of net income. New York State special franchise and surcharge taxes and New York City corporation tax are provided for in the financial statements.

The amount of current and deferred taxes payable or refundable is recognized as of the date of the financial statements, utilizing currently enacted tax laws and rates. Deferred tax expenses or benefits are recognized in the financial statements for changes in deferred tax liabilities or assets between years.

The Company recognizes and measures its unrecognized tax benefits in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Under that guidance, the Company assesses the likelihood, based on their technical merits, that tax positions will be sustained upon examination based on the facts, circumstances, and information available at the end of each period. The measurement of unrecognized tax benefits is adjusted when new information is available or when an event occurs that requires a change.

# **MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.**

## **Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018**

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### **3. OFF-BALANCE-SHEET RISK AND CONCENTRATIONS**

Pursuant to its clearing agreements, the Company introduces all of its securities transactions to each clearing broker on a fully disclosed basis. The Company has agreed to indemnify each clearing broker for losses, if any, from carrying securities transactions introduced by the Company. In accordance with industry practices and regulatory requirements, the Company and the clearing firms monitor collateral on the customer accounts on a daily basis. The Company's securities are held by its clearing brokers and in the case of one of its clearing brokers, serves as collateral for its margin balance and short position (See Note 4).

In the normal course of business, substantially all of the Company's securities transactions, money balances, and security positions are transacted with the Company's clearing brokers. The Company is subject to credit risk to the extent any broker with which it conducts business is unable to fulfill contractual obligations on its behalf. The Company's management monitors the financial condition of such brokers and does not anticipate any losses from these counterparties.

The Company is subject to certain inherent risks arising from selling securities short. The ultimate cost to the Company to acquire these securities may exceed the liability reflected in these financial statements.

Due from stockholders includes significant concentrations (See Note 6).

At various times throughout the year ended December 31, 2018, the Company maintained cash balances or securities positions with major financial institutions.

The Company does not consider itself to be at risk with respect to any of its concentrations.

### **4. DUE FROM/TO CLEARING BROKERS**

The Company has an agreement with National Financial Services, LLC ("NFS"), a Fidelity Investments company, to act as the Company's clearing broker. The net amount due from the clearing broker consists of the balances in the Company's various trading accounts maintained by NFS. Included in the receivable balance at December 31, 2018, is a deposit of \$100,000 required by NFS for operating the accounts.

The Company also has an agreement with Wedbush Securities Inc. to clear its securities transactions. There is a net balance due to the clearing broker due to securities purchased on margin. The payable balance is net of a clearing deposit in the amount of \$200,000.



# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018

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### 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

U.S. GAAP defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Valuation techniques that are consistent with the market, income or cost approach are used to measure fair value.

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels:

- Level 1 - Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access.
- Level 2 – Significant other observable inputs, which may include, but are not limited to, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in markets that are active, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets or liabilities (such as interest rates, yield curves, volatilities, prepayment speeds, loss severities, credit risks and default rates) or other market corroborated inputs.
- Level 3 - Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability that rely on management's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. The unobservable inputs are developed based on the best information available in the circumstances and may include the Company's own data.

The availability of observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of security, the liquidity of markets, and other characteristics particular to the security. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3.

The inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement falls in its entirety is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018

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### 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

The following table presents the Company's fair value hierarchy for the investments measured at fair value as of December 31, 2018:

#### Securities owned, at fair value

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Corporate stock	\$ -	\$ 194	\$ -	\$ 194
Municipal bonds	-	31,111,449	-	31,111,449
Corporate bonds	-	137,216	-	137,216
Investment in private company	-	-	111,100	111,100
Total	\$ -	\$ 31,248,859	\$ 111,100	\$ 31,359,959

#### Securities sold short, at fair value

Corporate stock	\$ -	\$ (3)	\$ -	\$ (3)
U.S. Government bonds	(12,145,240)	-	-	(12,145,240)
Total	\$ (12,145,240)	\$ (3)	\$ -	\$ (12,145,243)

The fair value of Level 2 municipal and corporate bonds is estimated using recently executed transactions or data of comparable issuers, market price quotations (when observable), or bond spreads obtained from independent external parties, such as vendors and brokers, adjusted for any basis difference. Municipal and corporate bonds are generally categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy; in instances when prices, spreads, or any of the aforementioned key inputs are unobservable, they are categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The Level 3 corporate debt is valued at a price which takes into account the fact that it is highly illiquid.

Investment in private company is valued using a model based on the most recent valuation included in a round of financing related to a holding of the investee company. This model indicates that the cost of the investment approximates fair value. The President of the Company is also the Managing Member of the investee company, and stockholders of the Company directly invest in this investment.

# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018

### 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

The following table summarizes changes in fair value of the Company's Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2018. The Company recognizes all transfers between levels at the beginning of the reporting period.

	Corporate Bonds	Investment in Private Company	Total
<b>Balance-December 31, 2017</b>	\$ 3,656	\$ 111,100	\$ 114,756
Unrealized loss	(3,656)		(3,656)
<b>Balance-December 31, 2018</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 111,100</u>	<u>\$ 111,100</u>
Change in unrealized gains (losses) in earnings relating to assets still held	<u>\$ (3,656)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (3,656)</u>

The following summarizes the quantitative information about Level 3 fair value measurements as of December 31, 2018. Certain assets that are categorized within Level 3 are not disclosed below because the Company does not develop quantitative unobservable inputs when measuring the fair value of these assets.

Level 3 Investments	Fair Value	Valuation Technique	Unobservable Input	Input Values
Investment in private company	\$ 111,100	Utilization of recent funding	Built into most recent funding	Valuation of significant investment of investee
Total Level 3 Investments	<u>\$ 111,100</u>			



# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018

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### 6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

**Due from stockholders** – Amounts due from stockholders of \$8,259,330 as of December 31, 2018, bear interest based on the Short Term Applicable Federal Rate and have no definitive due date. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the effective annual interest rate used was 1.52%. Interest income for the year ended December 31, 2018 with respect to these loans, totaled \$123,663. Total amount due from stockholders is net of \$357,700 payable to two of the stockholders and does not bear interest.

**Sublease arrangement** - See Note 8.

**Subordinated loans and loans payable** - See Note 12.

### 7. RETIREMENT PLAN

The Company maintains a deferred compensation plan for eligible employees. The Company may, at its discretion contribute up to 25% of eligible compensation. The Company elected not to make contributions to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2018.

### 8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

**Leases** – The Company has a lease on its New York City office space (amended in May 2014), which expires on May 31, 2024. In accordance with the original lease terms, the Company provided the lessor with a letter of credit in the amount of \$60,000 to secure its obligations under the lease. The letter of credit is collateralized by a certificate of deposit of approximately the same amount.

Deferred rent payable relating to a free rent period represents the unamortized portion of that amount.

The Company subleases a part of its office space under a sublease agreement expiring on May 30, 2024. The sublessee is required to pay the Company 25% of fixed rent, its proportionate share of real estate taxes and miscellaneous expenses which may be due to the landlord. In addition, the Company subleases a portion of the premises to affiliates on an informal month-to-month basis.

# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018

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### 8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (continued)

Minimum annual rental commitments under non-cancelable leases are as follows at December 31, 2018:

<u>Year ending December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Sublease Income</u>	<u>Net Lease Commitments</u>
2019	\$ 632,971	\$ 158,243	\$ 474,728
2020	701,691	175,423	526,268
2021	717,479	179,370	538,109
2022	733,623	183,406	550,217
2023	750,129	187,532	562,597
2024	315,446	78,862	236,584
	<u>\$ 3,851,339</u>	<u>\$ 962,836</u>	<u>\$ 2,888,503</u>

**Litigation** - The Company is a defendant to various legal proceedings arising from the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, based on the advice of legal counsel, there are no proceedings pending, or to the knowledge of management, threatened, which in the event of an adverse decision would result in a material adverse impact in the financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

**Employment agreements** – The Company maintains employment agreements with two employees, which expired on September 29, 2018, and were automatically extended for one year. The Company agrees to pay base salary and advances on income earned and an incentive bonus based on net income earned.

**Regulation** – In the ordinary course of its business, the Company is subject to various complex regulations and examinations and scrutiny from regulatory authorities. In the opinion of management, none of these factors are expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

# MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.

## Notes to Financial Statement Year Ended December 31, 2018

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### 9. CURRENT AND DEFERRED TAXES

The income tax provision as of December 31, 2018 is summarized as follows:

Current - State and local	\$ 75,360
Deferred - local	-
Total provision for income taxes	<u>\$ 75,360</u>

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. The deferred tax assets amount to \$199,422, are related to unused excess charitable contributions. These deferred tax assets are fully reserved for.

### 10. FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements consist of the following:

Furniture and equipment	\$ 736,488
Leasehold improvements	326,079
	<u>1,062,567</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	959,051
	<u>\$ 103,516</u>

### 11. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The Company is subject to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-1 under which it is required to maintain minimum net capital of at least \$250,000, pursuant to the Alternative Standard of that rule. At December 31, 2018, the Company's net capital of approximately \$3,827,000 exceeded minimum requirements by approximately \$3,577,000.

All customer transactions are cleared through other broker-dealers on a fully disclosed basis. Therefore, in accordance with paragraph (k)(2)(ii) of Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Company is not required to maintain a separate bank account for the exclusive benefit of customers nor to segregate securities.



# **MIDDLEGATE SECURITIES LTD.**

## **Notes to Financial Statement December 31, 2018**

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### **12. SUBORDINATED LOANS PAYABLE**

The Company has subordinated loan agreements with two of its stockholders and two of its affiliates with amounts totaling \$2,000,000 and \$500,000, respectively. These loans expire from May 2019 through June 2020 and contain a rollover provision. Interest of 8% per annum is paid yearly.

### **13. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

Effective January 1, 2019, any operating leases will be subject to ASU 2016-02 which calls for the right to use lease assets and the present value of future lease payments to be reflected on the Company's Statement of Financial Condition. While this will increase the total assets by approximately \$2,775,000 and total liabilities by approximately \$2,775,000, the Company does not expect that this change in generally accepted accounting principles will have any material effect on its overall financial condition, its operations or its regulatory compliance.