



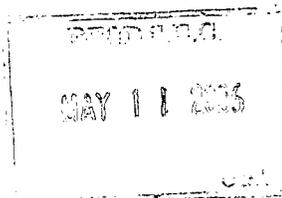
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American Stock Exchange
86 Trinity Place
New York, NY 10006-1872

May 11, 2006

Mr. Brian Johnson
Branch Chief
Filer Support 2
Office of Filing Information
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20549



Dear Mr. Johnson:

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MAY 17 2006

THOMSON
FINANCIAL

This is to certify that on May 11, 2006 the American Stock Exchange LLC (the "Exchange") received from The First Israel Fund, Inc. (the "Registrant") a copy of the Registrant's and application on Form 8-A for the registration of the following securities:

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

We further certify that the above described securities have been approved by the Exchange for listing and registration.

We understand that the Registrant is seeking immediate acceleration of the effective date of registration, and we hereby join in such request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bryan Fischer".

Bryan Fischer
Managing Director
Listing Qualifications Department

cc: Herbert Scholl