Docket #0020 Date Filed: 4/14/2014

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7 8	Proposed Counsel for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession	tpilatowicz@gordonsilver.com	
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10	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA		
11	In re:	Case No.: BK-S-14-12524-abl	
12	TELEXFREE, LLC,	Chapter 11	
13 14	Affects this Debtor	[PROPOSED] Jointly Administered with:	
15	Affects all Debtors	14-12525-abl TelexFree, Inc. 14-12526-abl TelexFree Financial, Inc	
16	Affects TELEXFREE, INC.		
17	Affects TELEXFREE FINANCIAL, INC	Date: April 17, 2014 Time: 1:30 p.m.	
18 19	APPLICATION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME TO HEAR DEBTORS' FIRST DAY MOTIONS AND APPLICATIONS		
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21	The above-captioned debtors and debtors-in-possession (collectively, the "Debtors") <sup>1</sup>		
22	hereby submit this ex parte application (the "Application") requesting that this Court hear		
23	Debtors' first day motions (collectively, the "First Day Motions") as hereinafter described on		
24	shortened time as the relief requested in the First Day Motions is necessary to Debtors'		
25	continued operation as a going concern following Debtors' filing of their voluntary petitions for		
26 27	·	th the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax, TelexFree, Inc. (1309) and TelexFree Financial, Inc.	

identification number, are: TelexFree, LLC (0853), TelexFree, Inc. (1309) and TelexFree Financial, Inc (7555). The Debtors' business address is 225 Cedar Hill Street, Suite 200, Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752.



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relief (the "Voluntary Petitions") [ECF No. 1] under Chapter <sup>2</sup>11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The First Day Motions are necessary in order to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the estate and all creditors.

Specifically, Debtors' First Day Motions are as follows:

- 1. Emergency Motion of the Debtors for an Order Directing Joint Administration of Chapter 11 Cases (the "Joint Administration Motion");
- 2. Emergency Motion of the Debtors Pursuant to Sections 105(a), 363, 364, 503, 507(a)(4), 507(a)(5), 541, 1007 and 1008 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 6003 and 6004(h) for Entry of an Order (A) Authorizing Debtors to Pay (I) All Prepetition Employee Obligations, (II) the Independent Contractors' Fees and (III) the Contracting Agencies' Fees and (B) Directing the Disbursing Bank to Honor Related Transfers (the "Wages Motion");
- 3. Emergency Motion of the Debtors for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing the Debtors to Pay Prepetition Income, Franchise and Similar Taxes and Regulator Fees in the Ordinary Court of Business, and (II) Authorizing Banks and Financial Institutions to Honor and Process Checks and Transfers Related Thereto (the "Taxes Motion");
- 4. Emergency Motion of the Debtors for Entry of Interim and Final Orders Pursuant to Section 105(a) and 366 of the Bankruptcy Code (I) Prohibiting Utilities from Altering, Refusing, or Discontinuing Service, (II) Deeming Utilities Adequately Assured of Future Performance, and (III) Establishing Procedures for Determine Adequate Assurance of Payment (the "Utilities Motion");
- 5. Emergency Motion of the Debtors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Debtors to Honor Prepetition Prepaid Voice Over Internet Protocol Telephone Minutes (the "Consumer Programs Motion");
- 6. Emergency Motion of the Debtors to Pursuant to Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules 1007, 2002(l), 2002(m), and 9007, Local Rule 2002 for Entry of an Order Approving Notice Procedures (the "Notice Motion");
- 7. Emergency Motion of the Debtors for Entry of an Order Designating and Approving the Form and Manner of Notice of the Motion of the Debtors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Debtors to Reject Certain Executory

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> All references to "<u>Chapter</u>" and "<u>Section</u>" herein shall be to the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>" appearing in Title 11 of the U.S. code; all references to a "<u>Bankruptcy Rule</u>" shall refer to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure; and all references to a "<u>Local Rule</u>" shall refer to the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

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## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

# BACKGROUND

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TelexFree, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company ("TelexFree Nevada"), 1. TelexFree, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation ("TelexFree Massachusetts") and TelexFree Financial, Inc., a Florida corporation ("TelexFree Florida" and together with TelexFree Massachusetts and TelexFree Nevada, "TelexFree," the "Debtors" or the "Company") are a telecommunications business that uses multi-level marketing to assist in the distribution of voice over internet protocol ("VoIP") telephone services. TelexFree's retail VoIP product, 99TelexFree, allows for unlimited international calling to approximately seventy countries for a flat monthly rate of \$49.90. Customers of the Debtors' VoIP product ("Customers") used approximately 11 million minutes of the 99TelexFree VoIP service in February 2014. Since 99TelexFree was introduced in 2012, Customer usage increased on a monthly basis until March 2014.

2. TelexFree is operated as a multi-level marketing company, and currently has over 700,000 associates or promoters (the "Promoters") worldwide. Prior to the filing of these the above captioned chapter 11 cases ("Chapter 11 Cases"), TelexFree compensated Promoters for the sales of the VoIP product, the placing of advertisements and the recruitment of other Promoters down line. Because questions were raised about its compensation plan, the Company on March 9, 2014, discontinued its original compensation plan (the "Original Comp Plan") and replaced the Original Comp Plan with a revised compensation plan (the "Revised Comp Plan" and together with the Original Comp Plan, the "Pre-Petition Comp Plans"). At the time of the roll-out of the Revised Comp Plan, the Company decided to honor certain discretionary payments to Promoters under the Original Comp Plan. These discretionary payments quickly became a substantial drain on the Company's liquidity. The Company discontinued the Pre-Petition Comp Plans and ceased making discretionary payments under the Original Comp Plan prior to April 13, 2014 ("Petition Date").

- 3. The Company believes the sales of the 99TelexFree product, the TelexFree "app," and other new products will ultimately prove successful and profitable. The Company is struggling, however, with several factors that required it to seek chapter 11 protection by filing these Chapter 11 Cases. First, the Company experienced exponential growth in revenue between 2012 and 2013 (from de minimus amounts to over \$1 billion), which put tremendous pressure on the Company's financial, operational and management systems. Second, although the Company revised its Original Comp Plan in order to address certain questions that were raised regarding such plan, the Company believes that the Pre-Petition Comp Plans need to be further revised. Finally, the trailing liabilities arising from the Original Comp Plan are difficult to quantify and have resulted in substantial asserted liabilities against the Company, a number of which may not be valid.
- 4. As a result, the Company filed these Chapter 11 Cases to obtain the breathing room to address its operational and regulatory issues, revise the Pre-Petition Comp Plans, and quantify and address the claims against it. The Company believes that a restructuring of its debt, adoption of a post-petition revised compensation plan, unveiling of new products (including the TelexFree app), and return to growing its Customer base will allow the Company to realize its full potential and generate significant value for its constituents.

## II. FIRST DAY MOTIONS

## A. The Joint Administration Motion

- 1. The Debtors request the joint administration of the Debtors' related Chapter 11 Cases for procedural purposes only. Specifically, the Debtors request that the Court maintain one file and one docket for the Debtors' cases under the TelexFree Nevada case and also request that the caption of their cases be modified to reflect the joint administration of the cases. *See* First Day Declaration, ¶ 45.
- 2. Joint administration of these cases (a) is warranted because the Debtors' financial affairs and business operations are closely related, and (b) will ease the administrative burden on the Court and parties-in-interest in these cases. The Debtors anticipate that numerous notices,

all of the Debtors. With three (3) affiliated Debtors, each with its own case docket, the failure to administer these cases jointly would result in numerous duplicative pleadings being filed and served upon parties identified in separate service lists. Such duplication of substantially identical documents would be extremely wasteful and would unnecessarily overburden the Debtors, the Clerk of the Court (the "Clerk"), creditors, and other parties-in-interest in these Cases. *See id.* at ¶ 46.

applications, motions, pleadings, hearings, orders, and other documents in these cases will affect

## B. The Wages Motion

- 3. The Debtors' employees (the "Employees") are essential to the continued operation of the Debtors' business, and the Employees' morale directly affects their effectiveness and productivity. Consequently, it is critical that the Debtors continue, in the ordinary course, any personnel policies, programs, and procedures that were in effect prior to the Petition Date. Accordingly, through (the "Wages"), the Debtors seek entry of an order (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to pay (i) certain prepetition employee obligations (collectively the "Employee Obligations"), (ii) the Independent Contractors' Fees (as defined below) and (iii) the Contracting Agencies' Fees and (b) directing PNC Bank, N.A. (the "Disbursing Bank") to honor the Debtors' prepetition checks or electronic transfers for payment of any of the foregoing, and prohibiting the Disbursing Bank from placing holds on, or attempting to reverse, any automatic transfers on account of the foregoing. See id. at ¶ 49.
- 4. The Debtors seek authority to pay the Taxes and Fees to avoid disruption to their business. *See id.* At ¶77-79

## C. The Taxes Motion

5. In connection with the normal operation of their business, the Debtors pay certain income, franchise and similar taxes (collectively, the "Taxes") to federal and state taxing authorities (collectively, the "Taxing Authorities") and pay various regulatory fees (the "Regulatory Fees," and together with Taxes, the "Taxes and Fees") to certain governmental agencies and authorities (together with the Taxing Authorities, the "Taxing and Regulatory Authorities"). See id. at ¶ 76.

## D. The Utilities Motion

- 6. In connection with the operation of their businesses and management of their properties, the Debtors obtain telephone services and internet provider services (collectively, the "Utility Services") from certain utility companies (collectively, the "Utility Providers"). See id. at ¶73.
- 7. In the ordinary course of business, the Debtors regularly incur utility expenses for Utility Services provided by the Utility Providers. The Debtors have a long and established payment history with the Utility Providers. The Debtors' aggregate average monthly cost for utility services is approximately \$18,500. See id. at ¶ 74.
- 8. Uninterrupted utility services are essential to the preservation of the Debtors' estates and assets, and therefore, to the success of these Chapter 11 Cases. Should a Utility Provider refuse or discontinue service, even for a brief period, the Debtors' ability to preserve and maximize the value of their estates could be severely and irreparably harmed. For example, a lack of telephonic or internet services would render the Debtors' services inoperable, effectively corrupting the good-will of the Debtors' businesses with end users of the Debtors' products. Such a result could jeopardize the Debtors' reorganization efforts and ultimately, value and creditor recoveries. It is therefore critical that utility services continue uninterrupted. See id. at ¶ 75.

## E. The Consumer Programs Motion

- 9. As described in the First Day Declaration, the Debtors distribute a VoIP product, 99TelexFree, which allows a subscriber to make unlimited international calls to over forty countries. A subscriber pays a monthly fee in order to obtain a month of service from the Debtors. Prior to the Petition Date the Debtors sold their VoIP services to a number of customers who anticipated utilizing the Debtors' services for the month following their purchase (the "Prepaid VoIP Minutes"). The Debtors failure to honor the Prepaid VoIP Minutes would severely and irreparably harm the Debtors' customer relations, as many of the Debtors' customers would be deprived of the services they purchased. See id. at ¶80.
  - 10. The success and viability of the Debtors' business and the Debtors' ability to

successfully maximize value for the stakeholders in these cases are dependent primarily upon the patronage and loyalty of the customers who purchase the VoIP product. The ability to honor the Prepaid VoIP Minutes is fundamental to the continued success of the Debtors' business; without the ability to honor the Prepaid VoIP Minutes the Debtors business will be irreparably harmed. Moreover, honoring the Prepaid VoIP Minutes will preserve customer satisfaction; this will assist the Debtors in retaining current customers and assist the Debtors in their reorganizational efforts. Honoring the Prepaid VoIP Minutes is critical to the continuation of customer loyalty and satisfaction, whereas failure to honor the Prepaid VoIP Minutes would severely and irreparably impair the Debtors' customer relations and cause a severe loss in customer confidence. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that they should be authorized to honor the Prepaid VoIP Minutes. See id. at ¶81.

### F. The Notice Motion

- 11. Through the Notice Motion, the Debtors seek entry of an order establishing notice procedures and establishing a master service list (the "Master Service List"). See id. at ¶ 69.
- 12. TelexFree Nevada entered into various enrollment agreements (the "Contracts") with over 700,000 parties allowing these parties to utilize and/or promote the Company's services. The Company can initiate communication with the counterparties to Contracts (the "Counterparties") in two ways. First, the Company can email the Counterparties directly to the email addresses provided by the Counterparties. Pursuant to the Contracts, each Counterparty agrees that the Company can contact the Counterparties via email and that such email address is "valid for legal purposes." Second, the Company provides a virtual environment (the "Back Office") which Counterparties use to access certain of the Company's services and obtain information with respect to the counterparty's individual account. Each Counterparty has a unique user name and password to access the Back Office and in the ordinary course of business the Company regularly posts messages to the Back Office. See id. at ¶ 70.
- 13. With such a large number of Counterparties, the service of pleadings on them via traditional means would prove expensive, inefficient, and unduly burdensome. The Debtors therefore propose that, when the Debtors are obligated to notice the Counterparties, the Debtors

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shall be authorized to serve the Counterparties via (a) electronic mail at the email address provided to the Company and/or (b) utilizing the messaging services provided by the Back Office, as described herein. See id. at ¶ 71.

#### G. The Rejection Notice Motion

- 14. Through the Rejection Notice Motion, the Debtors seek approval of procedures to provide notice to the Promoters of the hearing on, and objection deadline for, the Rejection Motion. See id. at  $\P$  87.
- 15. The Debtors believe that providing notice as set forth in the Rejection Notice Motion is proper and sufficient under the existing circumstances and necessary as a first day moot given the nunc pro tunc relief requested. See id. at ¶ 88

#### H. The Credit Card Motion

In the normal course of business, approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of 16. the Debtors' total sales are settled through credit card transactions. During the post-petition period, the Debtors expect to continue accepting credit cards as a source of payments for purchases in the normal course of their day-to-day operations. Through the Credit Card Motion, the Debtors seek entry of an order pursuant to sections 105(a), 363 and 553 of the Bankruptcy Code authorizing the Debtors to continue to honor certain credit card transactions, chargebacks, discounts and related expenses. See id. at ¶ 60.

#### I. The Cash Management Motion

- Prior to the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases, and in the ordinary course of 17. their businesses, the Debtors maintained approximately 16 bank, brokerage or other accounts (collectively, the "Accounts"). See Runge Declaration ¶ 9.
- The Debtors' transition into chapter 11 will be significantly less disruptive if the 18. Accounts are maintained following the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases with the same account numbers until the Debtors can rationalize their cash management system. The Debtors further request authority to deposit funds in and withdraw funds from the PNC Account postpetition, subject to the same access rights and limitations existing prior to the Petition Date, including, but not limited to, checks, wire transfers, ACH, electronic funds transfers, and other

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debits and to treat the Accounts for all purposes as debtor-in-possession accounts. See id. at ¶ 14.

#### J. The Claims Agent Motion

19. KCC is a bankruptcy administrator that specializes in providing comprehensive Chapter 11 administrative services including noticing, claims processing, balloting, and other related services critical to the effective administration of Chapter 11 cases. Indeed, KCC has developed efficient and cost-effective methods to properly handle the voluminous mailings associated with the noticing, claims processing, and balloting portions of Chapter 11 cases to ensure the orderly and fair treatment of creditors, equity security holders, and all parties in interest. Further, KCC will work with the Clerk's office to ensure that such methodology conforms with all of the Court's procedures, the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and any orders entered by this Court. KCC's services are necessary given the size and complexity of these Chapter 11 Cases. See Gershbein Declaration.

# **DECLARATION OF TERESA PILATOWICZ**

I, Teresa Pilatowicz, declare as follows:

- 1. I am over the age of 18, am mentally competent, have personal knowledge of the facts in this matter, and if called upon to testify, could and would do so.
- 2. I am an associate with the law firm of Gordon Silver, proposed Nevada counsel for Debtors in the Chapter 11 Cases and duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada.
- Debtors have filed this Application to hear the First Day Motions on shortened 3. time as necessary to the ongoing operation of Debtors' businesses post-petition and to a successful reorganization.
- 4. As detailed in this Application, cause exists with which this Court may grant the Application on the basis that the relief requested by Debtors through the First Day Motions is necessary to allow Debtors to continue their day-to-day business operations following the filing of Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases. Without such immediate relief, the likelihood of Debtors' successful reorganization would be greatly harmed.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States that these facts are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED this /4 day of April, 2014.



## LEGAL ARGUMENT

Section 105 allows this Court to issue such orders as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this title. Bankruptcy Rule 9006(c)(1) generally permits a Bankruptcy Court, for cause shown and in its discretion, to reduce the period during which any notice is given in accordance with the Bankruptcy Rules. Bankruptcy Rule 9006(c)(1) provides as follows:

Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, when an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified time by these rules or by a notice given thereunder or by order of court, the court for cause shown may in its discretion with or without motion or notice order the period reduced.

11 U.S.C. § 105. Local Rule 9006 provides further authority for shortening the time for a hearing. According to Local Rule 9006(b), every motion for an order shortening time must be accompanied by an affidavit stating the reasons for an expedited hearing. As set forth in the Pilatowicz Declaration, Debtors' successful transition to their Chapter 11 Cases is predicated upon the First Day Motions being heard on shortened time.

Local Rule 9006 requires the moving party to submit an Attorney Information Sheet indicating whether opposing counsel was provided with notice, whether opposing counsel consented to the hearing on an order shortening time, the date counsel was provided with notice and how notice was provided or attempted to be provided. An Attorney Information Sheet was filed contemporaneously with this OST Application.

# V. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Debtors respectfully request that this Honorable Court grant this Application and issue an order shortening time to hear the First Day Motions on shortened time

on April 17, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., and for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and 1 2 proper. DATED this <u>///</u> day of April, 2014. 3 **GORDON SILVER** 4 5 6 GORY E. GARMAN, ESQ. THOMAS H. FELL, ESQ. 7 TERESA M. PILATOWICZ, ESQ. 3960 Howard Hughes Pkwy., 9th Floor 8 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 9 **AND** 10 NANCY A. MITCHELL (pro hac vice pending) 11 MARIA J. DICONZA (pro hac vice pending) GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP 12 The MetLife Building 13 200 Park Avenue New York, New York 10166 14 Proposed Counsel for the Debtors 15 and Debtors in Possession 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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