

First Community Corporation (FCCO)

Neutral

Solid 2Q and Encouraging Credit Trends, but Economic Uncertainty an Overhang

CONCLUSION

Reported EPS: \$0.30 | Core: \$0.30 | Consensus: \$0.19 | PSC: \$0.19

FCCO Reports Solid 2Q20 Results - FCCO reported a solid beat to expectations as the LLR build was lower than expected and NCOs remained at 0 bps in the qtr. Additionally, the bank was able to grow loans by 10.7% LQA, ex PPP, which is a notable outperformance relative to peers. This loan growth and overall AEA growth led NII higher even in spite of a lower NIM - down 17 bps to 3.38%. While we see this as a solid qtr, we are still somewhat weary on the 1.16% LLR - even as deferred loans have declined from ~27% of loans to 14.4% of loans and second deferrals are minimal to date. We are maintaining our Neutral rating as we wait to see a path to a better AEA mix and more clarity around eventual losses.

- **Updating Estimates** - We are increasing our 2020E to \$1.19 (from \$0.98) on the 2Q beat and expectations for NCOs to remain low through year-end. We are also increasing our 2021E to \$1.04 (from \$1.02) on higher PPP income and better mortgage; offset by rising expected NCOs. Our \$15 PT remains ~1x TBVPS.

FCCO Quarterly Performance Summary

Per Share Data	2019	3Q19	4Q19	1Q20	2020E	2020A	Change versus YTD	Q/Q	EPS Δ PSC vs. Actual 2020	Q/Q % Δ 2020 PSC Actual
EPS (Reported)	\$0.37	\$0.39	\$0.36	\$0.24	\$0.19	\$0.30	-18.9%	25.0%		-20.8%
EPS (Core)	\$0.36	\$0.38	\$0.37	\$0.24	\$0.19	\$0.30	-16.7%	25.0%		-20.8%
Book Value Per Share	\$15.64	\$16.03	\$16.16	\$16.70	\$16.77	\$17.47	11.7%	4.6%		0.4%
Tang. Bk. Value Per Share	\$13.46	\$13.84	\$13.99	\$14.55	\$14.62	\$15.35	14.0%	5.5%		0.5%
Avg Diluted Shares	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	-3.0%	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Income Statement (\$M)										
Revenues (Core)	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.4	12.8	13.2	8.1%	6.5%	0.05	3.0%
Net Interest Income	9.2	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.8	6.9%	3.7%	0.02	1.6%
Fee Revenue (Core)	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.4	11.9%	16.1%	0.03	7.5%
Expenses (Core)	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.1	5.5%	1.0%	(0.02)	-0.7%
OREO costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0%	0.0%	(0.00)	0.0%
Operating Income	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.3	1.9	2.9	-20.6%	23.9%	0.10	-16.1%
Non-Core Items	0.2	0.1	(0.1)	0.0	-	-	NA	NA	-	NA
Provision	0.0	0.0	-	1.1	1.9	1.3	12400.0%	15.7%	0.07	74.1%
Net Chargeoffs	0.0	(0.2)	(0.1)	0.0	0.3	0.0	NA	0.0%	-	NA
Effective Tax Rate	21.1%	20.6%	21.2%	19.6%	21.0%	19.4%	(178)	(27) bp	0.00	-22.3%
Net Income (Reported)	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.8	1.4	2.2	-22.9%	24.0%		-22.3%
Net Income (Core)	2.8	2.8	2.8	1.8	1.4	2.2	-19.3%	24.0%		-22.3%
Profitability										
PTPP ROA	1.31%	1.30%	1.25%	1.16%	1.27%	1.30%	(1)	14 bp		11
ROA	1.00%	1.01%	0.96%	0.61%	0.46%	0.70%	(30)	9 bp		(15)
ROE	9.4%	9.6%	9.3%	5.8%	4.5%	7.0%	(239)	120 bp		(133)
NIM	3.67%	3.65%	3.56%	3.55%	3.49%	3.38%	(29)	(17) bp		(6)
Efficiency Ratio	70.6%	70.7%	71.3%	72.8%	70.2%	69.0%	(161)	(379) bp		(259)
Balance Sheet (\$M)										
Avg. Earning Assets	1,005	1,022	1,052	1,077	1,112	1,171	16.5%	34.9%		12.8%
Avg. HFI Loans	729	740	748	754	747	793	8.8%	20.9%		-3.4%
EOP HFI Loans	727	735	737	750	745	770	5.9%	10.7%		-2.5%
Avg. Securities	250	255	273	286	289	295	17.8%	12.0%		4.0%
Total Deposits	937	949	988	987	1,004	1,119	19.4%	53.6%		7.0%
Loan/Deposit Ratio	78.8%	78.9%	77.3%	77.7%	75.1%	74.8%	(404)	(294) bp		(268)
TCE Ratio	9.20%	9.21%	9.02%	9.29%	9.00%	8.78%	(42)	(51) bp		(29)
Credit Quality										
NPAs / Lns + OREO (%)	0.82%	0.74%	0.72%	0.63%	0.59%	0.57%	(25)	(6) bp		(4)
NPAs+90s / Lns + ORE	0.82%	0.75%	0.72%	0.65%	0.61%	0.57%	(25)	(8) bp		(4)
NCO/Avg Loans	0.00%	-0.09%	-0.04%	0.00%	0.14%	0.00%	-	- bp		14
LLR Release per share	(0.00)	(0.03)	(0.01)	(0.14)	(0.22)	(0.17)	(0.17)	(0.03) bp		(0.08)
LLR / Loans (%)	0.88%	0.89%	0.90%	1.03%	1.25%	1.16%	28	13 bp		22

Source: Company Reports and PSC Estimates

RISKS TO ACHIEVEMENT OF PT & RECOMMENDATION

Include higher than anticipated credit costs, a capital raise, and a longer recession.

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

First Community is a \$1.2B-in-asset bank based in the Columbia, SC. MSA.

YEAR	EARNINGS PER SHARE (US\$)					
	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	FY	FY P/E
2019A	0.33	0.36	0.38	0.38	1.44	9.6x
2020E	0.24A	0.30A	0.34	0.31	1.19	11.6x
2021E	0.22	0.27	0.28	0.27	1.04	13.3x

PRICE: US\$13.84

TARGET: US\$15.00

~1x TBVPS, which implies 14.5x our 2021E EPS

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Changes	Previous	Current
Rating	—	Neutral
Price Tgt	—	US\$15.00
FY20E EPS	US\$0.98	US\$1.19
FY21E EPS	US\$1.02	US\$1.04
Market Cap. (mil)		US\$103.2
Book Value/Share		US\$17.47
Tang. Book/Share		\$15.35
Price/Book		79%
Price/Tang.Book		90%
52-Week High / Low	US\$22.00 / US\$12.51	
Avg Daily Vol (000)		31
Div Yield		3.47%
Total Assets (\$mil)		1,325
Shares Out (mil)		7.5
Div (ann)		US\$0.48
Fiscal Year End		Dec

Price Performance - 1 Year



Source: Bloomberg

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NIM, ex PPP, Should Stabilize From Here

The reported NIM was 3.38% in 2Q20, down 17 bps q/q, but we think that future compression will be minimal through 2021. There will be some upward spikes as the PPP loans are forgiven, but we think that the GAAP NIM can remain in the mid/high- 3.30%'s otherwise. That said, the bank does not have much room to take deposit costs lower from here - at 28 bps today; whereas loan and securities yields will steadily move lower over time.

Loan Growth of 10.7% Ex PPP a Surprising Strength

While most banks we have seen report so far this qtr have seen loans shrink ex PPP, FCCO still saw 10.7% LQA growth in 2Q20. Production was near the highest it has been in years and the bank also benefited from a slowdown in paydown activity. The largest driver of the \$19M+ q/q net growth was \$13M in O.O. CRE. We do not expect growth through year-end to remain this strong, but the bank does believe that it will be able to continue to deliver some net growth. We are modeling for low-single digit in 2H20.

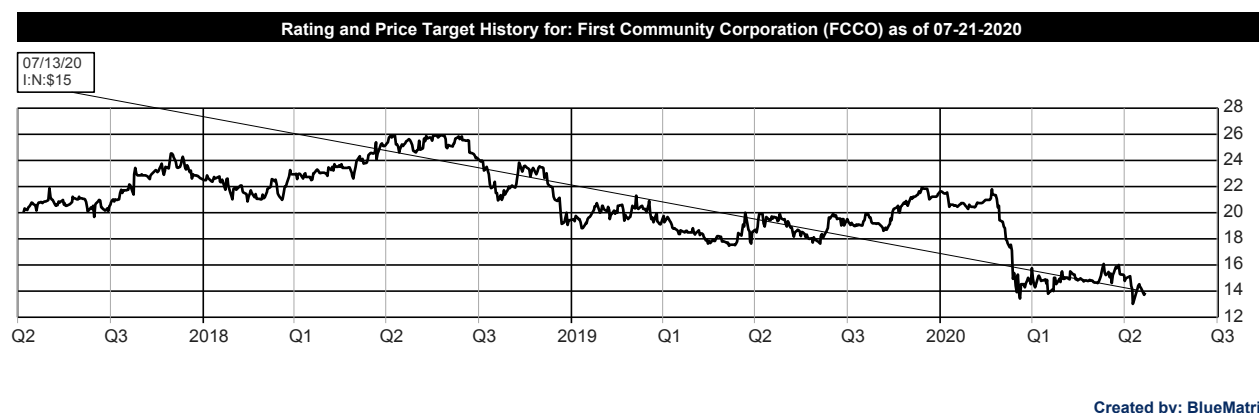
Credit Metrics Remain Promising and Deferrals Have Declined Rapidly

FCCO reported 0 bps of NCOs in the qtr and NPAs remain only 57 bps of loans, including TDRs. FCCO is not required to comply with CECL, but its 1.16% LLR (ex PPP) actually appears to be higher than most of its smaller bank peers. That said, we do not expect to have real visibility into loss content until 4Q20 or 1Q21, and thus, we think that a continued build of the LLR is likely. Still, our belief is that over time FCCO will be proved to be well-reserved, and we are highly encouraged by the fact that deferrals have declined from 26.9% of loans at the peak to only 14.4% (\$100.6M) at 7/16/20. Management seemed confident in its borrowers' desire and ability to resuming paying its loans in the near-term. Finally, we do think that FCCO has an advantage in terms of the complexion of its credit exposure - with small business owners having a much more vested interest in preserving their businesses/buildings at all costs. We hope to get some more clarity and confirmation around our beliefs in the FCCO credit book by year-end as we think this could be an attractive investment opportunity at that time.

	\$ 1.49		\$ 0.33	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.37	\$ 1.44		\$ 0.24	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.31	\$ 1.19		\$ 0.22	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27	\$ 1.04	
	2018	%Δ	2Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	%Δ	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20E	4Q20E	2020E	%Δ	1Q21E	2Q21E	3Q21E	4Q21E	2021E	%Δ
Income Statement																				
Net Interest Income	35.75	22%	9.02	9.12	9.35	9.36	36.85	3%	9.42	9.74	10.04	9.85	39.05	6%	9.37	9.38	9.50	9.53	37.77	-3%
FTE adjustment	0.46	-46%	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.36	-22%	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.38	7%	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.40	5%
Net Interest Income (FTE)	36.21	20%	9.13	9.21	9.43	9.44	37.21	3%	9.50	9.85	10.14	9.95	39.43	6%	9.47	9.48	9.61	9.63	38.18	-3%
Loan Loss Provision	0.35	-35%	0.11	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.14	-60%	1.08	1.25	1.02	0.76	4.11	2860%	0.84	0.82	0.75	0.54	2.95	-28%
Net Income After LLP	35.87	21%	9.03	9.20	9.40	9.44	37.07	3%	8.42	8.60	9.12	9.18	35.32	-5%	8.63	8.66	8.86	9.09	35.23	0%
Operating Revenue	47.17	19%	11.67	12.24	12.54	12.65	49.09	4%	12.42	13.23	13.40	13.13	52.17	6%	12.56	12.97	13.09	12.89	51.51	-1%
Deposit Service Charges	1.77	19%	0.41	0.38	0.42	0.44	1.65	-7%	0.40	0.21	0.26	0.31	1.18	-28%	0.34	0.34	0.38	0.37	1.44	22%
Mortgage Banking Income	3.90	3%	0.84	1.24	1.25	1.22	4.56	17%	0.98	1.57	1.35	1.18	5.08	12%	1.05	1.40	1.30	1.05	4.80	-6%
Wealth Management	1.68	30%	0.44	0.49	0.51	0.59	2.02	20%	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.72	2.73	35%	0.68	0.74	0.77	0.77	2.96	9%
Other Income	3.62	25%	0.85	0.92	0.93	0.97	3.66	1%	0.91	0.93	0.93	0.97	3.75	2%	1.02	1.01	1.04	1.07	4.14	10%
Core Fee Income	10.96	16%	2.54	3.03	3.11	3.21	11.89	8%	2.92	3.4	3.3	3.2	12.74	7%	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.3	13.33	5%
Securities gains	-0.34	-186%	-0.03	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.14	-140%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Non-recurring income	0.02	-111%	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.28	-0.29	-1288%	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-102%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-100%
Total Fee Income	10.64	10%	2.51	3.19	3.11	2.93	11.74	10%	2.93	3.39	3.25	3.18	12.75	9%	3.09	3.49	3.49	3.26	13.33	5%
Salaries and employee benefits	19.52	15%	5.17	5.21	5.47	5.42	21.26	9%	5.65	5.84	5.72	5.78	23.00	8%	5.92	5.90	5.98	6.04	23.85	4%
Occupancy and Equipment	3.89	-1%	1.04	1.04	1.07	1.04	4.19	8%	0.96	0.98	1.00	1.01	3.94	-6%	1.03	1.05	1.07	1.08	4.23	7%
Marketing	0.92	2%	0.18	0.43	0.16	0.35	1.12	21%	0.35	0.25	0.30	0.34	1.24	11%	0.34	0.29	0.35	0.35	1.33	7%
FDIC	0.38	20%	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.29	-23%	0.04	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.31	7%	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.35	15%
CDI Amortization	0.56	64%	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.52	-7%	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.42	-20%	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.46	10%
Other Non-Interest Expense	6.76	20%	1.70	1.74	1.94	2.00	7.39	9%	1.89	1.84	1.88	1.93	7.54	2%	1.98	2.02	2.03	2.08	8.09	7%
Non credit expense	32.03	14%	8.29	8.62	8.84	9.01	34.77	9%	9.00	9.09	9.09	9.25	36.44	5%	9.47	9.46	9.63	9.75	38.31	5%
OREO costs	0.10	133%	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.08	-17%	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.16	91%	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.16	3%
Core Non-Interest Expense	32.12	14%	8.32	8.64	8.87	9.01	34.85	8%	9.04	9.13	9.13	9.29	36.60	5%	9.51	9.50	9.67	9.79	38.47	5%
Non-recurring expense	0.00	-100%	0.00	0.00	-0.08	-0.15	-0.23	NA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Total Non-Interest Expense	32.12	9%	8.32	8.64	8.79	8.86	34.62	8%	9.04	9.13	9.13	9.29	36.60	6%	9.51	9.50	9.67	9.79	38.47	5%
Efficiency Ratio	68.1%		71.3%	70.6%	70.7%	71.3%	71.0%		72.8%	69.0%	68.2%	70.8%	70.1%		75.7%	73.2%	73.8%	75.9%	74.7%	
Expense / Average Assets	2.97%		3.09%	3.13%	3.13%	3.10%	3.12%		3.08%	2.89%	2.74%	2.82%	2.87%		2.99%	2.98%	3.00%	3.01%	2.99%	
Net non-recurring items	-0.3	-70%	0.0	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-125%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-93%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	-100%
Pre-tax, pre-provision income	15.05	30%	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	14.25	-5%	3.38	4.10	4.26	3.83	15.57	9%	3.05	3.47	3.43	3.10	13.04	-16%
Pre-tax, pre-credit costs income	15.15	30%	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.6	14.33	-5%	3.41	4.14	4.30	3.87	15.73	10%	3.09	3.51	3.47	3.14	13.20	-16%
Operating Income	14.71	33%	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.6	14.11	-4%	2.30	2.85	3.24	3.07	11.46	-19%	2.21	2.65	2.68	2.56	10.10	-12%
Pretax Income	13.92	52%	3.1	3.7	3.7	3.4	13.83	-1%	2.23	2.75	3.13	2.97	11.08	-20%	2.11	2.55	2.58	2.46	9.69	-13%
Total Tax Expense	2.69	-19%	0.61	0.77	0.75	0.73	2.86	6%	0.44	0.53	0.63	0.62	2.22	-22%	0.44	0.54	0.55	0.53	2.05	-8%
Effective Tax Rate	19.3%	-47%	19.5%	21.1%	20.6%	21.2%	20.7%	7%	19.6%	19.4%	20.0%	21.0%	20.0%	-3%	20.7%	21.0%	21.2%	21.5%	21.1%	5%
Net Income before Extraordinary	11.23	127%	2.50	2.88	2.90	2.70	10.97	-2%	1.79	2.22	2.51	2.34	8.86	-19%	1.67	2.02	2.03	1.93	7.6	-14%
Extraordinary Items	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA
Net Income	11.23	127%	2.50	2.88	2.90	2.70	10.97	-2%	1.79	2.22	2.51	2.34	8.86	-19%	1.67	2.02	2.03	1.93	7.65	-14%
Preferred Dividends (& accretion)	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Net Income to Common	11.23	127%	2.50	2.88	2.90	2.70	10.97	-2%	1.79	2.22	2.51	2.34	8.86	-19%	1.67	2.02	2.03	1.93	7.65	-14%
Core Net Income	11.49	25%	2.52	2.75	2.84	2.80	10.91	-5%	1.79	2.22	2.51	2.34	8.86	-19%	1.67	2.02	2.03	1.93	7.65	-14%
Per Share Information																				
Avg Diluted Shares (mil)	7.7	11%	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.6	-2%	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	-2%	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	-2%
EOP Shares	7.6	1%	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	-3%	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1%	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	-3%
Est. (buyback) / issuance	0.1		0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.2		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	
Est. price/share	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	18.8	
Total \$'s of Capital	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$0.72	-\$1.11	-\$0.95	-\$0.98	-\$3.76	
Reported EPS	\$ 1.45	105%	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.36	\$ 1.45	-1%	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.31	\$ 1.19	-18%	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27	\$ 1.04	-12%
Core EPS	\$ 1.49	13%	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.37	\$ 1.44	-3%	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.31	\$ 1.19	-17%	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.27	\$ 1.04	-12%
EPS growth rate (%)	12.8%		-57%	39%	25%	-6%	-3.3%		-14.4%	96%	52%	-26%	-17.4%		-113%	87%	6%	-17%	-12.2%	
P/E Ratio LTM	0.0x	NA	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	NA	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	NA	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	0.0x	NA
Book Value per share	\$ 14.73	6%	\$ 15.19	\$ 15.64	\$ 16.03	\$ 16.16	\$ 16.16	10%	\$ 16.70	\$ 17.47	\$ 17.69	\$ 17.88	\$ 17.88	11%	\$ 17.98	\$ 18.13	\$ 18.28	\$ 18.42	\$ 18.42	3%
Tangible Book Value per share	\$ 12.55	8%	\$ 13.04	\$ 13.46	\$ 13.84	\$ 13.99	\$ 13.99	11%	\$ 14.55	\$ 15.35	\$ 15.56	\$ 15.76	\$ 15.76	13%	\$ 15.85	\$ 15.98	\$ 16.12	\$ 16.24	\$ 16.24	3%
TBV Growth (%)	7.6%	NA	16%	13%	11%	4%	11.5%	NA	16%	22%	6%	5%	12.6%	NA	2%	3%	3%	3%	3.1%	NA
Dividend	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.45	13%	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.48	7%	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.48	0%
Payout Ratio (%)	27%	-4%	34%	31%	29%	32%	31%	16%	50%	40%	36%	38%	40%	29%	53%	44%	43%	45%	46%	14%
Performance Ratios																				
Return on Average Assets	1.07%	9%	0.94%	1.00%	1.01%	0.96%	0.98%	-8%	0.61%	0.70%	0.75%	0.71%	0.70%	-29%	0.53%	0.63%	0.63%	0.60%	0.60%	-14%
Return on Average Common Equity	10.72%	3%	8.98%	9.42%	9.60%	9.28%	9.33%	-13%	5.83%	7.03%	7.58%	7.01%	6.88%	-26%	5.09%	6.07%	6.04%	5.74%	5.74%	-17%
Return on Tangible Common																				

Current disclosure information for this company can be found at: <http://www.pipersandler.com/researchdisclosures>

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Legend:

I: Initiating Coverage
R: Resuming Coverage
T: Transferring Coverage
D: Discontinuing Coverage
S: Suspending Coverage
OW: Overweight
N: Neutral
UW: Underweight
NA: Not Available
UR: Under Review

Distribution of Ratings/IB Services Piper Sandler				
Rating	Count	Percent	IB Serv./Past 12 Mos.	
			Count	Percent
BUY [OW]	487	58.39	158	32.44
HOLD [N]	330	39.57	58	17.58
SELL [UW]	17	2.04	0	0.00

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Neutral (N): Anticipated to perform in line relative to the median of the group of stocks covered by the analyst.

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