FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

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MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY BANKING

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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

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The Board convened at 1:00 p.m. EST via Video Teleconference, Jelena McWilliams, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT:

JELENA MCWILLIAMS, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation MARTIN J. GRUENBERG, Director, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ARLEAS UPTON KEA, Deputy to the Chairman for External Affairs SHAZA ANDERSON, Member MARK PITKIN, Member PATTY MONGOLD, Member JOHN WHARTON, Member KENNTH KELLY, Member SARAH GETZLAFF, Member NEIL MCCURRY, Member ANDREW WEST, Member GILBERT NARVAEZ, JR., Member BETSY JOHNSON, Member STEPHEN HAYES, Member MARGARET OLDNER, Member

BRUCE LOWRY, Member CINDY KITNER, Member MIKE BOCK, Member HAROLD HORVAT, Member TERI MESSERSCHMITT, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

SHAYNA OLESIUK, Division of Insurance and Research KRISTIE ELMQUIST, Dallas Region FRANK HUGHES, New York Region BETTY RUDOLPH, Minority and Community Development Banking SULTAN MEGHJI, Chief Innovation Officer DOREEN EBERLEY, Division of Risk Management Supervision RAE-ANN MILLER, Division of Risk Management Supervision JOHN VOGEL, Division of Risk Management Supervision CHRIS FINNEGAN, Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection JOHN ANDERLIK, Division of Insurance and Research

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1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(1:04 p.m.)
3	CHAIRMAN MCWILLIAMS: Good afternoon
4	or good morning, for those of you on the West
5	Coast. Welcome to this first meeting of 2020 of
6	the FDIC Advisory Committee, I'm sorry, 2021, of
7	the FDIC Advisory Committee on Community Banking.
8	And thank you for making the time today to
9	participate.
10	A lot has happened since we met last
11	October. Certainly I hope that you and your
12	families are doing well, and I appreciate the
13	time you dedicated to the last meeting and,
14	again, this meeting as well.
15	At the FDIC, we continue to focus on
16	core safety and soundness principles, capital
17	liquidity, and asset quality of our banks. We
18	are pleased with our COVID response. In 2020 the
19	bank regulators issued many rulemakings to ensure
20	banks had the flexibility to support the economy
21	in their communities.
22	Though we're optimistic about the
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economic outlook, we will continue to monitor 1 2 economic conditions and the state of the banking industry and assess what is the appropriate 3 4 regulatory response as we go forward. 5 One of our primary focuses is to promote innovation and to create a regulatory 6 environment that will make it easier for small 7 8 banks to adopt new technologies and thrive in a 9 rapidly changing and evolving environment. We have just hired our first Chief 10 11 Innovation Officer to lead FDITech, Sultan 12 Meghji. You will hear from him today. And we have already highlighted for you, but we will 13 continue to talk about the FDITech initiatives. 14 15 One of them is the rapid prototyping 16 to replace call reports. And the second one is 17 the proposal to create a standard setting 18 organization to establish standards for due 19 diligence of vendors and for the technologies 20 they develop. 21 We're also looking at innovation more 22 holistically and whether or not we need

appropriate policy changes to remove barriers to 1 2 innovation and how our banks utilize innovation, as well as we are focused on financial inclusion 3 that has been frankly exacerbated by the 4 pandemic, as well as the overall area of American 5 competitiveness in making sure that our banking 6 7 system remains the foremost banking system in the 8 world. 9 Before we get started on a lot of these topics, I would like to take a minute to 10 welcome members of the committee who are here 11 12 for their very first meeting. 13 Mike Bock, CEO of Dairy State Bank in 14 Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Harold Horvat, President, 15 CEO and Chairman of Centreville Bank in West 16 Warick, Rhode Island. Betsy Johnson, President 17 and CEO of Solutions Bank in Forreston, Illinois. 18 Cindy Kitner, President and CEO of Jefferson Security Bank in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. 19 Bruce Lowry, President and CEO of Ireland Bank in 20

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Malad city, Idaho. Neil McCurry, Jr., President

and CEO of Sabal Palm Bank in Sarasota, Florida.

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1	Margaret Older, CEO of Stone Bank in Mountain
2	View, Arkansas. Andrew West, President and CEO
3	of Eagle Bank in Polson, Montana. And John
4	Wharton, President and CEO of Yampa Valley Bank
5	in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
6	While I wish I could welcome you all
7	in person, I'm pleased we are having this
8	important meeting, albeit electronically, and I
9	look forward to our discussion today.
10	So again, welcome, everybody. I will
11	now turn the program over to Arleas Upton Kea who
12	will serve as the moderator the today's meeting.
13	Thank you.
14	MS. KEA: Thank you so much, Chairman
15	McWilliams. Before we begin with today's agenda,
16	let me just ask, Director Gruenberg, do you have
17	any comments or remarks that you would like to
18	share with the members before we start?
19	DIRECTOR GRUENBERG: Yes, Arleas,
20	thank you. Let me just say a word of welcome to
21	everybody, and thank you for taking the time
22	today. I very much look forward to the

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discussion we're going to have.

2	I have to say, as I think back where
3	we were a year ago, which was in the immediate
4	aftermath of the pandemic's devastating impact on
5	the economy, it seems to me we may have feared we
6	would be in an even more severe situation today,
7	a year later, than we actually are.
8	And it seems to be a significant
9	measure that community banks in particular have
10	come through this period thus far in remarkably
11	good shape. And you all have served your
12	communities exceptionally well. And as I said, I
13	very much look forward to your presentations
14	today.
15	And even though I think we have good
16	reason for hopefulness looking forward, there
17	clearly is still significant uncertainty and, I
18	think, significant downside risk to the financial
19	system that we need to be attentive to, most
20	obviously in the area of commercial real estate
21	in particular.
22	So I think we have a lot to talk about

1	today. I very much look forward to hearing what
2	you all are seeing in your local communities and
3	local markets. And thanks again for taking the
4	time to participate. Arleas, thank you.
5	MS. KEA: Thank you, Director
6	Gruenberg.
7	We're going to start this afternoon by
8	turning to the committee members for an update
9	about their (Audio interference.) issues related
10	to banking conditions in their individual
11	communities.
12	And then after that, we'll hear from
13	the FDIC staff members as they will share their
14	observations and touch upon items that likely
15	will be relevant to the information that the
16	committee members have shared.
17	Then Shayna Olesiuk, Associate
18	Director of our National and Regional Risk
19	Analysis from our Division of Insurance and
20	Research is going to cover some observations
21	about the national economy and banking trends.
22	We also have with us today Kristy

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Elmquist, the FDIC's regional director from our 1 2 Dallas region, and then Frank Hughes, the FDIC's regional director from our New York region, with 3 us today. And they both will offer some local 4 5 observations which we think will also be of interest to all of you as well. 6 7 So at this time, I'd like to start our 8 committee member discussion with Shaza Anderson,, the chief executive officer of Truststar Bank. 9 Ms. Anderson will be followed by the other 10 11 committee members. 12 Ms. Anderson, you have the camera. 13 MS. ANDERSON: Good afternoon, thank 14 you so much Arleas. Can you guys hear me? 15 MS. KEA: We can, yes. 16 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. It's great 17 to be with you all. And thank you, Madam 18 Chairman. And I'm really pleased to be leading 19 the conversation and looking forward to listening 20 to everybody as well. I hope that everybody has 21 remained safe and healthy during this time. 22 There is positive momentum in the

country in fighting COVID, and in our economic 1 2 rebound. The greater Washington market is no exception. We live in a dynamic market with 3 three jurisdictions, Virginia, Maryland, and DC, 4 with each in their own state of readiness. 5 However, commercial office vacancies 6 remain very high, even though recent transaction 7 8 prices have been near or at record highs. 9 Businesses continue to be productive with most remaining at work from home default. Schools are 10 11 reopening, and restaurants and businesses are 12 beginning to return to fuller levels of activity. Our market is resilient. And having 13 14 a workforce and economy anchored with the federal workforce via technology and services has helped 15 16 to maintain some stability. Unemployment is 17 steadily declining and is now around 5.7 percent. 18 We continue to experience strong 19 demand for our banking services and are 20 forecasting strong growth for the fiscal year. 21 Through Quarter One, our bank has achieved assets 22 of \$380 million. Remember, we opened a year and

a half ago.

2	Since last quarter, we have had
3	deposit growth of 164 percent and loan growth of
4	217 percent, excluding PPP. We continue to
5	process PPP applications, but demand for the
6	program has slowed. We have also been fortunate
7	not to have any charge offs during this time or
8	past dues.
9	I believe I mentioned the last time we
10	were together that we acquired a mortgage
11	company. We completed the integration and
12	recently announced the branding of Truststar
13	Mortgage. We have also entered the Maryland
14	market and received our FDIC approval just
15	recently on March 25th. Thank you, FDIC.
16	We are seeing businesses and offices
17	reopen while most people continue to work from
18	home. The economy gets stronger every day with a
19	confidence that things will continue to improve.
20	I'm excited about the future and confident in the
21	days to come.
22	Thank you all so much.

1	MR. PITKIN: So good afternoon, all.
2	I'm Mark Pitkin, President and CEO of Sugar River
3	Bank, located in Newport, New Hampshire. We are
4	a state chartered mutual institution founded in
5	1895 with six branches spanning from the west
6	central to the central part of the state.
7	Current assets total \$346 million. We
8	provide hometown banking, primarily in small town
9	environments, and our mission is to exceed the
10	expectation of our customers.
11	While the bank remains vigilant and
12	focused on strict COVID-19 safety protocols for
13	both customers and staff, the bank has called
14	back all remote employees to the office. Working
15	closely together, sharing ideas, and supporting
16	each other on a daily basis has been, and will
17	continue to be, a competitive advantage of the
18	bank.
19	Of all states, New Hampshire has the
20	eighth lowest COVID-19 death rate per capita in
21	the nation. As of April 19th, every Granite
22	Stater 16 years of age and older is eligible for

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the vaccine regardless of their residency. 1 2 New Hampshire ranks first in the nature with 51 percent of New Hampshire residents 3 receiving at least one dose. The national 4 average is 36 percent. Likewise, 22 percent of 5 residents are fully vaccinated which is also 6 above the national average of 20 percent. 7 8 The 2020 housing market was historic 9 in terms of New Hampshire home sales. While much like 2019, the difference was the pandemic. 10 However, the exploding market seemed to defy the 11 12 crisis as single family residential unit sales, 13 median price, and sales volume hit all-time 14 highs. Sales far outpaced new listings and, 15 16 as a result, inventory has hit its lowest point 17 in at least 16 years. The medium price for 18 single family residential properties in the state 19 was \$335,000, a 12 percent jump from the previous high of \$300,000 which came just the year before 20 21 in 2019. 22 Overbidding on available inventory is

more common than not in this environment. 1 With 2 continued historically low interest rates and high demand, the bank's residential mortgage 3 4 lending continues to be very strong with near record level refinance activity. 5 2020 mortgage loan origination volumes 6 7 increased a remarkable 86 percent over the volume 8 However, this robust finance activity in 2019. 9 has also contributed to the significant decline in the bank's net interest margin from 3.57 10 percent at year end, 2019, to 3.19 percent at 11 12 year end, 2020. 13 The bank's investments, which also 14 increased significantly by 31.7 percent year over year from 2019, has further contributed to the 15 16 compressed margin due to decreasing reinvestment 17 vields. 18 Regarding small business lending, I am 19 pleased to report Sugar River Bank's remarkable efforts in assisting local businesses that were 20 21 faced with significant financial challenges due 22 to the pandemic. We have originated \$14.8

1	million in PPP loans to 379 small businesses
2	saving 1,947 jobs as of March 31st, 2021.
3	As a community bank, no loan request
4	was too small. Our average loan was \$39,000,
5	ranging from a high of \$578,000 to as little as
6	\$256. To date, we have accepted 191 forgiveness
7	applications representing 5.4 percent of total
8	PPP loans.
9	On balance sheet liquidity range is
10	very strong, bolstered primarily by increasing
11	cash balances with continued strong consumer
12	saving trends, multiple economic stimulus
13	payments, and significant loan and investment
14	cash flows.
15	Cash balances as of March 31st, 2021,
16	have increased 86 percent since year end 2020 and
17	an astonishing 200 percent since year end 2019.
18	The banks total assets have likewise grown by 4.3
19	percent in the first quarter of 2021 and more
20	than 12 percent since year end 2019.
21	Despite the substantial asset growth,
22	Tier One leverage remains strong at 13.7 percent.

As a mutual institution, the bank is well poised to accept continued deposits from our local communities.

With that historically strong capital 4 5 position, we ably stand to support future growth. However, I did receive a call from a local CEO 6 who was concerned with continued regulatory 7 8 flexibility in instances where Tier One leverage 9 ratios have dropped below nine percent as a result of the unanticipated pandemic events. 10 11 Sugar River Bank's asset quality 12 remains strong. We have not had any borrowers

13 requesting pandemic related loan modifications or 14 deferrals since September 2020. Adversely 15 classified assets to capital, non-performing 16 assets, and delinquencies remain low.

17Our allowance for loan and losses18remains more than adequate, ensuring future19coverage of any latent credit losses stemming20from the fallout of the pandemic.21Our challenges continue to be managing22a higher than average employee turnover,

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addressing the ever-increasing complexities and costs of cybersecurity, and the technological expectations of consumers, and finding reasonable reinvestment opportunities for increasing cash balances.

In conclusion, I thank you for
allowing me the opportunity to share what's going
on at Sugar River Bank in our market area and in
the state.

10 MS. MONGOLD: Good morning, for me 11 it's morning. I know it's afternoon for you on 12 the East Coast. But I'm Patty Mongold, President 13 and CEO of Mt. McKinley Bank, a mutual bank in 14 Fairbanks, Alaska.

15 In 2020 Mt. McKinley Bank saw nearly 16 19 percent growth in assets. We had a 34 percent 17 growth in loans and a 21 percent growth in 18 deposits. Our earnings out performed out budget, 19 but that was primarily due to a robust mortgage 20 activity. The mortgage side was the driver for 21 the majority of our earnings. That (Audio 22 interference.) 2021, but we do continue to see

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1 strong margin compression.

2	For an update on COVID-19, Alaska led
3	the land and was the state to offer Corona virus
4	vaccinations to anyone age 16 and older. At
5	present, 27 percent of all eligible Alaskan's
6	have been fully vaccinated. However, our alert
7	level remains high for new cases.
8	The state remains open. We have no
9	restrictions on business operations and no mask
10	mandates. Most organizations, however, are still
11	holding their meetings virtually, or at least
12	ensuring that social distancing can be
13	maintained, and masks are being worn, primarily.
14	Our hospitalization rate and death rate both
15	remain low, which are all good things.
16	Mt. McKinley Bank made 385 first round
17	PPP loans for about \$39 million. At year end,
18	297 of those loans in the total amount \$32
19	million were still outstanding.
20	The SBA forgiveness process remains
21	slow, but it has improved quite a bit over the
22	last few weeks. We have processed another 185

second round PPP loans for about \$18 million.
 That's through March 2021. And we have several
 more sitting in our pipeline.

We're closely monitoring our non-owner 4 5 occupied commercial real estate loans, as we believe that this is an area of risk to the bank. 6 7 But at present, our non-owner occupied commercial 8 real estate portfolio has load delinquencies. 9 The values are holding are holding steady and the cap rates are also holding steady. But we have 10 11 adjusted our allowance for loan and lease losses 12 to account for what we perceive to be an increased risk in that portfolio. 13

14 The Alaskan economy is still showing 15 the effects of the pandemic. Recently reported 16 trends indicate the unemployment for the state is 17 up 7.1 percent when you compare February 2021 to 18 February of 2020.

19 Crude oil prices, which drive much of 20 the Alaskan economy, have gone up about 13.59 21 percent which does mean more money in the state 22 coffers from taxes.

Our inventory of homes for sale has 1 2 hit an all-time low, due in large part from the increased movement in the military. We've had 3 quite an influx of new military personnel. 4 However, our overall population for the state has 5 experienced a net loss due to outgoing migratory 6 7 patterns. 8 Tourism, that's an area of our economy 9 that was hit hard by the pandemic. And at this time it remains to be seen what this season will 10 11 bring. It has been compounded by a lack of 12 cruise ships that are able to travel to Alaska, 13 because the Canadian government has closed their borders both to cruise traffic as well as over 14 15 the road travelers coming into the state. 16 Hopefully, we'll see an increase in 17 tourists flying into the state from last year. 18 And most of our business customers in the tourist industry are guardedly optimistic. 19 We continue to be concerned about 20 21 providing a healthy, safe work environment for 22 our employees and making sure that our customers

1	have the tools they need to be successful,
2	whether that be with loans, or deposits, or
3	buying a home, whatever their needs are.
4	I appreciate the opportunity to speak
5	to you today. And I appreciate the opportunity
6	to participate on this committee. It's been a
7	pleasure to be a part of it. Thank you very
8	much.
9	MR. WHARTON: Good morning, fellow
10	community bankers. My name is PJ Wharton. I am
11	in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. And I'm very,
12	very pleased and honored to join such a wonderful
13	group.
14	Yampa Valley Bank was established 20
15	years ago, and our mission is to put the
16	community first. And if we flash back a year ago
17	from now, it was really quite a scary time, and I
18	think I speak for all of us. It was quite a
19	scary time and one in which we were desperately
20	worried about the future.
21	Our ski area, Steamboat is a major ski
22	area, so we are a resort community, very, very

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heavily dependent upon our ski area. And it closed one month early. We lost two very, very key months in which we have folks flying in from all over the nation, all over the world for their spring breaks.

So those last two weeks, four weeks to 6 be total, put a great deal of stress on our 7 8 community. The Yampa Valley Bank, in our efforts 9 to lead, and following the FDIC and the Federal Reserve with PPP loans, again, as many of you, 10 your communities and your bankers worked late, 11 12 nights, weekends, holidays, et cetera. 13 And for a bank that, again, a year ago 14 we were \$375 million, today we're at \$469 million. We were able to book 569 PPP-1 loans in 15

16 four months of last year.

17 So again, I'm sure I'm echoing the 18 sentiment of all of you. It was very stressful, 19 it was chaotic, but we got it done. And again, 20 we received calls from business owners, 21 restaurants, hotels, resorts, small businesses, 22 contractors, et cetera.

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1	And frankly, that was the silver
2	lining to a horrible COVID crisis, is that
3	community banks shined. Our bank, Yampa Valley
4	Bank, did as many PPP-1 loans as our four major
5	competitors combined. And I think for all of us,
6	as community bank leaders, this really has been
7	our opportunity to shine compared to the mega
8	banks that really had 1-800 number or frankly
9	referred customers our way to find their PPP-1
10	loans.
11	So in hindsight, as horrible as COVID
12	has been, we are very, very grateful that we did
13	not have any hospitalizations for any employees.
14	Of course, we have had, you know, COVID
15	positives, we've had people quarantined, et
16	cetera. But thankfully, we have not had any
17	hospitalizations in our community. Of 12,500
18	people, we had a total of 20 deaths over the past
19	year, most of those unfortunately in a retirement
20	home.
21	Back to the bank, again, similar to
22	you, I think 2021 has been the most difficult

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budgeting year we've ever established. 1 With 2 growth of 40 percent in the past 12 months, deposit growth of \$150 million in the past 12 3 months, it's been incredible to try to figure out 4 5 how are we going to grow, if we will grow. And frankly, we budgeted our balance sheet to shrink 6 7 in 2021. 8 With a new administration and PPP-2, 9 that has not occurred. And again, similar to 10 you, we are up about seven percent year-to-date 11 in terms of our balance sheet. 12 PPP-2, we are projecting to be 13 approximately 40 percent of PPP-1. And those 14 dollars, coincidentally, are fee income, about 15 \$1.2 million, ironically. And it was not 16 planned, but we funded our allowance for loan and 17 lease losses approximately that exact same 18 amount. 19 Our allowance today stands at 2.2 20 percent. We have not had any asset quality 21 deterioration. We expected it probably the 22 fourth quarter or first quarter of this year.

1	Thus far, that has not happened. And again,
2	similar to your customers, our customers have
3	been hoarding cash, been sitting on massive
4	amounts of liquidity.
5	We are hopeful, through a very busy
6	summer for our resort community, with campers and
7	other folks coming here to hike, ski, and fish,
8	that some of that liquidity will be released.
9	One other area that has been a
10	concern, and an unintended consequence of the
11	tremendous liquidity that's been provided by the
12	stimulus and the PPP, has been the pressure on
13	our leverage ratio.
14	We're very grateful and glad that we
15	have participated as a community bank in the
16	leverage ratio for community banks. But I would
17	really feel that this is an important item to be
18	considered in 2021, as it has gone from 8 percent
19	to 8.5 percent as a minimum. That pressure has
20	not changed and, in fact, has increased in 2021
21	due to the tremendous liquidity of the system.
22	Overall, we are very, very excited as

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we look forward. We are very grateful for the
 partnership with the FDIC. Madam Chairman, I've
 very pleased to announce, ironically, we just had
 our exit meeting with the FDIC for safety and
 soundness on Friday. We'll have our Board
 meeting this Thursday.

7 And I'm very honored and pleased to 8 present that the team was excellent. We view 9 them as a partner, and we had wonderful conversations, a few debates, but overall the 10 outcome was excellent for all parties involved. 11 12 Overall, in conclusion, we're very, 13 very pleased to be part of the FDIC, be part of a 14 great community of bankers like you, and I look 15 forward to meeting each of you in person 16 hopefully in July. Thank you. 17 MS. KEA: Thank you, PJ. Let me just 18 check in. Ken Kelly is scheduled to be next. Ken, could you speak and let's see if we're ---19 20 MR. KELLY: Yes. Can you hear me? 21 MS. KEA: We have you. Thank you. Please go ahead. 22

1	MR. KELLY: Okay, great. I apologize
2	for the technical difficulties. Let me say good
3	afternoon and good morning to others, Madam
4	Chair, and Director Gruenberg. Thank you all so
5	much for convening this group in the way that you
6	have. It has been a pleasure of mine to serve on
7	this.
8	And for those of you who I haven't
9	met, I'm Kenneth Kelly. I serve as Chairman and
10	CEO of First Independence Bank which is located
11	in Detroit. We have been in business now for 51
12	years. We were one of the positive outcomes of
13	the 1967 riots in Detroit, serving predominately
14	in the commercial market, residential market, and
15	we also do commercial leasing.
16	Many of the sentiments my colleagues
17	have expressed are true for us in the Detroit
18	market. We've been faced with challenges
19	relative to now, challenges relative to
20	residential mortgages, even though that is going
21	up at this point in time. But I would say the
22	outlook is still very positive and very bright

for us.

2	So I won't get into the specifics of a
3	lot of the hard numbers. But what I will tell
4	you at a very high level is we are seeing many of
5	the same trends that have been discussed by my
6	peers. More specifically though, what is very
7	positive, and Madam Chair, I want to give you
8	some credit for this, is we're seeing a lot of
9	interest in minority banking across this country.
10	We had the announcement with Wells
11	Fargo last March, before the pandemic, of an
12	investment of \$50 million coming into the MBI
13	space. There's an announcement that actually
14	just took place a few hours ago, the second phase
15	of that investment is taking place into the MBI
16	community. So we're very grateful to Wells.
17	But there have been many other banks,
18	such as Bank of America and many others, who have
19	seen the need for MBIs having a foothold in
20	reaching some of the capillary neighborhoods
21	where many of the MBIs serve. So we're very
22	grateful for that level of interest and the level

of supporting collaboration.

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2	I will tell you we are seeing the need
3	for more collaboration to move forward in respect
4	to the PPP. What we have seen in our polling has
5	shown across not only the National Bankers
6	Association but many of the other organizations
7	like the Urban League, and the NAACP, that we did
8	not see the fulfillment of the intention of PPP
9	reaching into, really, the deepness of some of
10	those communities.
11	There are many reasons for that. I
12	won't get into the details on this call. But
13	what I do know is the efforts that we are seeing
14	inside of the FDIC to look at standing up a fund
15	to create support creates more capacity for
16	collaboration and partnerships to reach to these
17	deeply needed areas in the community.
18	So I just want to say again thank you
19	to Madam Chair for the efforts and pushing in
20	that regard and helping corporates come to the
21	area of ensuring that there is equality and
22	inclusion in our financial system.

1	At a higher level, I would say again,
2	I'll ask all of our colleagues to look at the
3	data. I think anyone with a high level of
4	education would understand that this data really
5	demonstrates some of the disparities that we're
6	seeing in home ownership across the country, and
7	network across the country, et cetera.
8	And I believe that we, as bankers, can
9	take on a leadership role and make a big
10	difference across the spectrum in tackling some
11	of these long challenging statistics that show
12	these disparities.
13	So again, I bring you greetings from
14	Detroit from First Independence Bank. And, Madam
15	Chair, and Director Gruenberg, thank you so much
16	for allowing us to have this opportunity to
17	participate in this program.
18	MS. GETZLAFF: I am Sarah Getzlaff. I
19	am the CEO Security First Bank of North Dakota
20	which is a \$200 million bank in Central North
21	Dakota. (Audio interference.) members that
22	(Audio interference.) during that week peaked at

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a 16 percent daily positivity rate.

2	And we've dropped really quickly after
3	that, and we've been under five percent since
4	Christmas. And so our state has been very
5	fortunate in that we have basically been really
6	open since Christmas. And mask mandates ended in
7	the middle of January.
8	Schools have been open since last
9	fall. In-person, some of them are even starting
10	to unmask. We've had group sports, and bars, and
11	restaurants, and everything has fairly reopened.
12	And things really feel like they're getting back
13	to normal here which hopefully will continue to
14	spread across the country very soon.
15	Overall, our loan portfolio is really
16	clean, our ag Plus portfolio is doing really
17	well. Government stimulus has definitely helped
18	a lot. There's a really good crop in 2020. We
19	haven't had a lot of moisture, rain or snow this
20	winter so we're all a little worried about the
21	2021 crop.
22	Other areas of our economy, our

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residential real estate portfolio is super 1 2 strong. Our market is really strong, housing-On the commercial side, we're really 3 wise. 4 concerned about the commercial market, because we 5 have heard that a lot of businesses are going to keep people working from home long term. 6 But 7 like I said, overall our economy has been pretty 8 well throughout COVID. 9 As North Dakotans we get teased a lot 10 about where we live, and the weather here and, 11 oh, there's not much to do. But I heard person 12 after person say it's been really good, a good 13 time to be living in this area. 14 And we have a lot of good help. 15 Department of Commerce stepped up and did a lot of grants for shut-ins and owners of restaurants, because the hospitality industry as a whole. PPP

of grants for shut-ins and owners of restaurants,
because the hospitality industry as a whole. PPP
loans are, of course, were a huge help. Last
year we originated 160 of them, and since our
economy has been slow we didn't think we'd do as
many in the second round but we've actually done
twice as many. We had 295 in this second round.

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And of those 295, only a quarter of them are 1 2 second jobs. Most of them have been first jobs to farmers which came about after the SBA changed 3 4 the scheduling calculation which made more 5 farmers eligible to apply. We also have the only state-owned bank 6 7 in North Dakota, called the Bank of North Dakota. 8 And they have sort of partnered with local 9 community banks to offer additional one percent loans and other low interest rate loans to 10 11 struggling businesses. 12 They had required them to apply, and 13 it does have to be paid back, for the most part. 14 But that was really helpful. And through our local legislature, they also offered grants where 15 16 they would help banks retroactively make interest 17 payments that were made during COVID. 18 And those interest payments went 19 directly to our bank and to other banks in the 20 And then we were able to refund money to state. 21 our customers and help them, you know, with their 22 cash flow which was huge. And so Bank of North

Dakota has been a huge help to us.

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2	And I think that kind of starts with
3	interest in people owning a state-owned bank.
4	I've had a lot of questions on it lately. And,
5	you know, the effort has worked really well.
6	They're really kind of the banker's bank in North
7	Dakota. And I think that a banker's bank can do
8	everything that Bank of North Dakota can do, for
9	the most part.
10	And they don't compete against us,
11	they don't do any direct lending. They basically
12	buy loans participations for us, and then they
13	help us with loan programs that in other states
14	community development entities offer or state
15	agencies like the Department of Commerce might
16	offer.
17	And so I think that it's always great
18	to be looking for a new way of doing things.
19	Sometimes I think people are looking for this
20	special charter or this special type of bank that
21	will solve things that are a problem and they
22	both sort of need that. It's actually already

being met or able to be met somewhere else. 1 2 And so I just hope that, you know, some of these big companies where there's 3 4 somebody looking for an ROC charter or maybe 5 they're lobbying for a state-owned bank, really has, you know, the correct motive at heart and 6 7 isn't going to put some sort of unnecessary risk 8 on a banking system when the FDIC's charters are 9 all tried and true charters. And I think that COVID proved more 10 11 than ever that our banking system works really well and community banks especially are really 12 13 strong. And they meet all the needs of our main 14 street, and our communities, and there's really no need to mess with a good thing, in my opinion. 15 16 Thank you for the time, and I really 17 appreciate the opportunity. 18 MR. MCCURRY: Hello, this is Neil 19 McCurry with Sabal Palm Bank in Sarasota, 20 Florida. It's an honor and privilege to meet 21 everybody with the FDIC as well as my co-members 22 of the Advisory Committee.
1	It's been a whirlwind of a year for us
2	in the state of Florida at Sabal Palm Bank. And
3	I'm pleased, as we sit here today, to tell you
4	that, in our area, that most trends have improved
5	significantly.
6	Our unemployment rate has now dropped
7	to where it was in pre-COVID levels, which is a
8	very low rate. The housing market continues to
9	be strong. Small businesses have by and large
10	rebounded.
11	Now, certain industries, hotels and
12	restaurants, certainly had struggles through most
13	of 2020. But with an uptick in tourism and the
14	growing housing market, those sectors have done
15	well, as the other businesses have.
16	So as we sit here in the second
17	quarter of 2021, you know, we feel very good
18	about our outlook. That being said, a little
19	over a year ago it was completely different.
20	We, as a bank, started having COVID
21	management meetings in February of last year.
22	And as the days and weeks went on, we became

progressively concerned. Florida was severely 1 2 hit during the last Great Recession. And I was concerned that we were looking at another 3 scenario, Great Recession Number Two, and what 4 5 the impact would be on our community, our businesses, individuals, and the banking sector. 6 7 And we made a decision early on that 8 we were going to be a leader when it had to do 9 with COVID and supporting businesses. We didn't know what that meant, but we knew that we had to 10 be out front. 11 12 And I want to applaud the Atlanta FDIC 13 Regional Office. I reached to them in early 14 March of last year and asked them if we could have permission to proactively work with all of 15 16 the bank's loan customers to modify their loans 17 to interest only for all of 2020 with the idea

17 to interest only for all of 2020 with the idea 18 that the businesses and the individuals would be 19 better suited having some additional liquidity as 20 we went into this crisis. They were outstanding 21 to work with, and that program was very well 22 received by our customers and the community as a

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2	We then, shortly thereafter,
3	transitioned when we learned about the PPP
4	program. We didn't know if it was a good
5	program, or a bad program, but it was the only
6	program. And we said we were all in on it.
7	We completely restructured how the
8	bank worked, working evenings, weekends, both
9	ultimately to serve the customer. We were
10	working through the middle of the night when
11	there were the technology problems.
12	And I feel extremely pleased that at
13	this point we've provided over 1,500 PPP loans to
14	businesses, small businesses in our local
15	community, about \$125 million worth of those
16	loans. So we feel very proud that we've been
17	able to accomplish that for the community.
18	And we have also done, I think, a good
19	job of reaching out to people in the community
20	that were not only frustrated with other
21	organizations that didn't have the same
22	commitment to the program, but also to businesses

and individuals that were under banks, weren't 1 2 sure about how to work through the program. We put on informational webinars throughout the year 3 4 on how to apply for a PPP loan, how to do it 5 specifically with Sabal Palm Bank. I want to mention to Mr. Kelly that we 6 7 have, in Sarasota, an outstanding NAACP chapter 8 with great leadership. And our bank and many 9 other businesses worked hand-in-hand with them. And I think the whole community has made sure 10 11 that everybody has been looked after during this 12 crisis. 13 We've noticed that, in the second 14 round of PPP loans, our average loan size is 15 approximately 30 percent of what it was the first 16 time. Our first round it was loans that were 17 approximately \$90,000 average. And they're 18 \$25,000, \$30,000, with loans down, in some cases, 19 under \$\$1,000. 20 And we actually continue to stay busy 21 with the PPP loans. Because we are continuing to 22 let our community know that they are available,

and we're here to help. And every day, we 1 2 continue to have an active amount of new customers that need assistance. 3 A surprising amount are first draw PPP 4 5 loans, people that, for whatever reasons, did not receive a PPP loan in 2020. And we've helped 6 7 them through that process as well and were glad and pleased to be able to help them as well. 8 9 Certainly looking forward, we have some real concerns, cybersecurity, you know, the 10 most recent events with Microsoft. 11 12 We're learning, and I think that we 13 need to continue to collaborate as an industry 14 and regulators on how to protect the industry, the customers' information, everything involved 15 16 that I think the challenge that every one of us 17 has and need to partner together on and, again, 18 continue to find ways to be innovative, to 19 support the banking industry of the future. And with that said, I'll turn it back 20 21 over. And thank you very much. Hi, I'm Andrew West from 22 MR. WEST:

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Eagle Bank in Polson, Montana. Eagle Bank is one 1 2 of very few tribally-owned banks in the United States. We are \$96 million in assets. 3 We've been open for about 15 years. Our original 4 5 mandate was to bank the underbanked and unbanked. And we continue to take that mission to heart 6 today. We also operate as a state-chartered 7 8 community bank, and we bank tribal members and non-tribal members as well. 9 One of the interesting things that has 10

happened during the COVID pandemic with Montana is that now that people have the opportunity to work remotely, there has been a tremendous influx of people moving from other places to Montana, particularly western Montana where I live and work.

17 The results of this have been a 18 housing shortage and increased mortgage amounts 19 which has been very good for our bank. It's 20 helped offset the reduced (Audio interference.) 21 the margin (Audio interference.) compression 22 resulting from the low interest rate environment.

1	But we are seeing cash offers on homes
2	that are, I mean, essentially it becomes an
3	option for people to buy homes. And this is
4	driving the prices up to the point where Native
5	Montanans can't really even afford a house
6	anymore which is a little bit of an issue.
7	These houses are being bought sight
8	unseen, and construction costs are very high as
9	well. When (Audio interference.) commercial
10	activity it's moderate. And we, like everyone
11	else, did a lot of PPP loans which I think helps
12	not only our customers, but it also helps the
13	banks. Because when the customers can continue
14	to operate they are not, you know, they are not
15	defaulting on their loans which also helps the
16	banks.
17	We are seeing a lot of multi-family
18	construction in the larger, more urban parts of
19	Montana, Bozeman, Missoula markets, Kalispell,
20	those are all growing rapidly with a lot of new
21	construction for a single family residence but
22	also multifamily.

1	We're starting to see a comeback in
2	the hospitality industry. The restaurants and
3	hotels are doing better. Of course, the COVID-19
4	forbearance agreements that we did for folks
5	helped a lot and also the PPP loans. And Montana
6	also had a Montana Board of Investments program
7	that gave working capital loans where a portion
8	was automatically forgiven by the state.
9	So we are seeing a continual declining
10	of consumer lending. This is primarily probably
11	a function of our lobby is still closed. The
12	tribe, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai
13	Tribes, who own my bank, are very proactive and
14	concerned about keeping people safe.
15	And as such, they have supported me
16	keeping the lobby closed on a single branch bank,
17	so I can't lose anybody. So we just elected to
18	be concerned and stay closed, which hasn't really
19	affected our business negatively. We've had
20	record years, like I'm sure, everyone has, large
21	inflexible liquidity which gives us a lot of ammo
22	to make loans.

1	With regard to agriculture, this is,
2	in western Montana, agriculture is a declining
3	operation, mostly because the price of real
4	estate is so high that it makes it almost
5	impossible for someone new to get into the
6	business. And it makes it very difficult for a
7	successful (Audio interference.) operation,
8	because it just does not pencil.
9	In eastern Montana agriculture is,
10	they have had very little precipitation this
11	year. And they're very concerned about drought
12	activity. And then also there's been a spate of
13	grasshoppers the last couple of years which
14	really harms the crops. The government
15	assistance though started to trickle down and is
16	now helping the ag producers in the state.
17	Overall, I'd say Montana typically
18	lags the rest of the United States. Our
19	unemployment is still low, around 3.8 percent.
20	And, you know, overall the state's doing okay,
21	outside of the fact that there's definitely a
22	changing dynamic here. We have tons and tons of

people moving in, and as such, it's just changing the nature of this entire state, but primarily on the west side.

Overall though, I think my outlook is cautiously optimistic. And I am hopeful that things will continue to rebound and that we will see a strong 2021. And thank you for the opportunity, I appreciate it.

9 MR. NARVAEZ: Good morning to those of 10 you on the West Coast, and good afternoon to 11 everyone else. I'm Gilbert Narvaez, Jr. I am 12 President and CEO of Falcon Bank.

I'd like to thank Madam McWilliams, 13 14 Chairman McWilliams, Director Gruenberg, Betty 15 Rudolph, Arleas Kea, and the rest of the FDIC 16 staff here today for the opportunity to 17 participate and serve in the Advisory Committee. 18 I'd also like to thank my fellow committee 19 members for their time and efforts in 20 participating today. 21 Our bank is headquartered in Laredo,

22 Texas, and we are celebrating our 35th year in

existence and we are fast approaching the \$1.7 million mark.

We conduct a significant part of our business along the Texas/Mexico border. The bank's 17-branch footprint also extends into the south central Texas region which includes the San Antonio and Austin metropolitan areas.

8 Our branches service communities that 9 are comprised of predominately Hispanic 10 population and also serve many customers in the 11 low to moderate income areas.

12 Being that Laredo is one of the 13 largest ports of entry between the US and Mexico, 14 international trade and transportation sectors continue to be very active and very important 15 16 sectors of our operating environment. We are 17 very grateful that throughout this pandemic, the 18 international bridges have remained open for the 19 international trade business.

The local economy has improved to a level as close to business as usual as possible, with the exception of continued safety COVID-19

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protocols which is pretty much the norm
 everywhere. The new number of COVID cases and
 hospitalization rates continue to decline to all time low levels in our areas. This has been
 mostly attributed to the continuation of safety
 protocols and aggressive vaccination efforts.

7 Percentages of the population in the 8 areas we operate have received at least one dose 9 of the vaccine ranging from 35 percent to close to 60 percent in some of the areas. 10 I'm happy to 11 report that over 75 percent of our bank staff is 12 fully vaccinated. And we've actually had a very 13 proactive approach in trying to get everybody 14 vaccinated.

15 Our customer and employee safety has 16 always been of utmost importance to us. So we 17 have fully opened up all the branches to normal 18 hours. However, we continue to operate with the 19 proper, safe social distancing protocols.

20 We have only five percent of our 21 workforce that is currently working, still 22 working remotely. And that's from a high of 35

percent that we've had at the peak of the pandemic.

Locally, in our areas, most grade
schools have resumed in-person schooling.
Universities and higher education programs still
are being conducted in a hybrid model on campus
and virtually.

8 We continue to support our community. 9 We continue to meet the banking needs of our 10 customers. We continue to participate in the 11 latest round of the PPP Program. The second, the 12 most recent round has been about half of the 13 dollars and the number of loan requests that have 14 come in from the original round.

So we continue to also assist the 15 16 local food banks and other civic organizations on 17 any pandemic-related relief efforts. So we've 18 really been, we try to be one of the leaders also 19 in the community to make sure that we are out there. 20 We were the first economic responders. 21 We continue also to assist our borrowers with the submission of the PPP note 22

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forgiveness documentation to escalate, which has been a nightmare to some of our customers, you know, after the first round. But I think SBA has smoothed up the process now.

5 Other areas and components that are 6 being affected, earnings, our earnings at the 7 bank have stabilized. But they still have been 8 adversely affected from prior years. And that's 9 a direct result of the further compression of our 10 net interest margin caused by this zero interest 11 rate environment.

Liquidity continues to be plentiful, just like everybody else. Loan demand has slowed in most sectors but very competitive in those sectors with activity. So we're competing with the, you know, low rates. And we're competing also with fixed rate products that we've not seen in our banking career.

19 Capital, we're strong and healthy 20 despite the slight decrease in earnings. Our 21 credit quality, we've seen a slight uptick of 22 non-performing loans on some customers that are

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struggling to get back on their feet. 1 However, 2 these trends are still far below our expectations, our earning expectations. 3 4 Thank you for the opportunity to 5 report on our local trends and conditions. I'd like to introduce our next scheduled committee 6 7 member speaker, Betsy Johnson, President and CEO 8 of Solutions Bank. 9 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, and good I come to you from Illinois, land of 10 afternoon. 11 Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, Ronald Regan, and don't 12 forget the Fighting Illini which, I think, they're still licking their wounds from March 13 14 Madness. 15 So, like Gilbert said, Betsy Johnson, 16 I'm in the middle of the list, so we might be 17 half-way through, President and CEO of Solutions 18 Bank. We're in northern rural Illinois and we've 19 got locations in Forreston, Freeport, and Kent, 20 two hours west of Chicago, about a quick half an 21 hour from the Wisconsin's southern border. 22 The history of our banks, two long-

1 time banks brought back pre-Depression, two bank 2 holding companies from '98 to 2014. We were merged with two charters and went to a service 3 4 center with our core processor, Fiserv, due to 5 changes in technology, cost of technology, and 6 digital ranking services. And we also eliminated 7 some shared employees we had between the banks 8 due to, you know, continued regulatory 9 obligations.

And beginning in 2020, we just acquired a \$100 million community bank with two more locations. And we merged those charters with our existing Forreston State Bank. And in September 2020, we branded with a name change and went through that process which is working out very well.

We just recently announced another agreement to acquire a \$120 million community bank with also two locations upon regulatory approval. And we'll merge those should everything be approved in first quarter of 2022. That puts us at seven locations in four very nice

counties in rural northern Illinois at about \$407
 million.

Solutions Bank is mainly an 3 4 agricultural bank. We're gaining more in the 5 commercial business area with those additional locations and larger communities. 6 Our aq 7 portfolio is about 90 percent crop farmers. So 8 very little livestock. 9 Land values, which, you know, are

consistent with other bankers that I hear 10 11 throughout the states, remain constant and, I 12 think, at a very high level. It's a typical 13 story, demand from the neighbors, a lot of 14 generational farmers, of course, which is one of 15 the reasons we felt we needed to grow the bank to 16 keep up with our growing customers and to service 17 them.

Experiencing very little to no delinquencies, especially no delinquencies in the ag sector. And also another topic I know is carryover, we're seeing very little of that. Our customers are ag customers that have been, over

1	the years, become very sophisticated, not only
2	with their equipment but handling of their
3	commodities and products to be successful.
4	COVID, like other banks, our staff has
5	been extremely resilient as well as our
6	customers, willing to be accommodated through
7	appointments, drive through. They take advantage
8	of the digital services, fortunately that we
9	already had in place. And it's been then still a
10	very successful year during 2020 for the bank.
11	And we also look to continue that through '21.
12	We anticipate moderate growth though.
13	Communities in our area really didn't
14	suffer financially as they did in other areas
15	within our state. I can speak of Chicago which
16	still seems to appear to be somewhat a ghost town
17	compared to pre-COVID.
18	Illinois struggled with a vaccine
19	process. But as of the last several weeks,
20	fortunately that has been made available to
21	bankers as essential workers after a plea to our
22	Governor.

I

1	We have people going, even retirees
2	going up to Wisconsin borders to get that. So
3	sorry about that. I speaking Wisconsin vaccines.
4	But again, we do what we need to do and hope to
5	get it done.
6	State of Illinois unemployment rate is
7	a high at 7.7, the last I have reported. A year
8	ago it was just under four percent. State of
9	Illinois itself has its own issues, you know,
10	prior to COVID.
11	Even though Illinois is still, well,
12	it's still second to the state of big Texas in
13	number of bank charters. Last report, I believe
14	it was 396 charters in the state of Illinois,
15	down approximately 13 percent. And I hear from
16	brokers that number is going to continue to
17	increase as a lot of acquisition mergers were
18	held up due to COVID.
19	State of Illinois still each year
20	proposes their own bank, and I hope that never
21	occurs. So as in the State of Illinois right
22	now, I can't imagine them running a successful

bank as it is today. But that's probably not
 funded as State of Illinois.

Examination processes though, our last 3 4 state exam was held virtually and went very well. 5 They have to utilize the FDIC's Connect. То thank you very much, because that is an excellent 6 A couple of years ago, our last FDIC exam, 7 tool. 8 we were able to use the FIVE by Image Viewer for 9 examinations of which we were a Beta 4.

10 We had that opportunity, so I signed us up for our quarter. And I asked my staff if 11 12 that was okay. And of course, fortunately, they said that sounded like a great idea. So our FDIC 13 14 exam that we had, we went through that. And the examiner and both us, that was our first time 15 16 using it, I hope it's still active and being 17 used, it was fantastic.

PPP loans were very much the same as
other banks. Our numbers for PPPs from the time
that it started, we did approximated 350 loans,
\$6.7 million, \$4.8 million is still on our books.
That equals to about 250 loans.

1	And the other, a very nice line item
2	on many of our income statements was the income.
3	So that was a very nice thing and helped, I
4	believe, everybody out through 2020.
5	Our PPPs ranged, I just want to
6	comment about the associations. We were not an
7	SBA lender, so we had to go through two different
8	fintechs to be able to utilize that process. And
9	every day was, we all know, it was different,
10	things changed, especially when it first came
11	out.
12	Our bankers, our lenders were just
13	amazing. The industry support through the
14	associations, the OIBA and the ABA, were
15	extremely helpful. And like I I always tell
16	everybody, bankers are problem solvers. And they
17	reached out to other bankers, and it was just
18	truly amazing. I'd like to see how that happens.
19	Again, I think we are problem solvers,
20	and I am glad to be on this committee. Chairman
20 21	and I am glad to be on this committee. Chairman McWilliams, very pleased to tell you that I think

your office. And I hope that's not only 1 2 perception but a reality for the FDIC and your staff. I think they are wonderful, all that I 3 have come into contact with. 4 5 So I hope our -- our topics are sometimes dry, and the process regimented. 6 So I 7 appreciate your next attempt to lighten the mood 8 Thank you very much. in them. 9 MR. HAYES: Good afternoon. Can 10 everybody hear me okay? 11 MS. KEA: Yes, we hear you fine, thank 12 you. 13 I'm sorry, it does appear now that 14 you've gone on mute, Steve? 15 MR. HAYES: What, what now? 16 MS. KEA: You're good. 17 MR. HAYES: Okay, great. Again, thank 18 you for this opportunity, Chairman McWilliams, 19 and Director Gruenberg, and the staff for this 20 opportunity. My name is, again, Steve Hayes. 21 I'm President and CEO of Dakota Prairie Bank, 22 located in central South Dakota.

1	I'd also like to reach out to our
2	newest members who were just recently appointed.
3	This is a tremendous group to be a part of. And
4	hopefully, someday, we can all get together.
5	Dakota Prairie Bank is third
6	generation, family owned, established by my
7	grandfather in 1906 with about \$120 million, \$125
8	million in total assets, four locations. Three
9	locations are in rural communities, populations
10	of 500 to 800 people. And I would say we're
11	probably 90 to 95 percent ag portfolio.
12	Our main office is located just across
13	the Missouri River next to our capital of South
14	Dakota's Pierre. And that community is about
15	25,000 to 30,000 people. But there is a nice
16	diversity in the commercial and the consumer type
17	lending. So that's nice compared to the other
18	locations which, like I say, that's always been
19	ag since inception.
20	We talked a lot about COVID, and I
21	think as mentioned about optimism but cautious,
22	you know, we're seeing a lot of changes, some

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positive changes moving forward here. All the 1 2 staff, and our staff is back, back to work. And I think the majority of the banks 3 4 in the state of South Dakota are open. And there 5 might be a few that it's appointments only in drive-up facilities. But for the most part, 6 7 we're open. 8 I think overall it's going well. Our 9 employees, I'd say the majority of our employees have had their shots and so forth. 10 So really optimistic, but yet when I say that, I see 11 12 there's an uptick of some COVID in that range, 19 13 to 46, 47 year-olds. So hopefully the 14 vaccinations continue on. And hopefully we can 15 turn this around. 16 You know, I mentioned earlier about 17 the \$120 million in assets. You know, part of 18 the, a big part of the pandemic is obviously 19 we've seen the increase in deposits and so forth. 20 Well, for us, you know, we're talking 21 about the PPP loans. Our first go around, PPP 22 was targeted for our commercial. We did about \$3

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million at that time. And then a few months 1 2 later we did the second round of PPP targeting the farmers and ranchers. And that's been over 3 4 \$6 million right there. 5 And then there's the second draw of 6 those PPP loans, you know, where they have to show a 25 percent decline in income from '19 to 7 8 So we're going to possibly see another \$2.5 '20. 9 million of second draw loans. So that's been a big part for us, is that the PPP loans, because, 10 you know, our economy itself, the PPP loans, the 11 12 government assistance, they have helped 13 tremendously. They really have. 14 Out here, we pretty much have the grain producers and the livestock producers. 15 And 16 our farm economy is going really well. I mean, 17 we're seeing some nice changes in our equities. 18 Our carry-over debt's been taken care of for the 19 most part. You know, our livestock, obviously 20 they've helped, tend to help as well. But, you 21 know, it really has done very, very well. Ι 22 mean, they really worked hard.

1	And as we're saying about resilient,
2	they're really done a nice job. But it's helpful
3	to have the government payments and so forth.
4	But the commodity prices have really changed from
5	a year ago. So we're excited about that.
6	As far as our commercial activity,
7	we're seeing improvement. But I just hope that,
8	you know, is it going to tell, maybe six months
9	to a year from now? Because a lot of them are
10	using the PPPs, the grants from the state and so
11	forth, to get through.
12	So I'm hoping that this will start
13	turning around in the restaurant and the hotel
14	business here in South Dakota. Tourism, I think
15	it's, we're seeing the uptick on bookings,
16	especially out in the Blackhills, Mount Rushmore
17	area. So that's really encouraging to see that.
18	As far as our numbers, you know, we
19	turned out fairly well. It's the same issues we
20	talked before, liquidity, and managing our
21	balance sheets, and margin compressions. Because
22	right now there's such a tremendous competition

1	for, you know, the good quality of loans and
2	trying to turn that cash into a little bit of
3	return. So that's been a challenge.
4	And I think the challenge moving
5	forward is really just managing our balance sheet
6	which is the same as we've heard before. And
7	it's going to continue on.
8	If there's one thing that I mention,
9	and there was another gentleman that brought this
10	up about our community bank leverage ratio, and I
11	know that expired in March, I believe.
12	You know, we just had our ALCO meeting
13	this morning. And we were looking at the
14	deposits coming in. And I see that more and more
15	money is coming in from townships and counties,
16	part of this last stimulus package. And so this
17	is going to continue to grow, and grow, and grow.
18	And I just, you know, that's a
19	challenge. We need to, it is what it is, and
20	we're excited to be a part of the community, and
21	excited to help. That's what a community bank
22	is, we're all aware of what we can do. But it

1	poses some challenges. And I'm just curious to
2	see if the FDIC has looked at maybe extending
3	that but, overall, pretty excited, pretty
4	excited. I think, overall things are going well.
5	I just want to conclude, for comment
6	for Chairman McWilliams, in January of '21 we had
7	a Safety Soundness IT and BSA all offsite. The
8	crew from the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, office
9	did a tremendous job. The communication, which I
10	always say, both from the regulators and the
11	bank, is number one. It needs to be there, and
12	it was. It was really good. I mean, the
13	communication was just super. They've been very
14	accommodating.
15	If there's one thing that I want to
16	comment on, and you've heard that before, I know,
17	and it was brought up at the last meeting in
18	October, you know, offsite has worked really
19	well. I was nervous about the process, but it
20	really has worked well overall. It really did.
21	But out here when you're looking at
22	loans, sitting across a desk or a regulator, in

1 person would be very helpful. So I hope someday 2 that we can at least get a part of our exam back to onsite. 3 But overall, thank you. Our Sioux 4 5 Falls crew, regulatory crew, did a fantastic job. 6 So I appreciate that. That's about all I have. 7 Thank you again for the opportunity to be on this 8 Board. And I look forward to the rest of the 9 meeting. Thank you. Hello? 10 MS. OLDNER: 11 MS. KEA: We hear you, Marnie. 12 MS. OLDNER: Thank you very much. My 13 name is Margaret Oldner on the schedule, but I do 14 go by Marnie. I am very pleased and proud to join 15 this committee. 16 I thank you Chairman McWilliams 17 and Director Gruenberg for joining us today and 18 for including me in this discussion. 19 I am the CEO and Director of Stone 20 Bank, which is a \$540 million Arkansas-based 21 small business and ag bank. 22 In addition, we originate about \$100

million of government guaranteed loans annually 1 2 and have a nearly \$400 off-balance sheet portfolio of loans we service for others. 3 4 This bank, although chartered in 1955, 5 was bought by a group of people, private folks, in Mountainview, Arkansas, in 2009. 6 At the time, the bank had dwindled to 7 8 about \$10 million in assets and was in a dying 9 south Arkansas farm town where the population was 10 moving away, as were business. 11 So that bank, we really started over 12 in 2009. I joined the bank in 2011. In 2015, we rebranded as Stone Bank and developed a growth 13 14 plan to grow to a \$500 million bank by 2020. We did reach that \$500 million target 15 16 before COVID hit, and then we kind of surged ahead to that \$540 million rather quickly with 17 18 the influx of deposits and with the origination 19 of PPP loans. 20 In the state of Arkansas, we've done, 21 the banks have done about 84,000 loans totaling 22 \$4.7 billion.

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1	At Stone Bank, we did almost 800 loans
2	totaling about \$70 million in PPP loans. And
3	most recently, that included Schedule F loans to
4	farmers, which I think has been very helpful to
5	our farmers who do suffer from very tight margins
6	anyway and with the pressures that have been on
7	our poultry farmers in particular due to COVID,
8	that was very helpful.
9	In the state of Arkansas, I don't
10	think we've suffered as significantly as other
11	states as a result of the pandemic, but it has
12	had an impact.
13	Our economy was not shut down as
14	strongly as in some places, and the trends
15	recently have been very favorable.
16	Right now, in the state of Arkansas,
17	we have just over 1,600 active COVID cases. I
18	think there's less than 200 hospitalized at this
19	time.
20	And the trend numbers are very good.
21	And so, we hope that it stays that way and that
22	things can open up more and more.

1	Like most banks, we are doing well.
2	In the state of Arkansas, I think that we do
3	outperform the nation as a whole when it comes to
4	a return on assets and capital levels and
5	earnings.
6	And so earnings are strong for
7	Arkansas banks this year and they are for us as
8	well. Asset quality indicators are surprisingly
9	good.
10	I think Director Gruenberg mentioned
11	that as well that that is a surprise. A year
12	ago, we anticipated much more problems.
13	We prepared a COVID-19 Impact Analysis
14	and Plan among other things that meant we were
15	moderating our growth rates and looking to
16	preserve our capital and setting aside larger
17	amounts of reserves for loan losses.
18	We continued this approach through
19	2/1/2021 but we still see no real significant
20	signs of loan portfolio weakness.
21	We are cautiously optimistic as well,
22	but can't help but think struggling borrowers

will become more evident in the year ahead. 1 2 We hope for continued regulatory patience and guidance, which has been so helpful 3 4 over this past year as we continue to work with 5 struggling businesses and farmers to get them through the post-COVID months and back on their 6 feet. 7 8 The cooperation between regulators, 9 bankers, and borrowers could make a huge difference in the years ahead as we work to help 10 11 our customers and communities through the post-12 COVID recovery period. In addition to the concerns that 13 14 surround uncertainty at every level, we also are 15 concerned about the fast pace of changing 16 technology. 17 We know that we are challenged to 18 deliver services in a different way and that our 19 customers do expect that. 20 The pandemic accelerated that a good 21 bit, but it was already on a very fast changing 22 pace.

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1	So as a community bank, we are looking	
2	at ways in which we can do that carefully,	
3	weighing the risks and the rewards.	
4	But there are so many fintech	
5	companies to work with. We're on Fiserv. I	
6	think about 71 percent of banks (video	
7	interference) Jack Henry.	
8	All of them are not known for being	
9	particularly nimble, and so as we try to deliver	
10	the types of services that consumers seem to want	
11	and need today, we do need the help of fintechs,	
12	but being able to vet them all is a very big	
13	challenge.	
14	We would love regulatory support and	
15	help in combining ways that we can do due	
16	diligence more in teams or in groups so that we	
17	can share that information with one another.	
18	We're also concerned about the ever	
19	growing cybersecurity threats, such as	
20	SolarWinds, Finastra, and Microsoft that we	
21	talked about earlier today.	
22	Managing fintechs is what I alluded to	

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as a concern for us and the threats to banks and
 consumers alike that are posed by special purpose
 charters.

And we are hopeful that the trend at the state levels to designate special purpose charters does not take off and that the federal regulators will help us with that.

8 I look forward to learning so much 9 more from this committee. And again, I'm very 10 thankful to be a part of it. I appreciate it 11 very much.

MR. LOWRY: Hello, my name is Bruce Lowry. I'm President and CEO of Ireland Bank in southeast Idaho, headquartered in Moab, Idaho, which is a small town just north of the Utah border.

17 Our bank was founded in 1892 and we 18 are currently the oldest state-chartered bank in 19 the state of Idaho.

20 We have \$320 million in assets, 14 21 branches, and about 108 employees. Five of our 22 branches are located in communities where we are

1 the only financial institution, and so we're 2 proud to be able to serve those kinds of communities. 3 Historically, we've been an 4 5 agricultural bank. Today, the agricultural sector represents about 25 to 30 percent of our 6 7 portfolio. 8 So we have diversified quite a bit in 9 the last several years. Like everyone else in the last several months or a year, we've been 10 11 dealing with COVID issues. 12 We did have to have a temporary branch closure in one of our communities for about a 13 14 week, week and a half, due to staffing problems 15 because of COVID. 16 We made it through that and worked 17 through everything and now we're doing very well 18 that way across our bank. 19 I would just echo some of the comments 20 that a lot of the peers here have made and the 21 concerns that we have in our area center around 22 the growth of our deposit base.
1 And the economy is doing very well in 2 our part of the world. We're having difficulty with housing and continuing to try to find ways 3 to help people find affordable housing and as 4 5 we're having great population migration in Idaho and it's driving the cost of real estate fairly 6 significant. 7 8 We did do a lot of PPP loans, for us, anyway. We did around 270 of the first round PPP 9 loans, \$13.5 million of those. 10 11 Second round is going to have a much 12 higher number of loans, actually, which is a bit surprising, but a lot of that has to do with the 13 Schedule F loans that others have mentioned. 14 15 But the dollar volume is about half, 16 is what we're seeing on average. I would just like to thank Director 17 18 Gruenberg and Chairman McWilliams for having this 19 forum for us and having the opportunity to serve on this committee. 20 21 Two years ago, our western region, the 22 San Francisco region, would do roundtable

discussions with CEOs and I really enjoyed those, 1 2 participating in those, and having the chance to talk to FDIC staff about things that we were 3 4 facing and the issues that we were seeing and at 5 least letting them know how things are on our side of the desk. 6 So with that, I look forward to the 7 rest of the meeting and thank you very much. 8 9 MS. KITNER: Good afternoon. My name is Cindy Kitner. I am the President and CEO of 10 11 Jefferson Security Bank in Shepherdstown, West 12 Virginia. I want to thank Chairman McWilliams 13 14 and Director Gruenberg for your leadership and for this amazing opportunity. 15 16 I appreciate your interest in hearing 17 the successes and challenges that we as community 18 bankers face every day, and appreciate all the 19 work and efforts of all of the FDIC staff. 20 Shepherdstown is located just across 21 the state line from Maryland and with close 22 proximity to Virginia. We are about 70 to 80

miles from Washington, D.C. 1 2 Jefferson Security Bank was embargoed in 1869 and is the oldest operating corporation 3 4 in the state of West Virginia. Our current asset size is just under 5 \$400 million. We have six locations, five of 6 7 which are in West Virginia in the counties of Jefferson and Berkeley. 8 9 These counties offer multiple banking options. Our share in recent unemployment levels 10 11 of 4.2 and 4.9 percent, with growing populations 12 and labor force participation rates that exceed 13 the statewide and national averages. 14 Our counties offer strong employment opportunities from a variety of small and mid-15 16 sized businesses as well as large manufacturing facilities and distribution centers that are just 17 18 across the state line. 19 Our sixth location is in Sharpsburg, 20 Maryland, with a population of about 800. And in 21 this case, we are the only bank in town. 22 Many of our employees and others in

1 the area have begun the vaccination process and 2 some have received their second dose. Our small businesses have done a 3 4 remarkable job of adjusting during this pandemic. 5 Some remained open throughout while others shifted to either online sales or carry-out 6 7 options. 8 Our local residents have the option to 9 engage to their personal level of comfort with shopping or dining to full capacity, limited 10 capacity, or with carry-out options. 11 12 Our proximity to the Baltimore/Washington areas allowed some of our 13 14 small businesses to expand their clientele during 15 the pandemic, as many in the cities were looking 16 for a close and safe getaway. 17 We actively participated in the PPP 18 lending with 325 loans in round one for a total 19 of \$15.4 million and an average of \$47,000. 20 Only 16 of those loans were over 21 \$150,000. So far, we have 157 round two loans, and about 30 percent of those are draw ones. 22

1	In total, when we factor in the
2	increases for the round ones, we have originated
3	a total of \$24 million in PPP loans.
4	We've remained focused on ensuring our
5	small businesses that qualify have the
6	opportunity for these loans, and we continue to
7	see the recent activity with those loans.
8	We all realize that this is a program
9	that provided us a unique opportunity to support
10	our small businesses, and like many others, we
11	took that role seriously.
12	We worked diligently with our
13	customers to ensure an understanding of the ever-
14	changing rules.
15	Financially, we've experienced the
16	same trends as others with increased asset size,
17	liquidity, and similar impacts on capital.
18	We've also seen similar trends with
19	our loan delinquencies. We will continue to
20	focus on our allowance, our loan losses, and our
21	capital loans.
22	In the first quarter of this year, we

completed our compliance as well as our safety 1 2 and soundness examinations. I appreciate the FDIC's efforts on a 3 risk-based approach. I will say that it's not 4 5 unusual for us to host a training team, but this training team was exceptionally large. 6 7 We had a good bit of conversation, and 8 I hope that it was mutually beneficial. I know 9 that we certainly saw benefit, and the team did a 10 great job. 11 I want to quickly acknowledge the 12 FDIC's academic challenge. Shepherdstown is home 13 to Shepherd University, and one of my passions is 14 working with our students. We currently have two interns, one 15 16 undergrad and one grad student, both of whom have 17 expressed career interest in community banking, 18 which is very exciting to us. 19 I also wanted to mention one

regulatory matter, banking, and cannabis 21 activities. I know this is not a new topic, and 22 one that requires Congressional action, but this

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is a growing concern for many of us in the area 1 2 and others as the states proceed with legalization. 3 4 This is not a matter of personal 5 feeling or opinion, but a request for regulatory 6 guidance to help ensure as bankers we are clear and consistent when faced with new customer 7 8 activities. 9 Thank you to Chairman McWilliams, Director Gruenberg, FDIC staff and others for 10 your continued efforts on strengthening community 11 12 banks. 13 MR. BOCK: Good afternoon. My name is 14 Mike Bock. I'm the CEO of Dairy State Bank in 15 Rice Lake, Wisconsin. 16 We are located up in Northwest 17 Wisconsin, about 100 miles straight east of 18 Minneapolis/St. Paul. 19 Our locations are in a mixed market 20 Down in our south side, we have some prime area. 21 agriculture. We have some light industrial and some educational and medical centers. 22

1	And up in the north edge of our
2	market, we are largely tourism, with lakes,
3	resorts, lumbering. We do have some education
4	centers and medical centers as well.
5	When we started the COVID period, we
6	were about a \$515 million bank. We have now gone
7	in excess of \$650 million.
8	Obviously, a lot of deposit growth
9	taking place at that time, but we have not
10	experienced the same level of loan traffic other
11	than a lot of PPP work. Loans have been
12	relatively flat.
13	Wisconsin as a whole is fairing fairly
14	well in the COVID challenges. Currently,
15	statewide we have a 3.8 percent unemployment
16	rate, which is almost back to the pre-COVID rate
17	of 3.3 percent. So some positive trends going on
18	there.
19	Up north, we're still running about 5
20	percent unemployment rate, but it's almost hard
21	to believe at times because as we visit with our
22	different businesses and industries around here,

virtually everyone is seeking help.

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2 And I think that is going to be one of our biggest challenges going forward for our 3 business customers and businesses in even the 4 summer months, is just finding the help they need 5 to get their jobs done. 6 COVID trends have been running pretty 7 8 good up until last week. We had some negative 9 trends as of late, still certainly within palatable levels. 10 11 We have had lobbies open at all of our 12 locations on a somewhat limited basis since last 13 November, and we have had them open. We've had a few staff in and out with 14 some quarantines, some positive tests, but 15 16 overall, nothing serious. Current vaccination rates in the area 17 18 are running about 15 percent, growing every day. 19 Real estate prices in the area have been really 20 interesting. 21 It started on an upward trend early 22 last summer, continued through the summer into

1	the fall, and it's being largely driven by people
2	up in Minneapolis/St. Paul market.
3	Those of you that watch the news, some
4	dynamics in the Minneapolis/St. Paul market last
5	summer, some of the rioting, et cetera, with the
6	onset of working remotely and some of the
7	challenges of the Minneapolis market, some of
8	those folks have sought places on the lakes over
9	here and they've relocated and they are starting
10	to work remotely and just going to the Twin
11	Cities on an occasional basis.
12	So that's a great thing in terms of
13	our area. We've got us some people. But it's
14	obviously driving real estate prices. This was
15	mentioned earlier by one of the people.
16	It is getting to the point where it is
17	hard for some of the local residents to buy a
18	place that they can afford.
19	And with our labor challenges, it
20	becomes even more pronounced because affordable
21	housing is almost a non-existent case right now.
22	Construction costs continue to go up.

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There have been some multi-family complexes that
 have tried to go up.

They've run numbers and they're finding that the required monthly rental rate to make those things palatable is just not coming off very well, so that people in our markets with the employment that they're seeking is just not going to be able to afford that.

9 So we're kind of in an interesting
10 balance, challenged by COVID but at the same time
11 most of our businesses are challenged by labor
12 shortages while they still work through the
13 challenges of COVID.

14 2020, obviously, was an interesting year for everyone. Started out the COVID 15 16 scenario, worst case scenario for everything and it turned out for some of our industries that 17 18 they set new all-time records, both revenue, 19 profit, right on down the line. 20 Now it wasn't everybody that was that fortunate, hospitality, being bars, restaurants, 21

22 hotels, those types of businesses, were

1 challenged. 2 Bars and restaurants have bounced back relatively nicely but hotels continue to be 3 4 challenged. 5 We'll see how that changes as we move to the summer months and maybe people come on 6 board to start heading back to northern Wisconsin 7 8 again. 9 Other areas that we've bumped into that has a few challenges is senior living 10 11 facilities, not so much that they have occupancy 12 issues or COVID issues, but we experienced some 13 significant labor rate changes in that market 14 around here, and most of those facilities, with 15 the rentals that they do, take 12 to 18 months in 16 order to adjust contracts for the residents that 17 are there, to adjust for that. 18 Delinquencies currently for us are in 19 very good shape. We've got just a couple restructured loans that do exist in the hotel, 20 21 restaurant, and senior living areas, but I think 22 those are going to be coming back on a full

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performance basis in the next couple months. 1 So 2 we're looking good from that standpoint. As we've talked to businesses as they 3 finalize 2020 and receive financial statements, 4 we're looking forward to 2021. 5 Guarded optimism, I guess, the word I 6 7 would say. A lot of positive things are 8 happening but some of these businesses are 9 starting to run into challenges on different 10 fronts. 11 Obviously, COVID still exists. Ι 12 mentioned labor. We're running into a lot of 13 supply chain issues over in this part of the 14 country. Businesses that are trying to get the 15 16 raw materials they need to get the products done 17 and out the door, they're having a lot of 18 difficulty. 19 Pricing is good for about 24 hours. Most construction jobs will commit a 30-day price 20 21 and it proceeds accordingly. 22 And as I mentioned earlier, obviously,

we've got some challenges in the loan world right 1 2 now in terms of competition. It's relatively flat. 3 4 Liquidity is accessible over here, so 5 we're starting to see some very, very competitive pricing and some very generous loan conditions 6 7 that are being put together in terms of 8 collateral rates and other underwriting issues 9 that go with it. So as there's guarded optimism looking 10 11 forward, we're just not quite sure where that's 12 going to take us. 13 A lot of businesses are saying six to 14 nine months they feel very good about what's to 15 come, but they're just not quite sure what's 16 going to come beyond that. 17 Mortgage activity has been phenomenal. 18 Again, a lot of the business we've had are 19 customers coming over from the Minneapolis/St. Paul market. 20 21 Mortgage refinance continues to go on, 22 but a lot of it is new purchase, a little

construction, but generally purchase work that's 1 2 going on right now. And it's mostly out of state people that are buying our properties. 3 Mortgage lenders and customers still 4 5 are adapting to the new mortgage loan applications, being pretty much in sync with 6 7 that, but it's taking a little bit of time. 8 Like everybody else, we are very active in the PPP world. First round, we got up 9 and running relatively quickly. 10 11 We were not an SBA lender previous, 12 but we got in the system relatively quickly and we started moving loans relatively fast. 13 14 We did about 240 loans through the first wave, for a total of just short of \$25 15 16 million. We have most of that first wave through 17 the forgiveness process. 18 We're down to about 1,000 loans. 19 We've got about six of those in the SBA black hole for different reasons. 20 21 There's some questions, there's some 22 issues and things we're trying to resolve. We

have most of the first wave done.
We have basically doubled the number
of loans in the second wave. The loan dollars
are significantly less.
The second wave is definitely going to
what we call the truly small business, the self-
employed, the small farmers, those folks that
really needed a lot of help through the whole
system.
So generally, in this neck of the
woods, there's some guarded optimism with what's
to come. All of our schools have been open in
the area.
Our four-year college has been open.
Our tech school has been open. We're all just
kind of waiting to get through the end of the
school year to make sure everything continues on
a positive pace and hope it doesn't speed back
up.
We have had some of the new strains of
COVID pop up in the area, and it seems like the
people that have been infected by the new strain

are getting sicker than those that went through 1 2 the first wave. And some of those folks are getting 3 4 the new strain even after they've gone through 5 the vaccination process. So COVID has yet to be seen where it 6 7 takes us in that area right now. It's 8 controllable, but a few things are changing that 9 keep us on our toes. So overall, things look positive in 10 Things at the bank look good. A lot 11 the area. 12 of liquidity, like many others have addressed. 13 Something we're going to have to keep 14 tackling. But rather have too much liquidity than not enough as the rest of the world . 15 16 So cautious optimism. Things look 17 good in the area at this point. Hopefully, it'll 18 get better in the summer. 19 And again, to the FDIC, thank you very 20 much for the invitation to join this group. Ι 21 look forward to future meetings. 22 MR. HORVAT: Good afternoon. My name

is Hal Horvat. I am the CEO and President of
 Senator Bank.

We are a 192-year-old mutual settings 3 4 institution based in West Warwick, Rhode Island. 5 West Warwick is primarily, originally a mill town about 12 miles south of Providence, very much 6 7 blue collar work area, very densely populated. 8 We have 17 branches in Rhode Island 9 and nearby eastern Connecticut. Nine of our branches are in Rhode Island, eight are in 10 eastern Connecticut, and we are \$1.9 billion in 11 12 assets. 13 Last year was certainly a challenging 14 year, not just because of the pandemic but we 15 also completed an acquisition in May of last year 16 during the middle of the pandemic where we 17 purchased for cash a bank in eastern Connecticut 18 called Putnam Bank, approximately \$550 million in 19 assets. 20 I would not recommend completing an 21 acquisition in the middle of a pandemic. It 22 created all kinds of challenges. But we got

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1	through it fairly well.
2	In addition to the acquisition, we
3	also opened up two new branches in Rhode Island
4	and a loan production office.
5	In addition to that, we also did a
6	core conversion in December, so we certainly had
7	enough going on. But we came through it very
8	well.
9	We had record earnings for the year.
10	We had improved efficiency. We had record loan
11	growth, both on the commercial side and on the
12	residential lending side.
13	And deposit growth, and most people
14	know across the country, has been pretty
15	significant.
16	In terms of PPP loans, we certainly
17	were a participant. We did over 100,000 loans
18	for over \$100 million.
19	Gave us an opportunity to really
20	service customers but also differentiate
20	
20 21	ourselves from the larger competition in this

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1	We really embarked pretty quickly on
2	it and we're pretty successful. Overall, Rhode
3	Island, the economic conditions are kind of a
4	mixed bag.
5	It's really the tale of two economies.
6	Some industries continue to really struggle,
7	certainly those in the hospitality sector.
8	In Rhode Island, we have our share of
9	those industries tied to tourism and tied to
10	restaurants and hotels, et cetera. They have
11	continued to struggle.
12	We have other businesses that have
13	really been going great guns. Anything tied to
14	construction, et cetera.
15	Our asset quality remains very strong.
16	Deposits remain strong. And the housing market,
17	as most people have said, is particularly robust.
18	We've had a lot of influx of folks
19	from cities, New York City and Boston, moving
20	onto our coastline.
21	Properties are going sight unseen.
22	Generally, there are bidding wars for those type

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1 of properties. And as many people have 2 mentioned, inventory is very low, at the lowest levels it's been. 3 4 We are a community bank. We're verv 5 proud of the fact that we have a foundation. 6 Last year we were able to donate over \$1 million 7 into the community. 8 It was particularly important last 9 year because of all of the issues happening with regard to the pandemic, and we're very proud of 10 11 being able to do that. 12 In terms of where we look going 13 forward, the refinance activities continues to be 14 very strong and we anticipate that happening 15 throughout the year. 16 Commercial real estate is our bread 17 and butter as well. As competition is fierce in 18 that arena, as you can imagine. 19 A lot of banks are looking to make use 20 of that liquidity that they have. Very 21 competitive. Margins are very thin. 22 We've seen a lot of uptick in

1 industrial facilities and solar power in 2 particular, which has been driving the market. And we're seeing insurance companies 3 add to that market as well, which makes it a 4 5 little more competitive. In terms of concerns, in Rhode Island 6 7 it's a very competitive marketplace. We are 8 overbanked. 9 Recently had four or five Massachusetts institutions that have moved into 10 11 And Chase has opened up 16 locations this area. 12 within the past year in this state. 13 And we also have three very large 14 credit unions. So there's no lack of 15 competition. 16 Margin pressure continues to be an 17 issue. And in particular, the hospitality 18 industry recoveries is very concerning because we 19 do have a concentration in hospitality loans. 20 We have participated in deferred, a 21 number of loans to the tune of about close to 22 \$100 million.

1	We continue to see some of those folks
2	struggle, and that's a concern as we head into
3	our exam, which is July of this year.
4	Political climate in Rhode Island is
5	not exactly the most business friendly, and
6	that's a concern as we are a state of small
7	businesses, primarily. We have very few Fortune
8	500 companies.
9	But overall, I think most people are
10	optimistic as we reopen the economy. We
11	certainly are optimistic and feel pretty bullish
12	on Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut.
13	It's my pleasure to be here and I
14	really appreciate the opportunity to participate
15	and look forward to participating in the future.
16	Thank you.
17	MS. MESSERSCHMITT: Good afternoon
18	Chairman McWilliams, Director Gruenberg, and all
19	the FDIC staff and fellow bankers.
20	My name is Teri Messerschmitt. I'm
21	the President and CEO of South Ottumwa Savings
22	Bank in Ottumwa, Iowa, and located in Wapello

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1	County, which is an agricultural community. And
2	it's located in the southeastern part of the
3	state.
4	Ottumwa is headquartered here, and we
5	are 117-year-old bank. And we have about \$565
6	million in assets.
7	The unemployment rate in Wapello
8	County usually runs a little higher than our
9	state average.
10	The Wapello County rate has been about
11	5 percent, with the state average at about 3.5
12	percent.
13	Iowa has one of the lowest
14	unemployment rates in the country and we also
15	have one of the highest labor participation
16	rates.
17	And because of that, unfortunately,
18	we've got Iowa with a declining population, and
19	that's resulting in a shrinkage in our workforce.
19 20	that's resulting in a shrinkage in our workforce. As businesses are continuing to open

1 a major concern for our state.

2	We are opening back up, like I said.
3	The COVID situation in Iowa right now, Iowa does
4	not require masks to be worn in public and we do
5	not limit the size of indoor and outdoor
6	gatherings.
7	Over 1.6 million people in Iowa have
8	received at least one dosage of the vaccine. And
9	that amounts to about 50 percent of our
10	population.
11	We do have about 37 percent of our
12	adult Iowans who are fully vaccinated. And
13	anyone over the age of 16 is eligible for the
14	vaccine.
15	Positivity rates are running around 5
16	percent. It is encouraging to see some of the
17	venues start to open back up in Iowa.
18	The Iowa State Fair was cancelled last
19	year. They've announced that it will be held
20	this year. And they have a few schedule of
21	grandstand shows lined up for this year.
22	The school districts, they're still

really all over the board with some of them 100 1 2 percent in class and some of them still 100 percent online. 3 Our bank does continue to service our 4 5 All of our lobbies and drive ups customers. continue to be open to serve the needs of all of 6 7 our customers. 8 One of the challenges that we found 9 from the pandemic is access to high speed internet. Approximately a third of our Iowa 10 counties do not have reliable internet services. 11 12 And about 20 percent or less than 20 13 percent of Iowans have access to affordable 14 internet. And that internet needs to be 15 16 accessible. It needs to be affordable. And the 17 state is addressing that issue. 18 And they have approved spending \$450 million over the next three years on broadband. 19 20 I would say that 2020 was a very busy I'm proud to say 21 year for us in spite of COVID. 22 that we strongly supported our businesses and our

1	communities by participating in the PPP program.
2	In 2020, we did originate around 300
3	loans, and that was for a total of about \$16
4	million. 2021 has continued to be very busy with
5	the PPP loans.
6	And we have processed about 550 loans
7	and that totals about \$11 million on the second
8	PPP funding that was approved.
9	We are very committed to continue to
10	offer the PPP funding with all of our customers
11	as long as the funding continues to be available.
12	The low mortgage rates also helped us
13	significantly in 2020 with home refinances and
14	home purchases. And we will see that continue
15	and are continuing to see that during 2021.
16	The fee income from both the PPP
17	program and the residential real estate programs
18	have generated significant fee income for our
19	bank.
20	They did that in 2020 and we see that
21	trend continuing significantly in 2021 as well.
22	This will help our bank continue with

the decreasing net interest margin. The net 1 2 interest margin has been and continues to be a concern for our bank. 3 Limited new loan demand in our area 4 causes us to have about 40 percent of our assets 5 invested in the investment portfolio. 6 We also have increased competition for 7 8 existing loans due to excess competition with other financial institutions in town. 9 We have seen, like others, that 10 there's some pretty competitive low interest 11 12 rates being offered out there and for some really favorable terms. 13 14 The low interest rates on the new investments also hurts on our margin, as well as 15 16 our existing investments that continue to mature 17 or either get called or continue to be paid down. 18 And as a result of that, we've seen 19 our net interest margin fall to about 2.7 20 percent. 21 On the deposit side, we're just like 22 most banks. We've seen our deposit base continue

1 to grow with the PPP funding and the stimulus 2 funding. Liquidity is not an issue for us, and 3 actually is more of a challenge for us to get it 4 5 invested. On the loan side, we have a 6 concentration of ag credits with the ag portfolio 7 8 greater than that of most of our capital. 9 And this sector has benefited significantly during 2020 and into 2021. 10 11 Due to that, increased FSA payments 12 that our farmers received and the USDA Corona 13 Food Assistance Program, the CAP program, that 14 has helped significantly. 15 Also, the increase in the commodity 16 prices have benefited our ag sector very much. 17 Farm real estate land values have 18 stayed stable as well as the farm cash rents. 19 Crop inputs for the most parts have remained relatively flat, with the exception of 20 21 fertilizer. 22 The outlook for 2021 is positive for

the ag sector at this time. We've still got the 1 2 PPP program. We've got round three of the CAP payments and the current commodity prices. 3 4 Farmers have taken advantage of the 5 current commodity prices by selling their inventories of store grain at the current levels 6 7 of pricing. 8 They also are locking into some of 9 their future pricing for some of the 2021 new 10 crop production. 11 Our loan quality continues to be strong with very little delinquencies. 12 All of our customers that had modifications during the 13 14 year that were made are back on a paying status except for three, which will end in the next 15 16 three months. 17 We continue to increase our provision 18 for loan loss expenses with the uncertainly 19 really of the COVID situation still ahead of us. 20 We did segregate the hotel and the 21 restaurant sectors out of our loan portfolio, and 22 we are allocating more of our provision expense

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to the sectors.

2	In addition, we did place a few of
3	those loans on our watch list. And we still
4	continue, though, to monitor all of the sectors
5	in our loan portfolio as we proceed with opening
6	up of the economy and as the COVID situation
7	continues.
8	In January this past year, we
9	completed an operational merger with the Peoples
10	State Bank into one data processing system.
11	Our legal merger took place about a
12	year ago in January of 2020 and we operated two
13	core systems for two years.
14	During that time in January, during
15	our conversion, we also had a State of Iowa
16	Virtual Exam that started the day after our
17	conversion weekend.
18	We had great employees and I
19	appreciate all their hard work to make such a
20	smooth transition on our new conversion and also
21	with working during the examiners during this
22	process.

1	I also appreciate the examiners who
2	were very helpful with providing suggestions and
3	resources to us as we continue to fill the shoes
4	of our long-time compliance officer who retired
5	during 2020.
6	The exam was very efficient and we
7	were very happy with the process.
8	I want to extend a continued thank you
9	to the FDIC and the Iowa Department of Banking
10	for all their system and support throughout the
11	year.
12	Thank you very much for your time and
13	I appreciate this opportunity.
14	MS. KEA: Teri, thank you so very much
15	for wrapping us up at the end, and let me just
16	say thank you to all of the members of the
17	committee.
18	I just really appreciate your candid
19	sharing of your observations from your
20	communities.
21	And this is one of the main reasons
22	why the chairman has convened this meeting, so

that we can hear from you all firsthand about 1 2 what's going on in your communities. There were common themes that we 3 4 heard. Many of you talked about the impact of 5 COVID on your operations as well as on your local community. 6 7 Many of you used the word guarded 8 optimism in terms of your thinking for the 9 future. You talked about the housing market, 10 mortgage market, labor. You talked about your 11 12 experience with the PPP loans. 13 And many gave great updates on what's 14 going on in the agricultural communities. You all gave examples of what you're doing to support 15 16 your communities, or you talked about it, and 17 that was very, very informative for us to hear. 18 And then some of you gave some 19 feedback to us in terms of your exchange with our 20 staff as they are conducting examinations. 21 And we heard you. We heard the 22 compliments and we heard your continued need and

appreciation for collaboration and cooperation. 1 2 Those were just some of the many themes that I heard from all of you. 3 4 So I want to thank you for sharing Thank you for talking about your 5 your concerns. challenges. And then thank you for sharing about 6 7 your successes. 8 At this point, I'd like to turn it 9 over to our FDIC staff, Shayna, Kristie, and Frank, and ask them to engage you as they give 10 some of their observations. 11 12 Shayna, Kristie, and Frank. 13 MS. OLESIUK: Great. Thank you, 14 Arleas. And I echo the thank you to all of the 15 participants. 16 I find that hearing your information 17 and hearing your insights is very useful for our 18 work. 19 So I will spend a few minutes talking about our team's observations from a national 20 21 viewpoint on the economy and then I will turn it over to Frank and Kristie for their regional 22

1 perspectives. 2 So in my view, things, the themes boil down to two main things, and these match very 3 well with what I heard from you all. 4 First, the improving economic 5 conditions and the resilience of our banks during 6 the last year. 7 8 I agree that I would have that we 9 would have been in a very different place one year into the pandemic, but things are actually 10 11 much improved. 12 But also, continued uncertainty on what the post-pandemic economy will look like and 13 14 what the implications of that is for the major 15 lending portfolios at our banks, particularly 16 commercial real estate, which I heard many of you 17 mention. 18 So first on the national economy. So, economic conditions have definitely improved 19 since we met last October. 20 21 GDP growth for fourth quarter 2020 was 22 And the current consensus forecast 4 percent.

1	for the full year of 2021 is 6.3 percent growth,
2	which is very strong.
3	Of course, this is coming off of a
4	relatively low base in 2020, and the expectations
5	have been boosted by the fiscal stimulus.
6	And we're already seeing stronger
7	retail sales and stronger consumer confidence in
8	the first couple months of the year.
9	So the question of when will we reach
10	pre-pandemic GPD levels? The consensus forecast
11	says third quarter of this year, but some of the
12	more positive outlooks put it at second quarter.
13	So we're very close on an economic output basis.
14	The story's a bit different, though,
15	for employment. And I heard from many of you
16	here talking about improving employment. And
17	we're certainly seeing that at the national level
18	as well.
19	However, we still have a ways to go
20	with the number of jobs that we still are below
21	the February 2020 level.
22	We're still about 8 million jobs below
the February 2020 level. And despite the fact 1 2 that we saw strong gains in February and March, that's certainly a sizeable hole to fill. 3 And it's particularly a concern for 4 5 the leisure sector. The leisure sector was at the center of the labor market deterioration. 6 And we've seen strong gains in that 7 sector, but there are still about 3 million jobs 8 9 below pre-pandemic levels. 10 So still a ways to go in that sector 11 as well. 12 The unemployment rate has come down 13 from a peak of 15 percent now to 6 percent in 14 March. But despite the improvement that we've seen, no region is back to pre-pandemic levels. 15 16 No FDIC region, that is. And 17 unemployment remains particularly elevated in the 18 northeast and the west. 19 So just a few more comments about the 20 commercial real estate sector. So like many 21 mentioned, commercial real estate remains a challenge. 22

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1	Many segments of CRE are facing
2	challenges, pretty much everything except for the
3	industrial sector which has actually benefitted
4	from the boost in warehouse space demand and
5	things like online shopping.
6	One of the metrics that we pay close
7	attention to is what property prices are doing.
8	And we see that property prices are down about 10
9	percent from pre-pandemic levels.
10	And of course this is important given
11	that this is the collateral protection for most
12	CRE loans.
13	So down 10 percent overall. For
14	lodging and retail properties, prices are down 20
15	to 25 percent, but most of that was a drop early
16	in the pandemic. And it's been fairly flat since
17	mid-summer.
18	The good news, however, is, and
19	relative to the great recession, these property
20	price drops are not as severe.
21	Back in the great recession, we saw
22	commercial real estate property prices drop about

35 percent.

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2	So in other words, things don't look
3	that bad given the data that we see. And given
4	the improvements in the economy, we're hoping
5	that things continue to improve for commercial
6	real estate as well.
7	So with that, I will turn it to Frank
8	and Kristie.
9	MS. ELMQUIST: Hi, good afternoon.
10	I'm a director in the Dallas region. I guess I'd
11	start by just saying going into the pandemic, the
12	fact (video interference) position to handle
13	adversity, really good financial metrics,
14	including soft capital and solid (video
15	interference) by year end (video interference)
16	led by the state of Mississippi, Tennessee, and
17	Arkansas by primarily because they have a larger
18	share of manufacturing continuing to progress
19	really well, and I (video interference) think
20	that's really impressive to see because the
21	challenges were not just focused on the pandemic
22	but we also faced some (video interference) along

the Gulf Coast last summer and of course historic 1 2 winter storms including the big freeze in February. 3 4 MS. KEA: Kristie, pardon me. This is 5 You are dropping off at every other Arleas. 6 Perhaps if you turn your video off and word. 7 just use your audio, that might assist. Kristie 8 are you -- thank you. 9 MS. ELMQUIST: Okay, so can you hear 10 me now? 11 MS. KEA: Say more. I think you 12 dropped off at the last word, but continue, 13 please. Kristie, I think we've lost you 14 altogether. Are you there? 15 Frank, are you there? Could you go 16 ahead and speak and we will try to get Kristie back on? 17 18 MR. HUGHES: Sure, I hope so. Can you 19 hear me, Arleas? 20 We can, yes. MS. KEA: Thank you. 21 MR. HUGHES: Okay, great. I had a 22 WebEx meeting earlier today and had some

problems, so that's good to hear. 1 2 So I'll be quick. I know we're over on time. It was great to hear the comments from 3 the bankers around the country. And I think what 4 you're going to hear me say is similar to what 5 much of you said. 6 7 So by way of background, the New York region includes all states from Maine to Maryland 8 9 and also includes the District of Columbia, 10 Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. 11 And of course, the region was at the 12 center of the initial COVID-19 outbreak, with 13 many of the states among the first to close. 14 Since last summer when I spoke in front of the Community Bank Advisory Committee, 15 16 we have seen general economic improvement in the 17 region, but at a slower pace than we've seen 18 nationally. 19 And 2021 regional activity is 20 projected to be slightly below U.S. forecasts. 21 Labor market recovery also trails 22 national trends throughout most of the New York

region.

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2	Unemployment rates are still generally
3	higher than the U.S. level, while job gains have
4	also trailed.
5	The slower pace of recovery in the
6	region can be attributed to several factors, most
7	notably the severity of the downturn at the onset
8	of the pandemic, the public policy response, and
9	then generally weak demographic trends that we
10	were already experiencing here in the region
11	before the pandemic.
12	Prior to the pandemic, banks in the
13	region had higher concentrations of commercial
14	real estate or CRE than other parts of the
15	country, with concentrations especially prevalent
16	in the multi-family sector.
17	Banks in the New York region also
18	showed less on balance sheet liquidity. So as a
19	result, we have been focusing supervisory efforts
20	on risk management practices related to both
21	these areas on our exams, visits, and outreach
22	events.

CRE is showing signs of recovery in 1 2 the region, although at a slower pace than the rest of the country. 3 As many have mentioned, hotels 4 5 continue to struggle in the major markets in the region, with overall performance well below U.S. 6 levels despite a significant recovery as a result 7 8 of the pace of vaccinations, the warmer weather, 9 and pent up demand. Retail has seen significant recovery, 10 11 though the recovery varies greatly by sector. 12 The food and beverage category and e-retail are 13 doing well, while restaurants, bars, and 14 traditional retailers are still well below prepandemic levels. 15 16 So interesting data on the commuter 17 side, just for the New York City area. Through 18 the first week of April, it does provide us some 19 insight into economic activity. Subway ridership in the city is still 20 21 65 percent below prior levels, bus ridership 50 22 percent below, and ridership on the two major

commuter train services is 70 percent below prior levels.

But we have seen an increase in bridge 3 and tunnel traffic that's significantly closer to 4 prior levels, but we think some of that is offset 5 from rail commuters taking advantage of lower 6 7 traffic into the city. The office space sector remains 8 9 subject to uncertainty surrounding long-term trends and the acceptance of the distributed 10 workforce model. 11 12 As the commuter data I mentioned 13 indicates, work from home is still significantly 14 affecting the region in general and New York City more specifically, with occupancy levels well 15 below national levels. 16 17 On the multi-family front, data for 18 cities like Baltimore, Hartford, Philadelphia, 19 and Pittsburgh continue to show generally 20 favorable dynamics, while major markets like New 21 York City, Boston, and Washington, D.C. are 22 forecast to lag regional and national

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performance.

2	Rental payment metrics show some
3	strain. Renters behind on rent in New York City
4	and Philadelphia are above national levels, while
5	the numbers are more favorable in Boston and
6	Washington, D.C.
7	I know we talked quite a bit about
8	residential real estate. So in the region,
9	strong home price gains continue.
10	Regionally, the northeast was the only
11	major region to see a notable divergence in home
12	sales between urban and suburban markets, with
13	New York and New Jersey suburban markets causing
14	most of the divergence, as we continue to see out
15	migration from some of our larger cities.
16	Real quick on banking conditions, in
17	general, as Kristie said in her opening remarks,
18	banks in the region entered the pandemic at
19	overall strong condition with increasing levels
20	of capital, strong asset quality, and
21	satisfactory risk management practices and
22	compliance management systems.

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1	Banks have seen earnings negatively
2	affected by the pandemic with strong growth in
3	deposits that have increased balance sheets while
4	loan yields have fallen.
5	In addition, banks have increase
6	provisions to account for the expected increase
7	in credit losses due to economic weaknesses.
8	Banks in the region were also very
9	active in PPP, which did help earnings, did help
10	offset some earnings pressure.
11	I mentioned liquidity in the region
12	prior to the pandemic. So median deposit growth
13	in the region significantly outpaced the national
14	rates.
15	We saw 23 percent growth in the region
16	versus 17 percent nationally, while loan growth
17	was only up about 7 percent, and only slightly
18	above the national trend.
19	The positive there is that liquid
20	assets did increase at a faster rate in the
21	region than the nation. Again, as I mentioned,
22	the New York region quickly had run with lower

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1	levels of liquidity.
2	The overall loan delinquency rate
3	increased slightly but it ended 2020 just below
4	the national rate.
5	CRE loan delinquency rate also
6	increased slightly and also ended just above the
7	national rate. But it still remains historically
8	low.
9	Deferral and forbearance activity
10	continues to decline. We're still seeing some of
11	it, but it's declined quite a bit.
12	And we are seeing some watch list
13	movement down the credit rating scale at our
14	institutions, but we're not seeing material
15	downgrades or declines in asset quality at this
16	point.
17	We're also not seeing material
18	downgrades or two component or composite ratings
19	on the safety and soundness side, but along with
20	asset quality, we'll continue to keep an eye on
21	earnings performance.
22	We also saw few changes in compliance

and CRA ratings. Banks continue to do a good job 1 2 meeting the needs of their customers and communities in complying with consumer protection 3 4 laws. 5 At the outset of the pandemic, we did see some uptick in branch closings across the 6 7 region. 8 That seems to have moderated somewhat. 9 And we also didn't see or are not seeing a significant increase in consumer complaints. 10 11 So really in some way, the initial 12 outbreak had a significant impact on the region and we continue to see that impact in industry 13 14 metrics for some asset classes. Liquidity levels on average have 15 16 improved across the region while earnings remain 17 a challenge. 18 And as noted, banks in general in the 19 New York region entered the period of economic uncertainty with favorable financial metrics and 20 21 satisfactory risk management and compliance 22 programs.

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1	So I don't know if Kristie is able to
2	get back on.
3	MS. KEA: Frank, I think I just saw
4	Kristie's camera on a moment ago. So, Kristie,
5	if you are on, would you please join us? Thank
6	you, Frank.
7	MS. ELMQUIST: Hi, can you hear me
8	now?
9	MS. KEA: We can, Kristie. Thank you.
10	Please go ahead.
11	MS. ELMQUIST: Perfect. I'll try to
12	be (video interference) to compliment banks in
13	the Dallas region, not only for being resilient
14	during the (video interference) but also as they
15	(video interference) during the hurricane season
16	and then an unprecedented storm event that hit us
17	in mid-February.
18	And as Shayna and many of the bankers
19	have already talked about, the (video
20	interference) in the Dallas region, the recovery
21	is doing well, led by states that have a
22	concentration in manufacturing.

1	So we have recovered at least our jobs
2	and many of our sectors are doing (video
3	interference) including housing, agriculture, and
4	energy has rebounded as well.
5	We do still have some challenges and
6	uncertainty with commercial real estate, and
7	that's important to us because a good number of
8	our (video interference) institutions in the
9	Dallas region do have a or we are really
10	paying attention to some potential challenges
11	(video interference) particularly convention
12	space in (video interference) areas, as well as
13	office vacancy rates.
14	We do have some markets that are at
15	the high end as well as high volume of
16	construction in process. So we'll be watching
17	that pretty closely.
18	For the bank, our banks were really
19	well positioned going into the pandemic, and
20	(video interference) have demonstrated resiliency
21	and the ability to (video interference) from a
22	financial performance perspective, we have

observed shifts in the balance sheet due to the 1 2 high growth in deposits, mainly because of the PPP lending as well as mortgage lending. 3 4 Composite rating, last year we conducted over (video interference) risk 5 management (video interference) to the composite 6 7 rating. 8 That said, we have seen some liquidity 9 ratings (video interference) to a better rating, increase in liquidity levels, but also notable 10 11 improvements in funds management practices (video 12 interference). 13 On the flip side, we have seen some 14 (video interference), but again, not in very many of our examinations. 15 16 Our (video interference) component 17 ratings are remaining relative to deferrals, but 18 that's because I think our banks have done a very 19 good job (video interference) --20 MS. KEA: Kristie, this is Arleas. 21 Pardon the interruption. We were hearing you fine and now all of a sudden we're hearing just 22

1 bits and pieces. Could you check --2 MS. ELMQUIST: Am I cutting out again? MS. KEA: Yes, you're cutting out. 3 Ι think that we are getting the gist of much of 4 5 what you're saying, but it's cutting out more and more at this point. Are you able to make any 6 7 adjustment to your audio settings? 8 MS. ELMQUIST: Can you hear me now? Ι 9 can just --10 MS. KEA: It's very choppy, and in 11 fact, Kristie, we're not -- we're hearing every 12 other word. 13 MS. ELMQUIST: I can try changing 14 audio to the phone connection. MS. KEA: You could just try that 15 16 quickly. MS. ELMQUIST: I guess since I'm at 17 18 the end, should we just move on? I hate to --19 MS. KEA: Hearing you fine now. Go 20 ahead. We're hearing you. Well, I thought we 21 were. Kristie? 22 MS. ELMQUIST: Can you hear me?

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1	MS. KEA: Yes. Now I think you're
2	cutting out. Let me make this suggestion. Let
3	us pause and let's see if any of the members have
4	any questions.
5	And you might be able to, as you're
6	making some adjustments, and I'll ask the staff
7	to call you or chat with you as you're making
8	some adjustments.
9	Let us see if any of the members have
10	any questions based on what they've heard thus
11	far.
12	To the members, any questions or
13	comments? You can either raise your hand or you
14	can simply turn your camera on. And I'm just
15	checking the chat.
16	I'm not seeing any raised hands. And
17	it could be that everybody is really ready for a
18	comfort break.
19	We are at 3:09. Let us do this.
20	Let's take a 10-minute break. So let us come
21	back just shortly before 3:15, if you would, and
22	I'll turn it over to Shannon at this time.

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1	Shannon, would you please give us	
2	instructions for the break?	
3	Shannon could be talking to Kristie.	
4	So let us break now for 10 minutes. We'll come	
5	back right, well, I said 10 minutes but, let us	
6	come back at about, why don't we say 3:20?	
7	(Whereupon, the foregoing matter went	
8	off the record at 3:10 p.m. and went back on the	
9	record at 3:20 p.m.)	
10	MS. KEA: Shannon, thank you very	
11	much. Hello, everyone, and welcome back from the	
12	break. Despite all of the slight difficulties	
13	that we've had, I think that we are all doing	
14	very good in terms of the meeting.	
15	So I appreciate everyone's patience	
16	and cooperation. Thank you very much.	
17	So I think that we are live now,	
18	Shannon. Thank you very much. We'll go ahead	
19	and get started.	
20	I'm sorry about the problems that	
21	we've had a little bit earlier in the meeting,	
22	but I think that we will still find time to make	

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sure that you all get the interaction that you 1 2 need as we move forward in the agenda. I'd like to share now that on 3 4 yesterday, we had a meeting of the Minority 5 Depository Institution Subcommittee, and I do want to express my great appreciation to Gilbert 6 7 Narvaez, Jr. You heard from him earlier. He serves 8 9 on both this committee and the MDI committee. Gilbert and Betty, FDIC's National Director of 10 11 Minority and Community Development Banking, are 12 going to provide us with an update on yesterday's 13 meeting. 14 I think that they will briefly 15 summarize key points from the MDI subcommittee 16 meeting, which will include updates on the 17 Mission Driven Bank Fund, the FDIC's 18 implementation of the U.S. Treasury's Emergency 19 Capital Investment Program, as well as our FDIC 20 MDI program. So at this time, I'd like to turn it 21 22 over to Betty Rudolph and then Gilbert Narvaez.

2	MS. RUDOLPH: Thank you, Arleas. I
3	wanted to briefly remind the committee that the
4	FDIC established the MDI subcommittee under the
5	authority of the Advisory Community on Community
6	Banking, the CBAC, and the Federal Advisory
7	Committee Act, FACA, requires that the
8	subcommittees provide advisory recommendations to
9	the agency, to the parent committee.
10	So therefore, the MDI subcommittee
11	actually reports directly to the CBAC to all of
12	you and not to the FDIC. So that's why we're
13	reporting to you today.
14	There are three goals for the MDI
15	subcommittee, and they include serving as a
16	source of feedback for the FDIC on strategies to
17	fulfill our statutory goals to preserve and
18	promote minority depository institutions, to
19	provide a platform for MDIs to promote
20	collaboration, partnerships, and best practices,
21	and to identify ways to highlight the work of
22	MDIs in their communities.

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1	The MDI subcommittee is comprised of	
2	nine executives representing a diversity of types	
3	of MDIs, including African American, Hispanic,	
4	Asian and Native American Banks, and a range of	
5	business models, size, and geographic mix.	
6	The nine members of the MDI	
7	subcommittee represent about 10 percent of all 95	
8	MDIs that the FDIC supervises.	
9	In addition, there are three MDIs	
10	represented on the CBAC and you heard from them	
11	today, Kenneth Kelly of First Independence Bank	
12	in Detroit, Michigan, Andrew West with Eagle Bank	
13	in Polson, Montana, and Gilbert Narvaez, Jr.,	
14	with Falcon International Bank in Laredo, Texas.	
15	So at this time, the MDI subcommittee	
16	doesn't have any recommendations for the FDIC,	
17	but we do want to share a brief summary of our	
18	discussions yesterday.	
19	And I'll turn it over now to Gilbert	
20	who will walk you through these updates.	
21	MR. NARVAEZ: Thank you, Betty.	
22	During the roundtable, each MDI banker discussed	

current banking conditions and unique issues 1 2 facing their institution. And interestingly enough, we heard a 3 4 lot of the same conditions, themes, and issues that some of the institutions are facing after 5 this morning's reports. 6 7 Many bankers discussed their cautious 8 optimism about the pandemic and the economic 9 outlook over the near to medium term. 10 Some general themes bankers reported 11 included abundant liquidity due to government 12 stimulus programs, pressure on net interest 13 margins, some dampened loan demand, continued PPP 14 funding and forgiveness, and in some cases, low 15 housing inventories and higher construction 16 costs. 17 Also at each MDI subcommittee meeting, 18 there is an MDI spotlight segment to showcase the 19 work of an MDI or a group of MDIs. 20 The MDI spotlight explores best 21 practices or lessons learned that might be insightful for other MDIs. 22

Yesterday, we heard from Robert James
II, who is the Director of Strategic Initiatives
and board member of Carver State Bank in
Savannah, Georgia.
Mr. James discussed collaboration best
practices by a group of 12 black MDIs that came
together to syndicate a \$35 million loan to
refinance the Atlanta Hawk's Emory Sports
Medicine Complex.
Mr. James also serves as chairman of
the National Bankers Association, and he spoke
about the MDI trade organization's emphasis on
collaboration. So that was a very interesting
presentation.
We also heard an update on the
formation of the Mission Driven Bank Fund. The
FDIC hired a financial advisor and two law firms
to develop the framework, structure, and concept
of the operations of this fund that will provide
investments in about 250 eligible FDIC-insured
MDIs and community development financial
institutions.

1	The fund is designed to generate funds
2	from corporate, philanthropic, and bank investors
3	into MDIs and CFIs to support growth and to serve
4	the communities.
5	Earlier this year, each of the nine
6	executives of the MDI subcommittee and about 70
7	executives of MDIs and CFIs in total, had the
8	opportunity to provide their input regarding the
9	needs of the mission driven banking sector.
10	Yesterday, we had the opportunity to
11	review the work of the financial advisor and law
12	firms. The presentation included several aspects
13	that I'll briefly summarize.
14	One was the fund design consideration,
15	including how the fund manager will balance the
16	needs of the investors and mission driven banks.
17	Another was the investing universe and
18	the types of asset classes the fund will
19	consider. The conceptual portfolio design, how
20	the investments will be sourced. And the
21	proposed fund governments in terms of the fund.
22	The next steps in the stand up of the

fund, including the hiring by investors of the 1 2 fund manager. Another note is that the subcommittee 3 had a briefing on the regulatory aspects of the 4 U.S. Treasury's Emergency Capital Investment 5 6 Program. 7 Since our last meeting, Congress 8 appropriated approximately \$9 billion for 9 treasury investments in FDIC-insured MDIs and CDFIs and credit unions that source minority and 10 11 low to moderate income neighborhoods that were 12 disproportionately affected by COVID-19 pandemic. 13 The Treasury has issued a rule 14 outlining the program and banks are currently submitting applications. 15 16 Currently, we have an update on the 17 recent MDI program initiatives. In early March, 18 the FDIC hosted a webinar for MDIs that are not 19 already CDFIs. 20 Congress recently provided \$3 billion 21 for CDFIs that are serving minority and low-22 income communities that were disproportionately

affected by COVID-19 pandemic. 1 2 Of this amount, \$1.2 billion is set aside for CDFIs that are minority lending 3 4 institutions. 5 The FDIC conducted a webinar to help MDIs understand the requirements for becoming a 6 CDFI an accessing CDFI fund financial assistance 7 8 programs. 9 The webinar was well attended and received very positive feedback. 10 11 Tomorrow, the FDIC will host an 12 interagency webinar to demonstrate a new tool for 13 MDIs and CDFIs to estimate the impact of the 14 capital ratios of new investments coming into the 15 mission driven bank sector. 16 These new investments include millions of dollars of direct investment from large 17 18 financial institutions, the new Treasury ECIP 19 Investment Program, the CDI grant funds, and 20 other potential sources of funds. 21 The capital estimator tool will enable mission driven banks to create various scenarios 22

to estimate the impact of new funding on various capital ratios.

Finally, FDIC also updated us on training that they are developing for examiners. The training supports the FDIC's proposed statement of policy regarding minority deposit institutions that was issued for public comment last year.

9 That policy restates interagency 10 examination standards that require examiners to 11 recognize the distinctive characteristics and 12 core objectives of each financial institution and 13 to consider those unique factors when evaluating 14 the institution's financial condition and risk 15 management practices.

16 This includes taking into account the 17 size and sophistication and the nature and 18 complexity of the business activities and risk 19 profile of each institution.

This concludes the report from the MDI subcommittee, and Betty and welcome any questions that you have.

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1	MS. KEA: Let us just pause for a
2	moment in case there are some questions,
3	especially for our new members.
4	This is a very important subcommittee,
5	and we're happy that Gilbert and Betty were able
6	to report out to you this afternoon on our
7	meeting yesterday.
8	Are there any questions or comments?
9	I don't see any hands raised in the chat. If
10	anyone would just simply like to turn their
11	camera on and jump in, that would be fine, also.
12	Okay, Betty and Gilbert, thank you
13	very much. I would like to move on in our
14	agenda. One of the other consistent topics that
15	many of you talked about involved technology,
16	dealing with the fintechs.
17	And we're very fortunate to have
18	FDIC's recently appoint Chief Innovation Officer
19	Sultan Meghji with us this afternoon.
20	Sultan is a recognized expert in
21	financial technology and he joined us, I think,
22	Sultan, it was just about two months ago.

But he's going to talk about what you 1 2 can expect to see going forward with regard to technology and innovation here at the FDIC. 3 4 Sultan, you have the camera. 5 Thank you so much, MR. MEGHJI: It's great to be here and thank you so 6 Arleas. 7 much for the invitation and the opportunity to 8 stick in and listen on and off throughout the day 9 as I've been able to. This is absolutely fantastic. 10 11 For those on the committee I haven't 12 met yet, it's great to meet you and I encourage 13 all of you to reach out to me at your convenience. I'd love to find time to chat with 14 15 each of you. 16 As Arleas said, I think Thursday is 17 officially my two-month anniversary here. And 18 I've gotten a lot of questions about joining and 19 everything. 20 And I thought it'd be useful to spend 21 a few seconds just mentioning why I'm in banking 22 at all and why the FDIC, which is the, I grew up

1	in a cornfield in the middle of Illinois.
2	And it's that small town sense of
3	community that's anchored by the local community
4	bank that really drew me in initially.
5	And I have these great memories of
6	walking to the local diner to get pie with my
7	grandfather and I would walk by the bank. And it
8	was a key, integral part of the community.
9	Now, obviously, the old Main Street
10	ideals of decades ago, far too many decades ago
11	for me, anyway, are changing a little bit.
12	And as we think about that change, the
13	ability to come into FDIC right now and sit in
14	this new role was an opportunity I couldn't pass
15	up.
16	And so let me talk a little bit about
17	what's been going on and what you're going to
18	start hearing more and more for us.
19	And the first thing I'd say is, I, of
20	course, am very happy to take any questions, so
21	please throw any into the chat or be prepared or
22	raise your hand and we'll get to it at the end of

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my little speech here.

2 But one of the biggest things in talking to the chairman and going on my listening 3 tour where I spoke to a number of bankers, I 4 spoke to people throughout the ecosystem, was a 5 couple of things. 6 Number one is that American 7 8 competitiveness is something that we want to 9 protect and expend, and that we want to do it in an inclusive way. 10 11 We want to open the door to thoughtful 12 innovation. We want to be able to let the new 13 technologies in, but do it in a thoughtful way. 14 We wanted to make things easier for people, not harder. And we wanted to have a view 15 to the future. 16 17 And we've come up with a couple themes 18 that you'll hear those of us here at FDIC speak a 19 little bit more about, but I'm happy to summarize 20 them for you. The first is around inclusion. 21 We 22 need to build an inclusive, diverse, and

equitable future of banking here in the United States.

And that's not just at the consumer 3 4 level, although there's a tremendous amount we 5 can do there. And I think you guys, most of you saw the recent bank initiative, which has been a 6 really great first step, and there's more to come 7 8 in that area. 9 But also inclusivity from the perspective of minority women owned businesses. 10 11 Small businesses are the backbone of this country 12 and it's a wonderful opportunity for us to help 13 leverage that amazing capability and do more for 14 them. 15 The second is around resilience, and 16 whether or not we're talking about things like the SolarWinds hacks or the Microsoft hacks or 17 18 the pressures against the system from unregulated 19 entities or the increased competition from the 20 big banks, we need to build into this ecosystem a 21 more resilient capability set. 22 And that's everything from

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1 cybersecurity to availability to interoperability 2 and standards. I'm sure those, some of you remember 3 4 last year, we put out an RFI on a standards 5 setting organization and that work continues as 6 well. 7 But we really do need to get to a 8 point where we are engineering for resilience. 9 We have to make sure that we're being thoughtful about this. 10 11 And it's everything from the due 12 diligence of third-party fintechs to understanding the technical debt that exists 13 14 inside the banking sector and what we can do to 15 help clean that up. 16 The third one is around amplification. 17 I've spent a lot of time inside of community 18 banks and some of them very small. 19 It's just four or five people. And 20 everybody's kind of wearing a bunch of different 21 hats. 22 But one thing I've noticed is that a

lot of people are fighting the process, they're 1 2 fighting technology, they're fighting their regulatory requirements. 3 And instead of being bankers and being 4 amazing at that, they're fighting an Excel 5 spreadsheet. 6 Now I get inside of FDIC and I see the 7 exact same thing. I see amazing people 8 9 throughout the organization, economists, 10 examiners, people from our technology organization, our legal division, policy, and 11 12 there's all this friction in their daily lives. 13 And so I think it's important for us, 14 if we have all these amazing experts throughout the ecosystem, they should be spending (video 15 16 interference) of every hour being an expert. 17 And then finally, we have to protect 18 the future. And here's where I come back to my 19 comment about American competitiveness globally. 20 In the face of an ascending People's 21 Republic of China, in the face of massive global 22 competition, in the face of competition from

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traditionally non-competitive sectors of the U.S. 1 2 economy, the American banking system has never been under more pressure than it is currently 3 4 under. And there's an amazing opportunity. 5 And again, you'll hear me say this, an opportunity for us to build a banking system of 6 7 the future that exceeded what we could do in the 8 20th century, American power both domestically 9 and globally in the 20th century sat on the back of our economic system, sat on the back of free 10 11 market capitalism, and sat on the back of our 12 banks. 13 If we're going to be the number one 14 country in the 21st century, we have to reinvest in that. We have to refocus on that. 15 16 And that's what I want to do. I want 17 to protect the future, whether or not it's 18 against foreign actors or whether or not it's 19 continuing to ensure that our banks are offering 20 the best products and services, or if Mr. Musk 21 gets that bank on Mars that he wants. That bank will still have to 22

interoperate with our system. And we want to 1 2 make sure there's a way for that to work, a thoughtful, seamless, safe, and secure way. 3 And we want to do all this while 4 5 fundamentally being more efficient. So we have a 6 lot of work to do. 7 And as we go through this year and 8 next year, you'll start seeing a bunch of 9 different programs around these four themes that I've discussed. 10 11 We've already got a lot of great work going on internally. We're starting to touch 12 13 some places where we're trying to enhance some of 14 the cybersecurity standards and work on finding ways to create new opportunities to work 15 16 together. And you'll see more and more of that 17 as we go through the year. 18 But most importantly, I wanted to make sure you all heard about our email address, 19 20 innovation@fdic.gov. 21 This is an opportunity for us to kind 22 of preach to the choir. If we're going to be
1	open and transparent, here's how you do it.
2	That email hits my inbox. So please
3	do, if you have thoughts, ideas, want to engage
4	with us, please do reach out. We would love to
5	hear from you.
6	And so with that, I don't have
7	anything else specifically to add here, but I
8	will pause for a moment and see if there are any
9	questions.
10	I don't see any, but very happy to
11	take any if there are any. Otherwise, I will
12	turn it back over to Arleas.
13	MS. ANDERSON: I have a question.
14	MS. KEA: Okay, let's take a moment.
15	Yes, go ahead.
16	MS. ANDERSON: Hi, I'm Shaza Anderson,
17	Trust Star Bank, and my question is really more
18	generic.
19	You probably all have read that the
20	OCC has approved the first fintech company to
21	have a banking charter.
22	And I'm not really sure yet how it's

going to affect us, how it's going to affect the 1 2 FDIC, or banking in general. Do you have any sort of thoughts on 3 4 that? It's been something that we've been 5 bombarded with all these fintech companies. There's one every day, it seems like. 6 7 But to get an approval from the OCC, 8 would that be FDIC insurance? I mean, it's a 9 charter, it's a banking charter. So tell me a little bit about your thoughts. 10 11 MR. MEGHJI: Well, first off, I can 12 only speak for myself and the FDIC. I can't 13 really speak to the OCC at all. And certainly, 14 some of the different things they are doing are far outside my purview. 15 16 But I will say I'm a big fan of 17 innovation. I'm a big fan of innovation in the 18 banking sector. 19 And we see across FDIC insured 20 institutions tremendous innovation. In some cases, the bank is just being innovated. 21 22 In some cases, they're partnering with

1 fintechs, of which there are many thousands. 2 Make no mistake. And in some cases, it's banks working 3 together. And I'm a big fan of that. 4 I like 5 seeing entities that are what I call regulatory forward. 6 7 They're engaging with groups like us 8 early and often and finding ways to work inside 9 of the system instead of just ignoring this and just doing whatever they feel like and kind of 10 11 lone wolfing it out there. 12 So all I can say is I encourage 13 greatly people to work with us. I hope we can continue to do that. 14 15 And I look forward to seeing what 16 innovations all of you come up with. They get me 17 excited. 18 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. 19 MR. MEGHJI: Thank you. Arleas, back 20 you. Actually, Sultan, Mark 21 MR. PITKIN: 22 Pitkin from Sugar River Bank. If you don't mind

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me, just a comment and a question.

2	So coming from the first community
3	bank that partnered with Lending Club, who is the
4	largest unsecured lender in the nation many, many
5	years ago, I am very pleased to see sort of the
6	openness toward banks now working with these
7	fintechs, because I can assure you that back
8	then, there wasn't the openness and
9	transparencies with banks sort of going outside
10	of the box.
11	But we profess, certainly as a smaller
12	community bank in an area that didn't have a
13	whole lot of population growth, that we had to
14	look at different areas of innovation in order to
15	be sustainable and survive.
16	So we have certainly come full circle
17	with regards to do that. So I guess my question
18	is, what are you and/or what is the FDIC doing to
19	sort of pass your energy, your openness, and your
20	transparency for banks thinking out of the box
21	when it comes to examiners that come in our doors
22	and we are sharing certain things?

Is that something that is being passed 1 2 down? Because if that is the case, having an open mind is going to be incredibly refreshing 3 when banks are doing these things that you find 4 are very helpful, thought provoking, and 5 necessary in the future. 6 7 MR. MEGHJI: Yes, that is such a great question, Mark. And you know what I've 8 9 discovered in my time in this industry is that some of the most interesting innovations, the 10 11 most thoughtful dialogs I've had have not been 12 from the biggest banks out there. 13 It's been from the community banks 14 that are, you've got guys dirty fingernails on 15 the street trying to sell a loan or something 16 like that and you guys are thinking of new and 17 interesting ways of making that case. 18 So I'm, A, not surprised to hear what 19 you just said, and B, excited to hear it. 20 Two days shy of my two-month 21 anniversary, there's only so much megaphone I've 22 been able to cover thus far, but you'll certainly

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see a lot more of that.

2	Tomorrow, you'll see the first in a
3	series of new podcasts where I interview the
4	chairman, where we have an entirely unscripted
5	discussion, a very open and transparent one, I
6	might add, about innovation.
7	You'll hear us talking about some of
8	the things I've already said today. But you'll
9	get to hear from her directly.
10	I've done three speeches today. I met
11	with two members of Congress today. And that's
12	kind of a normal day for me. So there's a lot of
13	this going on. So that's number one.
14	Number two, you're going to see a lot
15	of what I call programmatic functions. So what
16	does that mean?
17	It means everything from tech springs
18	to opening up to RFIs and anything we can think
19	of.
20	And I certainly encourage anyone
21	hearing my voice right now, if you've got an
22	idea, I want to hear about it.

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1	And then third is, FDIC is
2	approximately 6,000 employees across the country
3	and there's going to take a little bit of time
4	for us to get all the messages across and the
5	interview across.
6	So I would beg a little bit of
7	patience. But you don't bring a guy with nearly
8	30 years of private sector experience building
9	companies and transforming large institutions
10	from his own startups to large public equities,
11	infrastructures, in here to have me sit on my
12	hands. So don't be surprised when you hear more.
13	MR. PITKIN: Thank you.
14	MR. MEGHJI: Thank you.
15	MS. KEA: Sultan, we have just a
16	couple more questions. First, Neil McCurry and
17	then Steve Hayes.
18	MR. MCCURRY: Hi, Sultan. Neil
19	McCurry in Sarasota, Florida. First, welcome to
20	the FDIC. Your enthusiasm is refreshing on this
21	area.
22	And I'm a big fan of the concept of

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1	technology, but I want to get your thoughts on
2	what really keeps me up at night when I think
3	about banking. And I best describe that with a
4	short story I've shared with our shareholders.
5	In the year 2000, we were introducing
6	internet banking, which was revolutionary at the
7	time.
8	And I told everybody how great it is,
9	but I said be careful because right now there's a
10	14-year-old kid living in a basement in Europe
11	and he's trying to hack into your system.
12	So you have to be careful with it.
13	That was 20-plus years ago. I recently said that
14	story again.
15	I said, the difference is that 14-
16	year-old is grown up and now works in a well-
17	funded factory, maybe for some government that is
18	trying to do detrimental things to our industry,
19	our country, and our institutions.
20	We've seen core providers that have
21	had meaningful, successful cyberattacks. I
22	believe that a potential cyberattack on your bank

very well could be death by a thousand cuts, when
you look at the reputational risk and everything
involved.

And as we speak right now, someone on this panel might be in the process of someone trying to hack into their system, and we might not know about that for months or a year from now.

9 So it's scary. So how do we adopt and 10 innovate and embrace this technology, which 11 ultimately relies on partnering with other 12 organizations that are now susceptible because 13 they have access to your systems? How do we 14 protect ourselves against these very smart, well-15 funded groups?

And how do we do that in a collaboration as opposed to, ah, they got you? As opposed to, we're all in this together and making sure that our system is safe and is perceived to be safe by the customers in the country?

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MR. MEGHJI: Well, Neil, it's a great

comment and question and I like the story, too. 1 2 I relate to that. I would say a few things. Number one 3 4 is, we are all in this together. No one bank, no 5 one regulator, no one member of our banking system stands alone. 6 It's not a bunch of islands. 7 We're 8 all part of a community and so we need to act 9 that way. I'll also say that cybersecurity, like 10 11 innovation, is fundamentally not primarily a 12 technology discussion. 13 It's people, it's processing, and it's 14 technology. And so just like any well run bank has a top focused management program, which I'm 15 16 sure everyone here who runs a bank has something 17 like that, we need to extend the definition of 18 that. 19 We need to make sure our people are 20 trained. We need to make sure it's communicated, 21 we need to make sure our processes are being 22 evaluated and continually kind of poke that.

We are far past the time when you 1 2 implement something, you put something in place and just leave it alone for years at a time. 3 The static mainframe system's view of 4 5 the world doesn't exist anymore. That's just not Say, like, batch systems. 6 how it works. 7 I've been very fortunate for the last 8 few years to work on something called the Fin 9 Cyber Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 10 11 It's specifically talking about how to 12 secure the global financial system. And we have 13 a capacity building toolkit that included, one of 14 the first things we put out there, and I share this because it's meaningful to your question, 15 16 Neil, a communications and education program, 17 because absolutely, from every significant 18 shareholder to your board of directors to your C 19 suite to the most junior person in your 20 organization, cybersecurity is something that 21 needs to be taken very seriously and it needs to 22 be part of the ongoing discussion.

1	So that's kind of one comment. The
2	second is, this is such a concern that you heard
3	me talk about resilience as our second theme, and
4	this is absolutely part of that, SolarWinds, the
5	Microsoft hack, the various customized Ransomware
6	technologies and Ransomware's a service that's
7	out there right now.
8	These are all out there and I agree
9	with you and I can also say I agree with Chairman
10	Powell who thinks that cybersecurity is probably
11	the greatest threat to our banking system.
12	So I can't say it more strongly than
13	that.
14	MR. MCCURRY: Well, thank you for that
15	comment. Prior to you joining us, Gilbert made
16	some comments about the committee he's on for
17	minority institution subcommittee, and I'd
18	recommend the FDIC consider some type of
19	subcommittee where a group of bankers across the
20	country work with your group as a team to address
21	these.
22	So everybody has different

1 perspectives on it, because ultimately, we all 2 either fail or succeed together. So I think that as much as we can look 3 4 like we're joined together and talk and feel that 5 it's not a bank and a regulator relationship, it's more of, we have to do this if we're going 6 to survive. 7 8 And I think that there might be some 9 merit to that idea. And maybe you can put some deliberation to that concept. 10 11 I think that's a MR. MEGHJI: fantastic idea, Neil, and I'm going to ask if 12 13 you've hacked my email. Can I ask that we table 14 that and we'll get back to you very quickly? 15 MR. MCCURRY: Fantastic. Thanks so much, Neil. 16 MR. MEGHJI: 17 MS. KEA: Great. That's great. So is 18 Steve still on? And then PJ Wharton. 19 MR. HAYES: Can you hear me? 20 MR. MEGHJI: Yes. 21 MR. HAYES: Thank so much. Ι appreciate it. This is Steve Hayes from South 22

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2	Earlier you made the comment about
3	small banks fighting technology. And out here in
4	South Dakota, we're probably, the majority of our
5	banks are \$50 million to \$100 million, I suppose.
6	And I agree, rural communities, we
7	need to wear several hats and we need to embrace
8	technology, but what else are you hearing out
9	there?
10	Is it these people are fighting, and
11	you just made the comment, but is it due to the
12	education component part of it or what?
13	And I'm just curious because I know
14	that we face that out here as well. It's a
15	comment or question, so
16	MR. MEGHJI: Yeah, Steve, I was just
17	about to ask. I'll say a couple of words and you
18	tell me if it's useful, how's that?
19	So as I said, you talk about
20	innovation in cybersecurity as being about people
21	and processing and technology.
22	I think if you're going to be

implementing technology in a bank, you've got to think about all three of those.

You've got to not only make sure 3 4 you're getting the right technology that's fit 5 for purpose, that's kind of the right price point and the right kind of features and all that other 6 7 good stuff, and also recognize that for, 8 especially for smaller institutions, your 9 technology expense in many cases are after your 10 annual interest expense, the largest expense 11 you've got. 12 And that's a big pill to swallow 13 sometimes. So there's a financial component 14 there that can't be ignored. I would say, though, that investing in 15 16 people is absolutely where I would start. So if 17 you say, Sultan, you're running this \$50 million, 18 \$100 million, \$150 million bank, and just for 19 background, I've been living in Missouri for a 20 while now, so the kinds of banks you're talking 21 about in South Dakota, I recognize that strongly. 22 And I would be investing in my people.

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I would be making sure that they have the 1 2 opportunities to hear about things like the Fin Cyber Program or continuing education and all of 3 4 that. 5 I mean, that's a challenge we see 6 facing the banking sector is hiring and 7 recruiting great people, and technology is even the biggest one. 8 9 I mean, the second one is making sure 10 that you're thinking about your processes. Your 11 process that came from 20 years ago that pre-12 dates real time payments, you probably want to 13 spend some time looking at that. 14 There are some amazing resources out there, whether it's other institutions or trade 15 16 associations or a variety of other agencies and 17 organizations that can support there. 18 And then the other one is, think about 19 the strategy where you're taking the 20 organization. I mean, if I was, if you said to 21 me, Sultan, what tech should I use for problem X, I wouldn't know how to answer that until I 22

understood what you were trying to do with your 1 2 organization, what you're trying to do. There is no one size fits all anymore. 3 Thank you. 4 MR. HAYES: Okay. Great. Good. Fantastic. 5 MR. MEGHJI: Let's qo to PJ. 6 MS. KEA: 7 MR. WHARTON: Sultan, PJ Wharton, 8 Yampa Valley Bank in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. 9 Yes, I think for most of us, going through COVID, we've all faced the reality that technology, tech 10 is no longer a luxury but a requirement. 11 12 And with that, many of us are members 13 of Independent Community Bankers of America. 14 With what we went through and seeing when our core provider was down the first business day in 15 16 January and I didn't have remote deposit capture and I didn't have my ATM and I didn't have online 17 18 bill pay, we had lines around the bank. 19 As a result, I participated in the 20 ICBA Thinktech Accelerator Program, which is in 21 the great state of Arkansas, Margaret's home 22 state, the ICBA.

1	My question is, do you have any
2	interaction with our friends at Independent
3	Community Bankers of America?
4	Again, the Thinktech Accelerator is an
5	amazing program where by volunteering you are
6	able to see up to 12 companies in a single day
7	making their pitch.
8	And I think it'd be great if there was
9	interaction between the FDIC and the ICBA as it
10	relates to this vital program.
11	So I was just curios if you've had
12	interaction yet and what your impression is.
13	MR. MEGHJI: I have. In fact, I spoke
14	at the event a few weeks ago. So, yes, I have.
15	There are a number of amazing resources out
16	there, whether it's fraternity associations or
17	others.
18	But no, it's fantastic. You're
19	absolutely right. It is no longer optional.
20	MR. WHARTON: Thank you.
21	MS. KEA: We have a few more minutes
22	if there are other questions or thoughts. And in

1 the meantime, Sultan, I think your email is 2 innovation@fdic.gov. We want to make sure everybody takes that away. 3 4 MR. MEGHJI: Yes. 5 I think I see, did I see MS. KEA: 6 another hand go up? Let me just double check. 7 Actually, I don't see any more hands. 8 But I think everybody would say, 9 Sultan, that this is the beginning of a very long conversation that will continue to go on. 10 11 So we just thank you very much. There 12 will be many more opportunities. We appreciate the recommendations that have come out of this 13 14 talk. And I'm sure that the members will be 15 16 hearing more from you and from us at the FDIC 17 around this. So, Sultan, thank you so very much. 18 MR. MEGHJI: Thank you, Arleas, and 19 thank you to the members for having me here 20 today. I look forward to continuing to engage 21 with you. 22 Thank you, Sultan. MS. KEA: So next,

1	what we'd like to do on the agenda is to provide
2	you all with a few supervisory matter updates.
3	And we do have with us today from the
4	Division of Risk Management Supervision, our
5	Director, Doreen Eberley.
6	And she's joined by Rae-Ann Miller,
7	who is our Senior Deputy Director of Supervisory
8	Examinations, as well as John Vogel, who is
9	Deputy Director for Operations.
10	And then they are joined by Chris
11	Finnegan, who is from the Division of Depositor
12	and Consumer Protection.
13	And Chris serves as the acting Deputy
14	Director of Compliance and CRA Examinations.
15	So for Doreen and the team, I'd like
16	to turn it over to you.
17	MS. EBERLEY: Okay, thanks so much,
18	Arleas. Well, we do have a number of topics to
19	cover during our supervision panel today,
20	including an overview of our supervisory response
21	to the pandemic, an overview of the broker
22	deposit and interest rate restriction fund, and

	l -
1	an introduction to our streamlined consumer
2	compliance examination pilot program.
3	John Vogel and I will start us off
4	with an overview of the FDIC supervisory response
5	to the pandemic.
6	And on the slide here, we've provided
7	a link to a short video that appears on FDIC.gov
8	that I would encourage you to take a look at
9	after the meeting.
10	Within days of the declaration of the
11	pandemic by the World Health Organization, we
12	encouraged financial institutions to work with
13	their customers and communities affected by
14	COVID-19 and we provided them the flexibility to
15	do so.
16	Specifically, we stated that an
17	institution's prudent efforts to modify terms on
18	existing loans for affected customers would not
19	be subject to examiner criticism, and we
20	committed to working with affected financial
21	institutions to reduce burden when scheduling
22	exams.

1	We also established a dedicated
2	coronavirus webpage to house our relevant
3	guidance, rule makings, and answers to questions
4	frequently asked by bankers and consumers, and
5	that's where you'll find that video that I just
6	mentioned.
7	Couple of weeks later, we clarified
8	that certain loan modifications made in response
9	to COVID-19 are not troubled debt restructurings.
10	We provided flexibility to enable
11	mortgage servicers to work with struggling
12	consumers.
13	We also made it easier for banks to
14	make home equity accessible to consumers by
15	allowing for delayed receipt of appraisals and
16	clarifying that interior inspections are not
17	required.
18	We encouraged institutions to use
19	their capital and liquidity buffers to support
20	small businesses and households, and community
21	banks delivered, playing an outsized role in
22	pandemic-related government stimulus program,

1	like the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP.
2	As of the second quarter of 2020,
3	community banks held a significant 31 percent of
4	all PPP loans, compared to 12 percent of total
5	industry assets and 15 percent of total industry
6	loans. Talk about punching above your weight.
7	We've supported banks' participation
8	in PPP by arranging webinars for the SBA to
9	answer bankers' questions, by posting responses
10	to the most frequently asked questions on our
11	coronavirus webpage, and by providing regulatory
12	clarifications and temporary regulatory relief.
13	And we'll get to the question that was
14	raised in the first session this morning about
15	that temporary relief. We can cover that in the
16	Q&A.
17	We moved all supervisory activities
18	offsite. So that's another thing you mentioned
19	earlier today, and we can talk about this in the
20	Q&A as well.
21	For the first couple of weeks of the
22	national emergency, we completely paused our

examination program to give bankers flexibility, 1 2 recognizing they were busy responding to the needs of their customers, employees, and 3 families. 4 After that, we offered additional 5 options to pause as needed. 6 These pauses were 7 well received and we were happy to provide the needed flexibility. 8 9 Even with these significant changes to 10 our operations, we've maintained our supervisory 11 programs for both safety and soundness in 12 consumer protection, and we've continued to meet 13 all associated statutory requirements and 14 internal goals. We were able to make the pivot to 15 16 offsite work quickly because of both our prior 17 efforts to leverage technology and examinations 18 and because of your coordination and cooperation. 19 So let me take this opportunity to say 20 thank you. 21 We increased our communication 22 frequency, sharing updates on the guidance we

were issuing and answering your questions. 1 2 And we used the feedback that regional directors shared from their regular meetings with 3 state commissioners and trade associations to 4 5 shape our policy response. And because of that, we issued a 6 7 number of rule makings and guidance statements to 8 address temporary needs and to implement the 9 CARES Act. We provided, just as some highlights 10 here on the slide, just a few of them. 11 12 We've included a link to our 13 coronavirus webpage, where you'll find the FAQs 14 and the pandemic-related guidance and rulemakings, including those listed here. 15 And I'll turn it over to John now to 16 17 give you a more behind the scenes look at our 18 conversion to offsite supervision. John? 19 Thanks, Doreen. MR. VOGEL: Prior to 20 the pandemic, we had already been conducting a 21 significant portion of our examination work 22 offsite.

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1	And because of that, we were able to
2	pivot very quickly to our mandatory telework and
3	were able to conduct our exams fully offsite.
4	We made sure that our team was
5	equipped to work offsite, and we provided
6	enhancements to the enterprise file exchange that
7	facilitated the increased number and size of our
8	electronic files.
9	The FDIC also provided employees
10	flexibilities with their schedule to make
11	accommodations for the increased or changing
12	responsibilities that our team members had.
13	Mike, next slide.
14	We also at the beginning of the
15	pandemic initiated a number of our continuity
16	planning protocols.
17	So to make sure that we had enough
18	examiner hours to complete our examination work,
19	we offered our examination team a leave buy-back,
20	which was very successful.
21	And it allowed us to complete all of
22	our exams on time, as many mentioned.

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1	We hired additional entry-level staff
2	for conducting loan review, and also to help on
3	our IT exams.
4	We also rehired some of the folks that
5	had previously retired to help us train our newly
6	hired examiners in field offices where we had a
7	high percentage of precommissioned examiners.
8	So, off to Rae-Ann, I think.
9	MS. MILLER: Thank you very much,
10	John. Mike, can you go to the next slide,
11	please? Sorry, guys, I'm having a hard time
12	here.
13	So I'm going to talk to you guys about
14	a few highlights and recent changes to our broker
15	deposit regulations and rate restrictions.
16	It's important to remember that the
17	restrictions on broker deposits and interest
18	rates do not apply to well capitalized
19	institutions.
20	It's also helpful to know that this
21	regulation features a lot of changes. It's hard
22	to do it justice in the brief time we have.

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1	So I'm going to do my best to cover	
2	it. But I do encourage you to review the reg,	
3	the preamble, and we've also recently posted some	
4	Q&As.	
5	And if you have questions about	
6	specific arrangements, you can submit them to our	
7	dedicated mailbox and Mike, we're going to stay	
8	on this slide for just a minute.	
9	Our new regulations were approved by	
10	our board in December of last year. And it	
11	became effective on April 1, 2021.	
12	We also provided what we call a full	
13	compliance date, and that runs through year-end	
14	2021.	
15	And the purpose for this full	
16	compliance date was to allow for those who are	
17	relying on existing staff advisory opinions and	
18	FAQs time to change their documents and systems	
19	to comply with the new rule.	
20	So after January 1, 2022, those past	
21	staff opinions and the FAQs will be moved to	
22	inactive status.	

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1	We will also point out that with the
2	April 1 effective date of the new regulations,
3	banks are going to begin to report changes with
4	the way deposits are categorized in fall reports
5	in the June filings.
6	The call is for interagency, and there
7	is an interagency process underway to update
8	those instructions now.
9	So if you could please move to the
10	next slide, Mike.
11	So this slide summarizes section 29,
12	requirements, section 29 of the FDI Act. And it
13	really has a broad definition of what is a
14	deposit broker.
15	And it's important to know that the
16	law hasn't changed. And as a very high level
17	summary of the restrictions that work in the law,
18	remember that well capitalized institutions are
19	not subject to restrictions, as I mentioned,
20	adequately capitalized banks have to apply to the
21	FDIC for a waiver to accept broker deposits,
22	undercapitalized banks cannot accept broker

deposits, and in addition, banks that are less 1 2 than well capitalized are limited in the interest rates that they can offer on deposits. 3 So all of these restrictions remain in 4 effect, but you're going to see in the next few 5 slides, we've changed some interpretations of the 6 So please move to the next slide. 7 law. So as you know, broker deposit is a 8 9 deposit received from or facilitated by a deposit broker. 10 11 So we begin our analysis with 12 determining who is a deposit broker. And we made some revisions there. 13 14 A deposit broker analysis is now based on the relationship between the person placing or 15 16 facilitating the placement of the deposit and its 17 customer, not the relationship between the person 18 and the IDI. 19 And under the revised rule, if an 20 entity has an exclusive deposit arrangement with 21 only one bank, including one affiliate, and is 22 not placing or facilitating the placement of

deposits at any other bank, it is not a deposit broker.

However, if the entity has a deposit 3 arrangement with more than one bank, the entity 4 is a deposit broker unless it's excluded under 5 other parts of the definition of deposit broker. 6 7 If the entity has an exclusive deposit 8 arrangement for one business line with one bank 9 or places deposits at other banks in another business line, it is also a deposit broker, but 10 11 may be eligible for a Primary Purpose Exception. 12 I'm going to discuss that in a few slides. 13 And if an entity uses multiple 14 entities, placing deposits at different banks in an effort to evade this rule, it will be 15 16 classified as deposit broker. 17 So another change in the deposit 18 broker analysis is that to be a deposit broker, 19 the person must have a business relationship with 20 its customers and be engaged in the business of 21 placing or facilitating the placement of deposits 22 as part of that relationship.

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1	So the FDIC is no longer focusing on
2	the relationship between the third party and the
3	bank.
4	So even if the bank is paying the
5	third party, that's not necessarily indicative,
6	that reason alone, that would cause the deposits
7	to be broker.
8	So the revised rule now defines
9	facilitating the placement of deposits. And a
10	person is facilitating the placement of deposits
11	if the person has legal authority, contractual or
12	otherwise, to close the account or move the
13	customer's funds to another bank, the person is
14	involved in negotiation or setting rates, fees,
15	terms, or conditions for one or more specific
16	deposit account, but that doesn't including
17	marketing or consulting services that help a bank
18	determine rates that are applicable to deposit
19	accounts generally, and then the third prong is
20	that the person engages in matchmaking.
21	Matchmaking is defined as proposing
22	deposit allocations at or between banks based

upon both a particular deposit objective of a 1 2 specific depositor and the particular deposit objective of specific banks. 3 And so matchmaking does not include 4 5 deposits placed by a depositor's agent with a bank affiliate or with a depositor's agent, which 6 would include depositors' subsidiaries, parents, 7 8 and other affiliates. 9 Matchmaking also does not include third parties that provide administrative 10 11 services as part of a deposit sweep program 12 between a depositor broker/dealer and unaffiliated banks. 13 14 That is, a third party may assist in the placement of sweep deposits with unaffiliated 15 16 banks, but does not propose deposit allocations. 17 So matchmaking does include an 18 affiliated third party that meets a deposit 19 broker definition that places deposits with 20 assistance of another person engaging in 21 matchmaking activities. 22 So for example, if a third party with

a Primary Purpose Exception sweeps deposits to 1 2 unaffiliated banks, those sweep deposits would not be brokered if the same third party uses and 3 intermediate that fits the definition of deposit 4 5 broker to place the deposits at unaffiliated 6 banks. 7 Excuse me. If the same third party 8 uses an intermediary debt fix, the definition of 9 deposit broker who placed deposits with unaffiliated banks, those deposits would be 10 11 brokered. 12 So let's move to the next slide, 13 please. Make sure I'm on the same slide here. 14 Thank you, Mike. Yes. So we're going to talk about the 15 16 Primary Purpose Exception. We call this the PPE. 17 So in the law, there are still nine statutory 18 exceptions. And we created one regulatory 19 exception to the definition of a deposit broker 20 some time ago. 21 So the new rule has only affected 22 interpretation of the statutory Primary Purpose

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Exception.

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2	And so remember that the Primary
3	Purpose Exception is only applicable if an entity
4	fits the definition of a deposit broker and no
5	other regulatory (video interference) applies.
6	So by the statute, a Primary Purpose
7	Exception is only permitted when the primary
8	purpose of the agent or nominee's business
9	relationship with its customer is not a placement
10	of fund with depository institutions.
11	So under the revised rule, the PPE is
12	applied separately to each business line, and the
13	rule now includes a list of designated
14	exceptions, we created that terminology, that
15	automatically will receive PPE.
16	So as you see on this slide, for two
17	of the designated exceptions for PPE. The rule
18	has created new notice process.
19	And so an entity should submit a
20	notice if the entity wants to provide a PPE,
21	either under the designated exceptions, 25
22	percent of assets test, or the enabling

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transactions test.

2	So the 25 percent of assets test
3	designated exception is applicable to an entity
4	that has less than 25 percent of its total
5	assets, if the agent or nominee has an under
6	administration towards customers placed at
7	depository institutions.
8	For example, a broker/dealer's sweep
9	programs may qualify. And entities qualifying
10	under this exception are required to submit
11	quarterly reports to demonstrate that they
12	continue to qualify for the PPE.
13	Now, the enabling transaction test is
14	the other designated exception that requires a
15	notice.
16	This test, this exception applies to
17	entities for which 100 percent of the depositor's
18	funds that the agent or nominee places or assists
19	in placing at depository institutions, are placed
20	into transactional accounts that do not pay any
21	fees, interest, or other remuneration to the
22	deposit.
1	For example, accounts set up by
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2	prepaid card program managers may qualify for
3	these enabling transactions exceptions.
4	Entities qualifying under this
5	exemption are required to submit annual
6	certifications. Now, please move to the next
7	slide.
8	So this slide shows the other
9	designated exceptions, and these don't require a
10	notice and would not be considered brokered so
11	long as a third party is not involved in placing
12	the deposits.
13	It's important to know that if an
14	entity does not fit one of these PPE designated
15	exceptions we just talked about in these two
16	slides, it may file an application seeking to
17	obtain a PPE.
18	For example, a situation where
19	placement of deposits does not fit the enabling
20	transactions designated exception, because the
21	bank pays interest to the underlying depositor,
22	in this case the third party or bank on behalf of

1	a third party, could submit an application if it
2	wanted to rely on the PPE designations.
3	Two more things I wanted to talk about
4	before I move to interest rate restrictions that
5	are application for less than well capitalized
6	banks.
7	There is a lot of information here,
8	and we would refer you to our website for the
9	notice and application filing procedures.
10	We debuted a new website on April 1,
11	and we're also working on a more streamlined
12	process for the notices and applications.
13	And I wanted to note that the changes
14	in the regulations do not impact broker's fees.
15	They are still brokered.
16	The rules also do not change our
17	supervisory process. It is true that the changes
18	in the regulation may mean that some deposits
19	that are currently reported as brokered will not
20	be reported as brokered going forward.
21	But examiners will still review the
22	funding structured banks to the extent there's

concerns, including concentrations concerns. 1 2 They will be noted as part of the supervisory process. 3 And the rule also doesn't affect our 4 5 enforcement authorities under section 8 or section 39 of the FDI Act. 6 Now, let's go to the next slide, and 7 8 we'll talk a little bit about the interest rate 9 restrictions that are applicable for less than well capitalized banks. 10 11 So the revised rule also changed the 12 interest rate restrictions. We also created a 13 new section of our regulations, 337.7, and split 14 out the broker deposits from the interest rate 15 restrictions. 16 The first change is to the national 17 rate. So the national rate has changed based on 18 market share versus branches, and now includes 19 credit unions in the calculation. 20 The national rate cap has also 21 changed. So for CDs and other deposits with a 22 maturity date, the national rate cap is the

1	higher of, one, the national rate of 75 basis
2	points or the U.S. Treasury security rate (video
3	interference) plus 75 basis points.
4	For non-maturity products, the weight
5	cap is now the higher of the national rate plus
6	75 basis points or the Fed Funds rate plus 75
7	basis points.
8	So let's move to the next slide, and
9	this slide is dealing with the local rate. I
10	would say first of all, we anticipate that far
11	fewer institutions have become less than well
12	capitalized that will rely on the local rate
13	because the national rate is intended to be much
14	more flexible.
15	But the FDIC simplified the process
16	for banks that do wish to use a local rate. So
17	banks will no longer have to request and the
18	addressee will no longer make high rate
19	determinations.
20	And banks won't need to calculate
21	averages from all IDIs in their market area and
22	calculate a local rate cap.

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1	Instead, as a local rate, the bank can
2	offer up to 90 percent of the rate of another IDI
3	with a physical presence in its market area is
4	offering for local deposits.
5	As part of this local rate
6	determination, the bank must notify their
7	regional office that it's using a local rate,
8	needs to recalculate the local rates monthly, and
9	maintain records for at least two examination
10	cycles as part of a regulation.
11	So moving to the next slide, just a
12	point that another change affecting both national
13	and local rates is that interpolation or
14	extrapolation of rates for off-tenor maturities
15	is no longer needed.
16	If there is no national rate posted
17	and no local rate with the same maturity, the
18	bank by regulation is required to use the next
19	lower posted or offered maturity.
20	So moving to the next slide, I'll just
21	cover this quickly. This is our reminder that
22	the rate caps are not applicable to less than

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well capitalized banks.

2	And moving to the first slide talking
3	about non-maturity deposits. So the revised rule
4	clarified restrictions related to the treatment
5	of non-maturity deposits, which non-maturity
6	deposits were contemplated when the law was
7	written.
8	And under the law, remember that a
9	less than well capitalized institution may not
10	solicit deposits by offering a rate above its
11	rate cap or accepting broker deposits.
12	So for non-maturity deposits, the rule
13	clarified that an institution solicits a non-
14	maturity deposit when it opens a non-maturity
15	account, raises the rate paid on a non-maturity
16	account existing when the institutions was last
17	well capitalized, or credits funds for a new
18	depositor for a non-maturity account existing
19	when the IDI was last well capitalized.
20	So moving on to the next slide. This
21	is talking about accepting. So an IDI that is
22	less than well capitalized accepts a non-maturity

broker deposit from a particular deposit broker 1 2 when they're opening any new account, nonmaturity account, when the account balance 3 exceeds the account balance at the time the 4 5 institution was last well capitalized. And then for agency or nominee 6 7 accounts, when the institution credits any funds 8 for a new depositor to a non-maturity account. 9 So let's move to the next slide. This is talking about institutions with a waiver. 10 Α 11 less than well capitalized institution with a 12 waiver to accept broker deposits may not pay 13 interest in excess of the appropriate rate cap. 14 Again, for particular deposit broker on any new non-maturity accounts or for any 15 16 amount of funds exceeding the account balance at the time the institution fell to less than well 17 18 capitalized. 19 And then for agency and nominee 20 accounts, similarly, any funds for a new 21 depositor. And so slide 25 is our list of 22

resources. I went through this very quickly, as 1 2 I mentioned, but this is certainly our effort to modernize the regulations and streamline them and 3 4 clarify some issues where we received a lot of 5 questions. And so as we go through this 6 implementation, I encourage you to, like I said, 7 8 look at this list of resources and look at our 9 website. And if you have any questions, please 10 11 submit them through the website. We're happy to 12 answer them. 13 So with that, I think I'm going to 14 turn it over to Chris. 15 Okay, well, thank you, MR. FINNEGAN: 16 Rae-Ann. And what I'm going to discuss with you 17 all today just real quickly is to give you some 18 insight on our reported exam on the consumer 19 compliance side, because you might be receiving 20 communication from us differently going forward, 21 particularly involving how we're going to 22 actually write and present the consumer

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compliance findings to banks.

2	And so first, I want to say that while
3	we are actually changing the way we do our
4	consumer compliance report, and the reason we're
5	doing it and testing it out in this pilot that
6	I'm going to go over, is we're always looking for
7	ways to improve the way we communicate with our
8	banks, to make ourselves more efficient, and make
9	sure, well, the biggest thing is that you get
10	something out of that report, that the findings
11	of the exams and any recommendations that might
12	come out of it, we want to make sure that it is
13	helpful to you as we go through that process.
14	So, and this is what this is going to
15	be. And so what had happened was, we've had a
16	kind of one standard report that we've had for a
17	while.
18	And we got some feedback and we
19	noticed that some of these reports were quite
20	lengthy, even for our lower risk institutions
21	that hadn't had much changes since the last exam.
22	So we looked at it and we decided to

1 move forward with perhaps changing the way we'll 2 do our reports for certain low risk institutions going forward. 3 But again, with the point being to 4 5 have effective communication with our 6 institutions. So, Mike, if you could go to the 7 next slide, please. 8 So what we're going to do, and I want 9 to point out before I get into the things that are on this slide here, that this is, I'm just 10 11 talking about the way the report's going to look, 12 the way the findings will come back to your institution. 13 14 It's not going to change the way we're doing our exams. We're still going to do our 15 16 consumer compliance exams the way we always have. 17 They're going to be risk scoped, where 18 we'll focus in on the highest risk areas for 19 potential consumer harm. That's not going to 20 change as part of that. 21 Also what's not going to change is your CRA public evaluation. That will still be 22

1	the same format that we used historically.
2	This is dealing with our consumer
3	compliance report. And so what we're going to
4	do, we had a pilot last year that we did.
5	So some of your banks may have
6	actually even received a streamline report back
7	there. And so we got some feedback, both from
8	our examiners as well as from banks that were
9	part of the program.
10	The phase one was basically a letter
11	that we sent to certain institutions. It wasn't
12	really in a report format.
13	It was more of just a combined letter
14	that we sent, a couple pages long. And the
15	feedback that we got, we probably would want more
16	of a report, actually, versus just a letter.
17	That was the feedback we actually got
18	from the banks as well.
19	So what we're going to do is we're
20	going to pilot another version of this starting
21	with exams that start May 1 through June 30. So
22	about a couple weeks from now, we're going to

1 start this.

2	Again, what the purpose is to have
3	exam efficiency and more timely turnaround. We
4	want to make sure we're getting that report out
5	as soon after the exam as we can.
6	And we believe that this will help.
7	But again, we also want that report to have good
8	information in there for you. So it's a balance
9	there that we're going to have through that.
10	Again, I want to mention that there's
11	going to be no changes in our exam process. The
12	way we're going to do it again is just the format
13	of the report going forward to hopefully again be
14	more timely, efficient, and to get the
15	information we need to you as quickly as we can.
16	So, Mike, if you can go to the next
17	slide, please.
18	These, I did mention there was going
19	to be, for certain low risk institutions, this is
20	what we're going to be using during this phase
21	two of the pilot.
22	The ratings have to be satisfactory

1 for both compliance and CRA, no what we call the level three, those are our most severe 2 violations, no UDAPs, anything like that when we 3 do our standard reports, would not be eligible 4 5 for a streamlined report. No civil money penalties, no repeat 6 7 level two violations. There could be some 8 violations that are level two, but if there's 9 repeat in there, it would not be eligible. And if there's restitution of more 10 11 than \$1,000. So those are some of the 12 eligibility criteria that we'll have for this report going forward for this pilot. Mike, if 13 14 you'd go to the next slide. 15 Again, like I mentioned earlier, it's 16 just mainly going to be the format change on 17 there. Our first phase, we did it as a letter. 18 This new phase, this new pilot, is 19 actually going to look more like a report. It's 20 going to have a cover. 21 It's going to have a compliance 22 management description in there. There'll be a

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transmittal letter.

2	But it will be much more concise than
3	what our standard report would be. Again, this
4	is for our lower risk institutions that haven't
5	had much change since the last exam.
6	We feel that this will be a good way
7	of still getting the exam findings out to you in
8	an effective manner, but just in a different
9	format. So, Mike, next slide, please.
10	So I mentioned that this was going to
11	be a pilot. And so part of that is we'll be
12	getting feedback from our examiners.
13	But the most important feedback, of
14	course, that we'll have is from the bankers and
15	the banks that participate during this couple
16	month period that we're going to have.
17	So we have a process that we'll be
18	asking for to see how the report is taken by the
19	institution.
20	Does it provide enough information to
21	the bank about the consumer compliance exam that
22	we did?

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1	So we're going to encourage that
2	throughout that process. And then once we get
3	that, then we'll decide whether or not we're
4	going to make this a permanent part of our tools
5	that we use for our reports going forward.
6	And we should know that hopefully some
7	time later this summer after we get that
8	feedback.
9	Now, at the same time that we're doing
10	the streamline report, we're also looking at our
11	standard report.
12	That is something that we have not
13	changed in several years. So we have a project
14	going on right now that we're looking at that to
15	see, in the cases where it's not going to be a
16	streamline report, is our standard report getting
17	the feedback and communicating back to you the
18	results of your exam, any recommendations or
19	findings?
20	Is it effective? And so we're looking
21	at that as well at the same time. So once we get
22	the feedback from the streamline report and this

project that we're doing for the standard report, we'll be able to see what our report's going to look like going forward.

So again, we always encourage to 4 5 provide us any feedback. This is your report that comes out after a long process from pre-exam 6 7 planning to the onsite that we do, from where we're actually looking at things during an exam. 8 9 We're pulling the report together. This is a key part of that written document that 10 we provide back to you, so we want to make sure 11 12 we get whatever feedback on that. 13 So that was a quick highlight. Some 14 of you all might get this report going forward during this pilot. 15 16 And if we do implement this on a 17 permanent basis, you may see this going forward. 18 So we always ask for your feedback on that. 19 All right, Mike, I think we go to the 20 next slide. I think now it's time for questions. 21 MS. KEA: Thank you to Doreen and the 22 I would invite the members, if you have team.

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any questions at this time, please either raise 1 2 your hand or you can just turn your camera on. MS. EBERLEY: Arleas, maybe while 3 we're waiting I can as Bobby Bean to address the 4 comments that were raised in the opening session 5 on the community bank leverage ratio. 6 7 MS. KEA: Thank you, Doreen. Bobby? 8 MR. BEAN: Yes, can you hear me? 9 MR. EBERLEY: Yes, we can. 10 MR. BEAN: Yes, there was some questions concerning how the FDIC and the other 11 12 agencies are thinking about the CBLR, 13 particularly as there's a large amount of deposit 14 growth and a kind of increase in PPP lending. And we understand that deposit growth 15 16 and participation in PPP lending has led to us a 17 significant balance sheet growth across community 18 banking organizations. 19 And that has a potential compliance 20 challenge to CBLR requirement, particularly as it 21 transitions back to 9 percent. 22 The FDIC along with the other agencies

will actively monitor banking conditions, 1 2 including assessing balance sheet dynamics, reserve levels, and the potential strain on 3 4 community banking organizations. 5 Now, we want to ensure that the CBLR framework serves to reduce regulatory burden for 6 qualifying community banking organizations. 7 8 But we want to make sure that it does 9 so in a manner that is consistent with safety and soundness principles and the goal of providing 10 credit to household and businesses over a range 11 12 of economic conditions. So we will be continuing to monitor 13 14 conditions and the issues as it progresses and will consider actions from there. 15 16 MS. KEA: There was a question from Steve, did Bobby answer your 17 Steve Hayes. 18 question or is there more information that you 19 would like? 20 MR. HAYES: No, he answered my 21 question. Can you hear me okay? 22 MS. KEA: Yes.

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1	MR. HAYES: Yes, I asked the question,
2	so, from my understanding now, it's considered
3	expired as of March 31 and you're just going to
4	the situation? As of today, it has expired. Is
5	that correct?
6	MR. BEAN: Yes, as of today, we are
7	back into the transitioning provision, back to
8	the 9 percent, and we will continue to monitor
9	conditions and the situation as we move forward.
10	MR. HAYES: Okay. Thank you.
11	MS. KEA: Doreen, I think there was
12	also a question, one more question from Bruce
13	Lowry. Bruce?
14	MR. LOWRY: Hello, thank you. I just
15	was curious, back on the broker deposit
16	discussion, and let me just start off by thanking
17	the FDIC for looking into that topic and for the
18	changes that were made.
19	But I think there's some thought,
20	especially with some community banks, that
21	perhaps things didn't go far enough, and
22	particularly in the area of looking at the

national banks and the weighted portion of the 1 2 deposit that they make up. I don't know the exact numbers but 3 it's somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 percent 4 5 of deposits are held by the largest national banks. 6 7 Community banks have something like 20 8 percent. And so that's heavily weighted. And 9 when you really look at rate offerings by national banks versus credit unions and community 10 11 banks, there's a large disparity. 12 So I was just curious if that was a 13 topic that would ever be looked at again in 14 something similar to that light or maybe have 15 more comment period for banks to be able to input 16 on that. 17 MS. MILLER: Yes, I appreciate that. 18 We did look at those issues and we also worked 19 with our economists, of course, on this 20 regulation. 21 It's quite a heavy lift. The law 22 requires a market rate and it is true that the

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larger institutions control more of the market. 1 2 Make some changes based on comments received. So in my area, we added credit unions, 3 4 which was a big comment. And we also, the national rate is just 5 one piece of the puzzle, right? What attaches 6 7 when institutions become less than well capitalized is the rate cap. 8 9 And so we created additional 10 flexibility within the rate cap of providing for 11 the higher of the national rate plus 75 basis 12 points or a comparable treasury rate plus 75 13 basis points. 14 So we felt that those things combined provide a very robust way for institutions that 15 16 are less than well capitalized to, within the 17 law, compete while still being restricted. 18 There's also a much more flexible 19 local rate cap for those institutions that wish 20 to compete locally with specials and different 21 types of maturities and things of that nature. 22 So hopefully, that answered your question.

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1	MR. LOWRY: I just express that part
2	of the concern of that comes from the definition
3	of well capitalized is a bit subjective in an
4	exam.
5	I mean, you can meet the statutory
6	numbers and still be deemed not well capitalized.
7	So there's a subjective nature to that that could
8	be problematic.
9	Right now, we all have more liquidity
10	than we need, so it's not really an issue at the
11	moment, but
12	MS. MILLER: Just so you know, it
13	should not be subjective to what well capitalized
14	is. Well capitalized is well capitalized.
15	It's what your capital ratios are.
16	They're defined by regulation. There is a quirk
17	in the PCA with respect to enforcement actions,
18	but it is not a subjective calculation.
19	And if you're finding subjectivity
20	with respect to your capital calculations and
21	your deposit, we would want to know about that
22	because that's not appropriate.

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MS. KEA: I think I saw one additional 1 2 hand from Hal Horvat. MR. HORVAT: Yes, thank you. 3 My 4 question is more I think for Doreen and John. Ι 5 certainly agree that the FDIC did a great job when the pandemic hit, and particularly in terms 6 7 of the guidance that were issued. 8 We had a great relationship with the 9 Boston office here. They reached out to us and we had some significant conversations. 10 11 Since that time, or do you anticipate 12 any further guidance happening now that we're a 13 year into this or more than a year into this? 14 And can you give us any insight into how exams are being handled specifically with 15 16 regard to asset quality? 17 Because we're now starting to see 18 financial statements from last year showing reduced income and companies not meeting their 19 financial covenants. 20 21 And just curious as to what you're 22 seeing relative to exams and how those are being

treated.

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-	created.
2	MS. EBERLEY: Sure. I'm happy to
3	start and I'll ask Rae-Ann to weigh in. We're
4	not seeing significant asset quality
5	deterioration.
6	There are certainly some. And we're
7	seeing, as Camille noted earlier in the day, we
8	are seeing some institutions, we're seeing some
9	DOW rates and internal rating systems.
10	So institutions themselves are
11	recognizing increased risk among some borrowers
12	for some of the situations that you named.
13	And so we're seeing a little bit of
14	that migration. Not a meaningful amount. Not
15	anything that's leading to significant changes in
16	composite ratings.
17	There's always a one off, but there's
18	no trends, no discernible trends, I guess would
19	be the best way to say it, coming from all that.
20	That said, we have to continue to look
21	at assets the way we've always looked at assets,
22	right?

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1	You have to recognize if a loan's not
2	going to be repaid or if you don't expect full
3	payment, regardless of whether you're calling it
4	a troubled debt restructuring or not, if those
5	facts bear out, if you don't expect to get full
6	repayment, you need to put the loan on amount
7	accrual, you may need to take a partial charge
8	off.
9	You may need to rework the note. And
10	so those are the kinds of things we're hearing a
11	little bit about from our examiners, that bankers
12	are going through some of those conversations
13	now.
14	We do want to update some existing
15	guidance on commercial real estate workouts, and
16	that's a topic interagency that we are working on
17	that we think may be of some need later on this
18	year or as time continues to pass.
19	But those are the sorts of things that
20	we're talking about. And I'll ask Rae-Ann to
21	weigh in with anything more she may have.
22	MS. MILLER: I think you did a good

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1	job, Doreen. Remember, we issue guidance to you
2	guys, but we also issue instructions to our
3	examiners and we conduct training for our
4	examiners.
5	We're used to examining during crises.
6	We've had hurricanes and wildfires and things
7	that affect local areas. This is obviously a
8	much bigger issue.
9	So our instructions to examiners,
10	they're publicly available. You can read them,
11	go through them, and get an idea of what they're
12	looking at.
13	But essentially, they're looking at
14	risk management and risk assessment. And even in
15	the case where loans might meet the definition of
16	substandard or worse, there's some longer-term
17	situations that may not improve in the term, as
18	long as risk management is doing what they need
19	to do to improve the situation, that's a good
20	thing for both the bank and the borrower.
21	So that's what we instruct our
22	examiners. We train them, we go through

nationwide training programs, we use scenario
 analysis, we return to questions, we talk in
 small groups with them.

So we do what we can to try and keep up with how things are going. But I would say one thing that really boded well, Shayna alluded to this, that we were sitting here a year ago, we thought things would have been much worse.

9 Banks went into the crisis I think
10 with pretty strong risk management frameworks,
11 healthy levels of capital and strong earnings.

12 And so all of those things sort of 13 served the system very well when these troubles 14 hit. So that's all I have to add, Doreen.

MS. KEA: Doreen, we do have one more question. Mark Pitkin. Mark, just checking in with you. Did you have a question?

18 MR. PITKIN: I was on mute. I am so 19 sorry. First and foremost, I want to thank all 20 the folks in supervision for their supportive 21 attitudes and supportive tact toward banks the 22 last 12 to 18 months.

1	2
1	I sit on a number of local as well as
2	national committees and organizations and I have
3	not spoken with one banker that wasn't basically
4	impressed with the way that their examinations
5	went.
6	So again, thank you so much for that.
7	My question may or may not necessarily be to you,
8	Doreen, but I didn't see anywhere else in the
9	agenda to ask the question.
10	And it may be more of a policy
11	question. And I think Sarah hit this topic. But
12	it's the topic of these Fed accounts.
13	So this is a significant concern,
14	certainly for myself and other local community
15	banks, that we've worked so hard to make sure
16	that we avail our accounts to each and every
17	person in our rural communities and we make every
18	effort to make sure that they have the
19	availability to be banked.
20	And one of our biggest concerns is
21	this discussion about sort of these competing Fed
22	accounts. Certainly, if it's from postal

delivery.

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2	So most of our branches, like I
3	indicated, are in small communities, and
4	unfortunately, right next door is the postal
5	service.
6	So I am just wondering if someone had
7	any thoughts, and again, Doreen, it may be you or
8	maybe someone in supervision as it affects sort
9	of risk, or it may be more on the policy side.
10	But what are the thoughts of the
11	corporation with regards to the possibility of
12	these competing Fed accounts, and how do you see
13	that affecting community banks going forward
14	that, again, worked so hard in order to get and
15	retain those deposits of our localities to each
16	and every individual?
17	MS. EBERLEY: Thanks for the question.
18	I think I can't give you an answer to that. I
19	can just say that the competitive landscape is
20	always changing for community banks and there's
21	always a new competitor around the corner.
22	And I think one of the strengths that

community banks bring to the table is the true focus on the community and the consumers in the community and the range of services that are provided.

5 So it's not just a depository account. It's the opportunity to create a relationship 6 where the consumer can get borrowings, maybe 7 8 other products and services from the institution, 9 but truly that relationship with the institution for the full range of services that are available 10 11 that are a real competitive strength for 12 community banks and have been.

13 MR. PITKIN: Okay. Thank you. I just 14 was curious as to, again, all your thoughts on community banks competing with the federal 15 16 government in some of these instances. So, thank 17 you. 18 MS. KEA: Thank you, Mark. And thank

19 you. Let's see. Mark Pearce.

20 MR. PEARCE: Thank you. If I could 21 just add on, Arleas, to Doreen's comments about 22 community banks serving the banking needs of

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their customers.

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2	I wanted to just mention for this
3	group's awareness, we have been working pretty
4	hard here at the FDIC to help consumers be aware
5	of their options, be part of the business with
6	them and have an account at an insured
7	institution.
8	So just in the last week or so, have
9	launched what we're calling a Get Banked
10	campaign. We have a website that is directed to
11	consumers to help them understand what are the
12	benefits of having a bank loan with an insured
13	institution and help them think through what
14	their options are related to that.
15	Many banks have been offering accounts
16	that are low cost, without some of the fees that
17	maybe have not been successful for people living
18	paycheck to paycheck in the past.
19	And so now I think it's probably the
20	best time for consumers to take a look at what
21	options are available for them now, especially in
22	a time when we have had a lot of federal

benefits, economic impact payments, and other 1 2 things that are being directed to consumers and recognizing that if you have a bank account and 3 that account is part of the tax information with 4 5 the IRS, you can get your funds direct deposited 6 into that account much quicker than you would if 7 you're going to rely on paper checks or a card or 8 things sent by mail.

9 So there are more benefits than ever 10 around having an account at an insured 11 institution. So that's something that we've been 12 trying to do our part to increase awareness of.

MS. KEA: Thank you, Mark. That's
very helpful information. Thank you. I don't
see any additional hands.

And like so many of the conversations that we've started this afternoon, they are the beginning of conversations and could go on for more. But we will move on in the agenda at this time.

Let me just say, it does appear that
we are running possibly about 10 to 15 minutes

behind.

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2	We would like to be able to complete
3	the other information that we have to give to
4	you. So if you all don't mind, please forgive us
5	if we run just a few minutes over.
6	We'll try to turn it over to the
7	chairman for her closing remarks at about 5:10 or
8	5:15.
9	So at this time, I'd like to present
10	to you John Anderlik, who is our Assistant
11	Director of National and Regional Risk Analysis
12	from the Division of Insurance and Research.
13	And John is going to share a research
14	update, which focuses on the FDIC's Community
15	Bank Study and Agriculture Lending. So John, the
16	camera is yours.
17	MR. ANDERLIK: Thanks, Arleas. So,
18	yes, today I'm going to be discussing a couple
19	projects from the FDIC's Division of Insurance
20	and Research.
21	The Community Banking Study, which we
22	published in December, and the FDIC Quarterly

Paper on Agriculture, which we published last 1 2 month. Today I'll cover both of these 3 4 projects at a fairly high level. Mike, let's 5 turn to the first slide. We'll start with the Community Banking 6 The FDIC's first Community Banking Study 7 Study. 8 was published in 2012. 9 That study had two primary goals, to define community banks beyond the simple asset 10 11 size, such as \$1 billion, and compare the 12 characteristics and performance of community banks with those of non-community banks. 13 14 That paper, a long study period from 15 1984 to year end 2011. This study builds on 16 several of the themes from the original study, 17 bringing them forward through year end 2019. 18 It also includes two issues that were 19 not covered in the original study, regulatory change and technology, and their effects on 20 21 community banks. 22 I'm going to take a quick walk through

1	each of the study's six chapters today. But one
2	thing before we get to Chapter One.
3	Though the study goes through year end
4	2019, we felt it would be remiss if we didn't
5	mention 2020's pandemic.
6	So each chapter includes an inset box
7	that discusses the pandemic and its community
8	bank effects on the issue studied. Next slide.
9	Chapter One covers the financial
10	performance of community banks from 2012 through
11	2019.
12	Overall, community banks have
13	performed pretty well. We begin the chapter by
14	showing that community have banks have reported
15	steadily increase pre-tax ROA since the
16	conclusion of the prior study, reaching 1.44
17	percent in 2019, up from 1.05 percent in 2012.
18	However, similar to the conclusion
19	that was reached in the original study, non-
20	community banks continue to report higher
21	earnings overall than community banks, primarily
22	because non-community banks have a large

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1	advantage of generating non-interest income.
2	But the gap in pre-tax ROAs narrowed
3	to just 22 basis points by year end 2019, down
4	from 43 basis points when we started this study
5	in 2012.
6	Community banks do have two advantages
7	of financial performance over non-community
8	banks. First is higher net interest margins.
9	As you can see from the chart,
10	community banks have had an advantage over non-
11	community banks since 2010.
12	Second is credit quality, as measured
13	by credit losses. The full year charge off rate
14	reported by community banks reached a post-crisis
15	low of 0.13 percent in 2019, which was 45 basis
16	points below the rate reported by non-community
17	banks. Let's turn the slide.
18	Chapter Two focuses on the structure
19	of community banks. Consolidation continued
20	between 2012 and 2019, with non-community banks
21	consolidating at a faster rate than community
22	banks. Consolidation was led my voluntary

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mergers by unaffiliated institutions. 1 2 Two differences stand out in the examination of consolidation trends in this study 3 versus that of the prior study. 4 First, from 2012 through 2019, the 5 number of new banks formed each year declined to 6 7 post-1984 lows. Second were fewer new institutions 8 9 replaced those that were acquired or closed. The rate of net consolidation increased from 3.2 10 percent annually from 1984 to 2011 to 4.3 percent 11 12 between 2012 and 2019. The chart shows over two-thirds of the 13 14 community banks that closed between 2012 and 2019 was because of merger, failure, or other 15 16 voluntary closing, did so because they were 17 acquired by another community bank. 18 The smallest community banks were 19 those under \$100 million in assets, were highly 20 likely to stop operating because they were 21 acquired by another community bank. 22 But even among community banks with \$1

1	billion to \$10 billion in assets, nearly one of
2	every five that ceased operation did so because
3	they were acquired by another community bank.
4	Next slide.
5	Chapter Three examines demographic
6	change. This is an important issue to assess
7	because as demographics change, community banks
8	see changes in their client bases and loan
9	demands.
10	The two major demographic factors
11	considered in this study are median age and net
12	migration flows.
13	True to these metrics, we looked at
14	the counties in the highest and lowest quartiles
15	for each metric.
16	The map shows both counties, I'm
17	sorry, the map shows those counties that were in
18	either the highest or the lowest quartiles for
19	both of the measures we studied.
20	Dark blue counties are the youngest
21	median ages and the highest net population
22	inflows. These counties tend to be located in

metro areas.

2	Our study found that community banks
3	headquartered in such counties experience faster
4	asset and loan growth rates, are more profitable,
5	and have larger shares of business loans than
6	other community banks.
7	At the other end of the spectrum, the
8	dark gold counties were in the oldest quartile
9	and had the lowest net inflows, actual net
10	outflows of about 0.4 percent per year. These
11	counties tend to be rural.
12	Community banks headquartered in these
13	areas grew more slowly and lower commercial
14	lending portfolios. They also have higher
15	deposit to asset ratios.
16	The chapter also includes a large
17	inset box on rural population, which is a key
18	topic for the dark gold counties.
19	The FDIC has published two papers on
20	that topic since 2004. Next slide, please.
21	Chapter Four discusses three notable
22	lending strengths of community banks. At year

end 2019, community banks in aggregate held small 1 2 shares of the banking industry's assets and loans. 3 4 Just 12 percent of the total industry 5 assets and 15 percent of total industry loans. Yet community banks are key providers of CRE 6 loans, small business loans, and agricultural 7 8 The next three slides cover these areas. loans. 9 We'll start with CRE. Community banks 10 hold 30 percent of the banking industry's CRE 11 loans. 12 The chart shows how community bank CRE 13 lending overall is outsized compared to their 14 assets. CRE lending is widely distributed 15 16 among community banks, with almost all of them holding some amount of CRE loans and many holding 17 18 substantial portfolios. 19 Community banks are active lenders to 20 a wide range of industries, including industrial, 21 retail, and hotels. 22 And community bank multi-family

1	2.
1	lending grew in the years between 2011 and 2019.
2	If it is the lending across industry types,
3	community banks have been active CRE lenders
4	across all sizes of markets as well.
5	In 2019, community banks headquartered
6	in rural and small metro areas held more than
7	two-thirds of CRE loans held by all banks
8	headquartered in those small geographic areas.
9	In larger metro areas, community
10	banks' share of loans was smaller but still
11	material.
12	One final note on this topic, the
13	share of community banks that the FDIC considers
14	CRE specialists increased over the study period.
15	These CRE specialists are particularly
16	important providers of CRE loans in small
17	communities. Next slide, please.
18	The second area of lending strategy
19	for community banks is small business lending.
20	At year end 2019, community banks held 36 percent
21	of the banking industry's small business loans.
22	During the period covered by the

1 study, community banks' share of small business 2 loans declined per call report data. You can see in the chart that non-3 4 community banks grew their business loans across 5 loan sizes while community banks' business lending remained flat across the lending 6 7 spectrum. 8 But call reports don't tell the whole 9 Call reports are based on the size of the story. loan, not the size of the borrower. 10 11 In response to the 2018 FDIC Small 12 Business Lending Survey, many bankers said their CNI loans were extended predominantly to small 13 14 businesses regardless of the size of the loans. 15 This supports the widely held belief 16 that at community banks, many CNI loans above \$1 million are in fact loans to small businesses. 17 18 Another data source that supports that 19 community banks continue to be active lenders to 20 small businesses is the SBA. 21 The SBA 7(a) program guarantees loans 22 originating up to \$5 million. Community banks'

share of loan originations increased from 38 1 2 percent of total originations in 2012 to 46 percent in 2019, and many of those loans were 3 above the \$1 million call report threshold. Next 4 slide, please. 5 The third area of lending strength for 6 7 community banks is agricultural lending. 8 Community banks play a key role in financing the 9 U.S. agricultural sector, funding roughly 31 percent of total U.S. farm sector debt in 2019. 10 11 About a half of community bank 12 agricultural lending is held by community bank 13 agricultural specialists, and we focus on these 14 institutions in the chapter. 15 These banks tend to be small and 16 rural, with a median asset size of just \$128 17 million. 75 percent have total assets of less 18 than \$250 million. 19 An important point we make in this chapter is that community bank agricultural 20 21 specialists have shown a strong commitment to 22 such lending over the years.

1	The chart shows that most agricultural
2	specialists have a long history in that role. Of
3	these institutions that were in operation from
4	January 1990 through year old 2019, over 55
5	percent of them were classified as an
6	agricultural specialist in at least 28 of the 30
7	years.
8	In addition, agricultural specialists
9	have been community lending to farmers through
10	cycles in the agricultural sector.
11	From first quarter 2000 to fourth
12	quarter 2019, in only two quarters, the community
13	bank agricultural specialists as a group saw an
14	annual decline in aggregate agricultural
15	production loans.
16	And they never reported a quarterly
17	decline in aggregate farmland secure loans over
18	that 20-year period. Next slide, please.
19	We'll turn now to Chapter Five on
20	regulatory change. The chapter describes
21	regulatory changes from the onset of the
22	financial crisis in 2008 through 2019 that were

relevant to community banks and the effects these 1 2 changes may have had on those banks. As shown in Chapter One, community 3 banks in aggregate have been performing well, but 4 5 it is often said that regulatory compliance may be relatively more expensive for smaller 6 7 institutions. In that respect, three issues stand 8 9 out in our research. First, running a small residential loan function appears to be becoming 10 less economical over time. 11 12 The chart shows that the percentage of 13 small mortgage lenders with sustained reductions 14 in balance sheet mortgages has been increasing, especially since the crisis. 15 16 The chapter examines this issue under 17 three different definitions of a small mortgage 18 lender. 19 The other two trends, the record pace 20 at which community banks have been exiting the 21 industry since 2014, and what appears to be the increase in target asset size of new small banks 22

1	based on their initial equity, are consistent
2	with the presence of scale economies.
3	In principle, the need for a
4	compliance function is a potential source of
5	scale economies. The study makes it clear that
6	policy benefits of regulation and how well they
7	are achieved are beyond the scope of this
8	analysis.
9	So nothing in the chapter should be
10	viewed as a criticism of the regulations.
11	The bottom line of the chapter is
12	support for the idea of achieving regulatory
13	goals while accommodating, as appropriate, the
14	business models of community banks. Next slide,
15	please.
16	The last chapter in this study is on
17	community banks' use of technology, which ties in
18	really well with the conversation you had with
19	Sultan earlier this afternoon.
20	Community banks have adopted different
21	technologies, including newer technologies such
22	as mobile banking, online loan underwriting, and

online loan applications at different rates. 1 2 According to research and community banks' own descriptions of opportunities and 3 challenges, factors such as banks' 4 characteristics, the economic and competitive 5 environment, and the attitudes and expectations 6 of bank leadership, all play an important role in 7 8 community banks' adoption in technologies. 9 The chapter examines how technology haves, or those with high adoptions of 10 11 technology, differ from have-nots, or those with 12 low adoption. 13 The purpose was to shed light on the 14 potential motivators, failures, and outcomes associated with technology adoption. 15 16 The study uses the results from the 17 2019 CSBS Annual Community Bank Survey. Survey 18 responses suggest that cost is a significant 19 challenge to technology adoption. Almost half of community banks used 20 21 the word cost at least one when describing 22 challenges. As the chart shows, larger community

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banks are more likely to have adopted technology 1 2 than smaller banks. Just 6 percent of community banks with 3 less than \$100 million are considered high 4 adopters of technology, while 70 percent of 5 community banks with assets over \$1 billion are 6 high adopters. 7 In addition, relative to low adopting 8 9 banks, high adopting banks have a higher loan to assets ratio, had faster loan and deposit growth, 10 11 face greater competition within their local 12 markets, and had more positive outlooks on 13 profitability, business conditions, and 14 regulatory burdens. Next slide, please. Let's turn to the FDIC Ouarter article 15 16 on Agriculture that was published last month. In 17 the paper, we've taken an extended look at the 18 U.S. agricultural sector and the condition of 19 farm banks. 20 In the first half of the paper, we 21 examine the unusually long boom in farm income 22 from 2004 to 2013, the period following the boom

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1	from 2014 to 2019, and then the turbulent 2020
2	that ended up as a positive for the sector.
3	In this analysis, we focus on 12
4	states in the upper Midwest where everything was
5	magnified.
6	The farm income boom was more
7	substantial in the states, as was the downturn
8	that followed the boom.
9	In the second half of the paper, we
10	examine how the changes in the agricultural
11	sector affected farm bank conditions, how bankers
12	responded, especially during the boom years, and
13	the challenges that persist. Next slide, please.
14	While some of the chart that shows
15	inflation adjusted U.S. net farm income going all
16	the way back to 1960, the chart shows that two
17	income boom periods, from 1972 through 1975 and
18	then from 2004 through 2013.
19	The recent boom didn't reach the pique
20	of 1973's income level, but it was far longer.
21	During that 10-year period, U.S. net farm income
22	averaged \$102 billion per year, well above the

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1	\$77 billion annual average from 1987 to 2003.
2	During this period, the sector saw
3	substantial price increases across several
4	important commodities, including corn, soybeans,
5	wheat, cattle, dairy, and hogs.
6	Production expenses for things such as
7	fertilizer and seed increased during this time.
8	And farmland became more expensive to rent.
9	But commodity prices rose much more
10	than expenses, leading to the higher net farm
11	incomes.
12	The long period of prosperity ended in
13	2014, and strong returns incentivized heavy
14	growing in the U.S. and around the globe, putting
15	pressure on commodity prices.
16	By 2016, average annual prices farmers
17	received for corn and wheat were down nearly 50
18	percent for their needs, and prices for hogs,
19	milk, and soybeans were down by a third.
20	Production expenses declined during
21	this period, but slowly. The result was a large
22	drop in farming, comes from those achieved during

Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc. Washington DC the boom.

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2	By 2019, the sector had stabilized,
3	though at somewhat a weak level. Then 2020's
4	pandemic initially roiled the sector with
5	significant disruptions to food demand and supply
6	chains.
7	Commodity prices, especially for corn,
8	plummeted in April and May. But record
9	governmental support combined with late in the
10	year recoveries and export and commodity prices
11	helped the sector achieve strong overall incomes
12	in 2020. Next slide, please.
13	Let's turn now to farmland values.
14	And I know a few of you mentioned that in your
15	opening remarks.
16	Farmland represents the largest
17	portion of most farmers' assets and net worth.
18	You see in the chart the dramatic rise in
19	farmland price in the 1970s that preceded the
20	agricultural crisis of the 1980s.
21	Farmland prices dropped precipitously
22	during the crisis and did not begin to grow again

	2
1	until the mid-1990s.
2	Not surprisingly, farmland prices grew
3	to record levels during the farm income boom that
4	began in 2004.
5	In contrast to the farmland price boom
6	in the 1970s, farmland prices did not fall
7	beginning in 2014 when farm incomes declined.
8	The combination of low interest rates,
9	tight supplies, and a steady demand for farmland
10	kept farmland values relatively flat since the
11	farm income reminded.
12	There was another big difference in
13	the farmland price boom of the 1970s and the
14	recent boom.
15	In the 1970s, the price gains were
16	widespread. Farmland values in 20 states at
17	least doubled, and another 22 states saw prices
18	go up at least 50 percent.
19	But in the recent boom, farmland price
20	increases were more isolated. Though farmland
21	prices rose 81 percent overall between 2005 and
22	2015, less than half of all states experienced a

1 run up of 50 percent or more. 2 This time, only eight states saw farmland prices more than double during the boom, 3 and all eight of these states are what we call 4 5 the upper Midwest in our paper. I'll get into the upper Midwest more 6 7 in the next slide, but it's the combination of 8 three USDA economic regions, the Corn Belt, the 9 Lake States, and the Northern Plains. Next 10 slide, please. 11 In this chart, we focus on the upper 12 Midwest and contrast it with the farm income 13 performance of the other USDA economic regions. 14 This chart shows net farming incomes indexed so that the 1987-2003 average is 100. 15 16 The dark blue line represents the upper Midwest. 17 The bottom blue line is the aggregate 18 of all the USDA economic regions and the shaded 19 area marks the range of the other regions. In the early 2000s when overall U.S. 20 21 agricultural conditions were weak, upper Midwest 22 states had among the lowest net incomes of the

USDA regions.

1

2	But then during the farm income boom,
3	incomes in the upper Midwest quickly rose and
4	outperformed all other regions during that
5	period.
6	When the farm income boom ended,
7	incomes in the upper U.S. swung again, this time
8	downward to among the lowest in the USDA regions.
9	As the slide shows, incomes in the
10	upper Midwest peaked in 2011 and 2013, in which
11	aggregate income was nearly 2.5 times its long-
12	term pre-boom average.
13	Incomes in the upper Midwest then fell
14	by more than two-thirds to reach their bottom in
15	2016.
16	The swings in income in the upper
17	Midwest track the swings in prices of major
18	agricultural commodities during that time.
19	Corn and soybeans generate the largest
20	share of cash receipts in these 12 states, and
21	hog and cattle production are also important.
22	Prices for all of these commodities

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increased significantly during the farm income 1 2 boom, and then fell sharply when it ended. Next slide, please. 3 In the paper, we then turn to the 4 5 condition of farm banks through the farm income boom and the subsequent downturn. 6 The FDIC has long defined farm banks 7 8 as banks with 25 percent or more of their total 9 loans concentrated in agriculture. As of year end 2020, there are 1,163 10 11 farm banks in the country representing about a 12 quarter of all commercial banks. 13 The map shows where the nation's farm 14 banks are located, and also that the majority, more than 78 percent, are headquartered in the 15 upper Midwest. 16 17 It's not surprising that farm banks 18 performed very well during the farm income boom. 19 You may have noticed that the dates of the boom 20 ran over the great recession. 21 Since the U.S. agricultural sector was 22 so strong during that time, most farm banks

continued to report strong earnings and capital 1 2 levels and low levels of past due loans. An area that farm banks found 3 4 challenging during the boom was loan growth. 5 Since the sector was so flushed with cash, farmers began to pay down debt or even self-6 7 finance their operations rather than taking out 8 bank loans. 9 Banks also had to deal with rising 10 deposit balance during that time. Next slide, 11 please. 12 One point we highlighted in the paper was how different the behavior of farm bankers 13 14 was during the recent farm income boom compared 15 with the 1970s boom. 16 In the 1970s, farm bankers responded 17 to surging farmland prices by dramatically 18 increasing lending to fund expanded farms. 19 You can see that in the left panel. 20 Farm banks increase agricultural loan concentrations in tandem with increases in 21 22 farmland values throughout most of the 1970s.

	2
1	It wasn't until 1979, after several
2	years of lower farm incomes and on the cusp of
3	the agricultural crisis, that banks reigned in
4	their agricultural lending.
5	Now contrast that to the more recent
6	period shown on the right panel. The median farm
7	bank agricultural loan concentration ratio, which
8	was already lower than before the boom of the
9	1970s, remained low even when farmland values
10	soared.
11	This was true even in the upper
12	Midwest, where farmland values rose higher and
13	piqued later. Part of this more muted lending
14	reaction to the farm income boom and rising
15	farmland values would see as many farmers self-
16	financing, as I mentioned earlier.
17	But farm bankers were also more
18	cautious, not wanting to repeat the mistakes made
19	a few decades earlier.
20	This sentiment has been a common theme
21	for farm bankers at outreach meetings conducted
22	by the FDIC over the past 15 years. Next slide,

	-
2	My final slide of the afternoon has to
3	do with credit conditions of farm banks. The
4	left slide shows the past due an accrual ratios
5	for farm banks in the upper Midwest and the rest
6	of the country.
7	The solid lines are the 90th
8	percentiles for both sets of banks and the dotted
9	lines are the medians.
10	The right chart is similar, but shows
11	the net charge off rate. You can see from the
12	charts that credit conditions improved
13	substantially during the two decades following
14	agricultural crisis.
15	Then the farm income boom drove
16	delinquencies and charge off measures to historic
17	lows.
18	Though median delinquencies and charge
19	offs have edged higher since 2014, they've
20	generally remained at or below levels seen
21	immediately before the boom.
22	Where we have seen increases is in the

I	
1	tail of agricultural banks. The first quarter of
2	2020, 90th percentile delinquency rate in the
3	upper Midwest was the highest first quarter rate
4	since 2003.
5	FDIC examiners also noted an increase
6	in levels of carrier debt at farm banks in recent
7	years.
8	Overall, though, farm bank credit
9	quality has been resilient since the farm income
10	boom ended.
11	I'll conclude my agricultural remarks
12	with this. Even though the second half of 2020
13	and the USDA's 2021 outlook are reasons to be
14	cautiously optimistic about the sector, we still
15	see some challenges for borrowers.
16	For one, overall debt levels are very
17	high, but this area so far has been moderated by
18	low interest rates.
19	In addition, a subset of borrowers,
20	what USDA refers to as high leverage borrowers,
21	remains at risk.
22	It's too early to tell if a strong

2020 will be enough to bring these farmers to a 1 2 strong financial position. And with that, it's 5:07 Eastern time. 3 4 And I can take any questions you might have. MS. KEA: Thank you, John. If you all 5 have one or two questions, we have time for that. 6 7 Okay, John, I think that your information does 8 contain some contact information for you. 9 So we want to thank you for that very 10 informative presentation. 11 MR. ANDERLIK: Thank you. 12 MS. KEA: Let me just turn quickly, 13 and as I've said, we've started so many 14 conversations that could go on and on, but we have come to the end of our, and we are fairly 15 16 late in the day. I would like to turn first to Director 17 18 Gruenberg just to see if you have any thoughts 19 that you'd like to share before we close. 20 DIRECTOR GRUENBERG: Thank you, 21 Arleas. Almost everybody, I'll be very brief. 22 It's been a long afternoon.

I just want to thank you for your 1 2 participation. This committee has now been in existence for quite a while and has really proven 3 itself to be a valuable asset to the FDIC and our 4 5 supervision of community banks. We are the lead federal supervisor for 6 the majority of community banks. And community 7 8 banking in many ways is central to the mission of 9 the FDIC. And you and this committee really have 10 11 contributed in a meaningful way to our ability to 12 do our job, never more so than during this 13 pandemic. 14 So just wanted to say thanks to your participation today. Look forward to the next 15 16 meeting of this group. 17 And really, thank you for your 18 service, both to the FDIC and to your 19 communities. Arleas, thanks a lot. 20 MS. KEA: Thank you, Director 21 Gruenberg. I'd like to now move to Madam 22 Chairman and ask you to give us some closing

comments.

1

2	CHAIRMAN MCWILLIAMS: Thank you so
3	much, Arleas. I'll be very, very brief. Thank
4	you all. Your time has been exceptionally
5	valuable to us, as has your feedback.
6	Before we adjourn, I'd like to thank
7	two people whose terms on the committee came to a
8	close last month.
9	Dick Beshear, Chairman of the Board of
10	First Security Bank and Trust Company in Oklahoma
11	City, Oklahoma, and Cathy Stuchlik, Chairman and
12	President of Clackamas County Bank in Sandy,
13	Oregon.
14	On behalf of everyone in the FDIC, I
15	would like to thank Dick and Cathy for the time
16	and effort they devoted to this committee. I
17	wish them all the best and look forward to seeing
18	the rest of you in July.
19	Thank you so much and I hope you can
20	get some rest after a very long video meeting.
21	Thank you. Bye bye.
22	MS. KEA: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

1	Thank you to all of our members. We'll see you
2	in July. Bye bye.
3	(Whereupon, the meeting in the above-
4	entitled matter was concluded at 5:10 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Advisory Committee on Community Banking

Before: FDIC

Date: 04-13-21

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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