



PARK STERLING BANK

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It's Official : Park Sterling Bank Now Open For Business

Seasoned Team Seeks To Set New Bar for Excellence In Community Banking

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (October 27, 2006) – Park Sterling Bank, which earlier this year completed the largest capital raise ever for a North Carolina commercial bank, has launched banking operations at its headquarters location at 1043 East Morehead Street, the bank announced today.

The bank recently received its required regulatory approvals from state and federal banking authorities and completed renovations to its retail banking space on the first floor of the Morehead Corporate Plaza and office and administrative space on the second floor. Operations began Wednesday with a “soft opening” to test computers and other systems.

“Our veteran management team and staff of seasoned lending officers are ready to provide an exceptional level of service to customers of Charlotte’s newest community bank,” said Bryan F. Kennedy III, president and chief executive of Park Sterling Bank. “We are eager to begin serving the market’s banking needs.”

Park Sterling Bank raised \$45 million in 13 weeks in its initial capital raise earlier this year, reflecting the confidence of investors in the bank’s team of experienced executives and directors, many of whom also have extensive experience and success with past community bank startups.

That confidence is also reflected in the bank’s ability to recruit a core of highly talented and experienced lending officers, Kennedy said. These senior lenders include Jim Ashcroft, Fred Bumgardner, Barbara Jacks, Bill Newbold and Charlie Stewart. Eartha Frederick, formerly of Park Meridian Bank and Regions Bank, will head up main-office retail operations.

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“We have been extremely fortunate to recruit the quality of personnel that this group represents,” Kennedy said. “It’s obvious that we all share a common vision for Park Sterling Bank as a great community bank that is customer-focused yet able to serve the needs of larger customers, too.”

Based on its capitalization, Park Sterling Bank will have an initial lending limit of about \$6.5 million, Kennedy said.

Kennedy is a former N.C. market president for Regions and an organizer and executive vice president of Park Meridian Bank, a successful community bank startup in 1991. He is joined by Frank W. Ix, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Park Sterling Bank and former senior credit officer for RBC Centura Bank; Steve Arnall, executive vice president and chief financial officer and former chief financial officer of The Scottish Bank; and Larry W. Carroll, chairman of the Park Sterling Board and president of Carroll Financial Associates Inc.

Park Sterling Bank intends to establish itself as a significant presence in its target market of Charlotte by offering personal, comfortable banking services from experienced executives and lending officers.

Park Sterling has approximately 2,500 square feet of retail banking space on the first floor of the Morehead Corporate Plaza, with 8,500 square feet of additional space for offices and administrative space on the second floor.

All applicable regulatory clearances, including approvals from the N.C. Commissioner of Banks and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., have been received, Kennedy said.

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