

PATRIOT NATIONAL BANCORP INC
Form 10-K
March 31, 2009

U. S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10 – K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission file number 000-29599

PATRIOT NATIONAL BANCORP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Connecticut (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	06-1559137 (IRS Employer Identification Number)
900 Bedford Street Stamford, Connecticut (Address of principal executive offices)	06901 (Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code:	(203) 324-7500

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act: None

Securities registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act: Common Stock, par value \$2.00 per share

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933. Yeso Nop

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 of 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yeso Nop

Check whether the registrant (1) filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the past 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes p No o

Check if disclosure of delinquent filers in response to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained in this form, and no disclosure will be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. []

Check whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer in Rule 12(b) of the Exchange Act.

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Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12B-2 of the Act).

Yes No

Aggregate market value of the voting stock held by nonaffiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2008 based on the last sale price as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market: \$ 56,098,269.

Number of shares of the registrant's Common Stock, par value \$2.00 per share, outstanding as of February 28, 2009: 4,755,114.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Proxy Statement for 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. (A definitive proxy statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K.)

Incorporated into Part III of this Form 10-K

Patriot National Bancorp, Inc.
2008 Form 10-K Annual Report

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“Safe Harbor” Statement Under Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

Certain statements contained in Bancorp’s public reports, including this report, and in particular in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation,” may be forward looking and subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties. These factors include, but are not limited to, (1) changes in prevailing interest rates which would affect the interest earned on Bancorp’s interest earning assets and the interest paid on its interest bearing liabilities, (2) the timing of repricing of Bancorp’s interest earning assets and interest bearing liabilities, (3) the effect of changes in governmental monetary policy, (4) the effect of changes in regulations applicable to Bancorp and the Bank and the conduct of its business, (5) changes in competition among financial service companies, including possible further encroachment of non-banks on services traditionally provided by banks, (6) the ability of competitors that are larger than Bancorp to provide products and services which it is impracticable for Bancorp to provide, (7) the effect of Bancorp’s opening of branches, (8) the effect of any decision by Bancorp to engage in any business not historically operated by it (9) the ability of Bancorp to raise additional capital in the future and successfully deploy the funds raised, (10) the state of the economy and real estate values in Bancorp’s market areas, and the consequent affect on the quality of Bancorp’s loans, and (11) the recently enacted Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 which is expected to have a profound effect on the financial services industry and could dramatically change the competitive environment of Bancorp. Other such factors may be described in Bancorp’s other filings with the SEC.

Although Bancorp believes that it offers the loan and deposit products and has the resources needed for continued success, future revenues and interest spreads and yields cannot be reliably predicted. These trends may cause Bancorp to adjust its operations in the future. Because of the foregoing and other factors, recent trends should not be considered reliable indicators of future financial results or stock prices.

PART I

Item 1. Business

General

Patriot National Bancorp, Inc. (“Bancorp”), a Connecticut corporation, was organized in 1999 for the purpose of becoming a one-bank holding company (the “Reorganization”) for Patriot National Bank, a national banking association headquartered in Stamford, Fairfield County, Connecticut (the “Bank”). Following receipt of regulatory and shareholder approvals, the Reorganization became effective as of the opening of business on December 1, 1999. Upon consummation of the Reorganization, each outstanding share of Common Stock, par value \$2.00 per share, of the Bank (“Bank Common Stock”), was converted into the right to receive one share of Common Stock, par value \$2.00 per share, of Bancorp (“Bancorp Common Stock”), and each outstanding option or warrant to purchase Bank Common Stock became an option or warrant to purchase an equal number of shares of Bancorp Common Stock.

The Bank was granted preliminary approval by the Comptroller of the Currency (the “OCC”) on March 5, 1993. It received its charter and commenced operations as a national bank on August 31, 1994. Since then, the Bank has opened fifteen branch offices in Connecticut. The Bank also expanded into New York State through the purchase of a small branch office in New York City and the opening of branch offices in Bedford and Scarsdale, both located in Westchester County, New York.

On June 30, 1999, the Bank through its wholly-owned subsidiary, PinPat Acquisition Corporation, acquired all of the outstanding capital stock of Pinnacle Financial Corp., a Connecticut corporation, Pinnacle Financial Corp., a New Jersey corporation, and Pinnacle Financial Corp., a New York corporation (collectively, “Pinnacle”), a residential mortgage broker. Pinnacle surrendered its mortgage licenses and the mortgage brokerage business of Pinnacle is now conducted through the lending function of Patriot National Bank.

On March 11, 2003, Bancorp formed Patriot National Statutory Trust I (the “Trust”) for the sole purpose of issuing trust preferred securities and investing the proceeds in subordinated debentures issued by Bancorp. Bancorp primarily invested the funds from the issuance of the debt in the Bank, which in turn used the proceeds to fund general operations of the Bank.

On November 17, 2006 the Bank acquired a small branch office and related deposits at 45 West End Avenue, New York, New York, from Millennium bcpbank, a national bank headquartered in Newark, New Jersey. The Bank assumed the existing lease and operates from the branch at 45 West End Avenue. The acquisition permitted the Bank to establish two additional branches in New York State.

On April 1, 2008, the Bank acquired a 20% interest in a de novo insurance agency. The 2008 impact on the Bank’s operations was minimal.

As of the date hereof, the only business of Bancorp is its ownership of all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the Bank and the Trust. Except as specifically noted otherwise

herein, the balance of the description of Bancorp's business is a description of the Bank's business.

Commercial Banking

The Bank conducts business at its main office located at 900 Bedford Street in Stamford, Connecticut and at other Connecticut branch offices located at: 838 High Ridge Road in Stamford, 100 Mason Street in Greenwich, 184 Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich, 16 River Street and 365 Westport Avenue in Norwalk, One Danbury Road and 5 River Road in Wilton, 800 Post Road in Darien, 3695 Post Road in Southport, 771 Boston Post Road in Milford, 1127 Post Road and 1755 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield, 945 White Plains Road in Trumbull, 370 Post Road East in Westport and 3552 Main Street in Stratford, and New York State branch offices located at: 45 West End Avenue in New York City, 432 Old Post Road in Bedford and 495 Central Park Avenue in Scarsdale. The Bank also operates a loan origination office at 1177 Summer Street in Stamford, Connecticut.

The Bank offers a broad range of consumer and commercial banking services with an emphasis on serving the needs of individuals, small and medium-sized businesses and professionals. The Bank offers consumer and commercial deposit accounts that include: checking accounts, interest-bearing "NOW" accounts, insured money market accounts, time certificates of deposit, savings accounts, IRA's (Individual Retirement Accounts) and HSA's (Health Savings Accounts). Other services include money orders, traveler's checks, ATM's (automated teller machines), internet banking, bill paying, remote deposit capture and debit cards. The Bank is a member of CDARS (Certificates of Deposit Account Registry) whereby individuals or organizations can place large deposits into smaller-denomination CD's in multiple institutions that can be insured for amounts larger than the FDIC limits. The single bank FDIC limits have temporarily been increased to \$250,000 per eligible account through December 31, 2009. In addition, the Bank may in the future offer other financial services.

The Bank offers commercial real estate and construction loans to area businesses and developers. Real estate loans made to individuals include home mortgages, home improvement loans, bridge loans and home equity loans and lines of credit. Other personal loans include lines of credit, installment loans, overdraft protection and credit cards. Commercial loans offered to small and medium-sized businesses include secured and unsecured loans to service companies, real estate developers, manufacturers, restaurants, wholesalers, retailers and professionals doing business in the region. In addition to offering residential real estate mortgage loans for its own portfolio, the Bank also solicits and processes mortgage loan applications from consumers on behalf of permanent investors and originates loans for sale to generate income.

Competition

The Bank competes with a variety of financial institutions in its market area. Many have greater financial resources and capitalization, which gives them higher lending limits as well as the ability to conduct larger advertising campaigns to attract business. Generally the larger institutions offer additional services such as trust and international banking which the Bank is not equipped to offer directly. When the need arises, arrangements are made with correspondent

institutions to provide such services. In the future, if the Bank desires to offer trust services, prior approval of the OCC will be required. To attract business in this competitive environment, the Bank relies on local promotional activities and personal contact by officers, directors and shareholders and on its ability to offer personalized services.

The customer base of the Bank generally is diversified so that there is not a concentration of either loans or deposits within a single industry, a group of industries, a single person or groups of people. The Bank in recent years has developed a concentration in construction lending, a portfolio the Bank is planning to reduce in relative size. The Bank is not dependent on one or a few major customers for either of its deposit or lending activities, the loss of any one of which would have a material adverse effect on the business of the Bank.

Residents and businesses in Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, Wilton, Darien, Southport, Fairfield, Trumbull, Westport, Milford and Stratford, Connecticut provide the majority of the Bank's deposits. The Bank has expanded its footprint by establishing branch offices in the Westchester County, New York towns of Bedford and Scarsdale, as well as a branch in New York City. The Bank has focused its attention on serving the segments of its market area historically served by community banks. The Bank competes in its market by providing a high level of personalized and responsive banking service for which the Bank believes there is a need.

The Bank's loan customers extend beyond the towns and cities in which the Bank has branch offices that include nearby towns in Fairfield and New Haven Counties in Connecticut, and Westchester County, New York City and Long Island, New York, although the Bank's loan business is not necessarily limited to these areas. The concentration of the loan portfolio in construction lending is indicative of the specialty the Bank developed since its founding in 1994. The Bank's plans for future lending contemplate the diversification of the portfolio away from its historical emphasis on construction lending. While the Bank does not currently hold or intend to attract significant deposit or loan business from major corporations with headquarters in the Fairfield County area, the Bank believes that the service, professional and related businesses which have been attracted to this area, as well as the individuals that reside in this area, represent current and potential customers of the Bank.

In the normal course of business and subject to applicable government regulations, the Bank invests a portion of its assets in investment securities, which may include certain debt and equity securities, including government securities. An objective of the Bank's investment policy is to seek to optimize its return on assets while limiting its exposure to interest rate movements and credit risk as well as maintaining adequate levels of liquidity. The Bank's investment portfolio is comprised primarily of government sponsored agency and government agency issues.

The Bank's employees perform most routine day-to-day banking transactions at the Bank. The Bank has entered into a number of arrangements with third parties for banking services such as correspondent banking, check clearing, data processing services, credit card processing and armored car carrier service.

The cities of Stamford and Norwalk and the towns of Greenwich, Wilton, Darien, Southport, Milford, Fairfield, Trumbull, Westport and Stratford are presently served by over 270 branches of commercial and savings banks along with 19 in the New York towns of Bedford and

Scarsdale. Most of these branches are offices of banks, which have headquarters outside of the states or areas or are subsidiaries of bank or financial holding companies whose headquarters are outside of the areas served by the Bank. In addition to banks with branches in the same areas as the Bank, there are numerous banks and financial institutions serving the communities surrounding these areas, which also draw customers from Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, Wilton, Darien, Southport, Milford, Fairfield, Trumbull, Westport and Stratford posing significant competition to the Bank for deposits and loans. Many of those banks and financial institutions are well established and well capitalized.

In recent years, intense market demands, economic pressures and significant legislative and regulatory actions have eroded banking industry classifications which were once clearly defined and have increased competition among banks, as well as other financial institutions including non-bank competitors. This increase in competition has caused banks and other financial service institutions to diversify their services and become more cost effective. The impact on Bancorp of federal legislation authorizing increased services by financial holding companies and interstate branching of banks has also resulted in increased competition. These events have resulted in increasing homogeneity in the financial services offered by banks and other financial institutions. The impact on banks and other financial institutions of these market dynamics and legislative and regulatory changes has been increased customer awareness of product and service differences among competitors and increased merger activity.

Supervision and Regulation

As a bank holding company, Bancorp's operations are subject to regulation, supervision and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board (the "Federal Reserve Board"). The Federal Reserve Board has established capital adequacy guidelines for bank holding companies that are similar to the OCC's capital guidelines applicable to the Bank. The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "BHC Act"), limits the types of companies that a bank holding company may acquire or organize and the activities in which it or they may engage. In general, bank holding companies and their subsidiaries are only permitted to engage in, or acquire direct control of, any company engaged in banking or in a business so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident thereto. Federal legislation enacted in 1999 authorizes certain entities to register as financial holding companies. Registered financial holding companies are permitted to engage in businesses, including securities and investment banking businesses, which are prohibited to bank holding companies. The creation of financial holding companies to date has had no significant impact on Bancorp.

Under the BHC Act, Bancorp is required to file annually with the Federal Reserve Board a report of its operations. Bancorp, the Bank and any other subsidiaries are subject to examination by the Federal Reserve Board. In addition, Bancorp will be required to obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board to acquire, with certain exceptions, more than 5% of the outstanding voting stock of any bank or bank holding company, to acquire all or substantially all of the assets of a bank or to merge or consolidate with another bank holding company. Moreover, Bancorp, the Bank and any other subsidiaries are prohibited from engaging in certain tying arrangements in connection with any extension of credit or provision of any property or services. The Bank is also subject to certain restrictions imposed by the Federal Reserve Act on issuing any extension of credit to Bancorp or any of its subsidiaries or making any investments in the stock or other

securities thereof and on the taking of such stock or securities as collateral for loans to any borrower. If Bancorp wants to engage in businesses permitted to financial holding companies but not to bank holding companies, it would need to register with the Federal Reserve Board as a financial holding company.

The Federal Reserve Board has issued a policy statement on the payment of cash dividends by bank holding companies, which expresses its view that a bank holding company should pay cash dividends only to the extent that the bank holding company's net income for the past year is sufficient to cover both the cash dividend and a rate of earnings retention that is consistent with the bank holding company's capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. The Federal Reserve Board has also indicated that it would be inappropriate for a company experiencing serious financial problems to borrow funds to pay dividends. Furthermore, under the prompt corrective action regulations adopted by the Federal Reserve Board pursuant to applicable law, the Federal Reserve Board may prohibit a bank holding company from paying any dividends if its bank subsidiary is classified as "undercapitalized."

A bank holding company is required to give the Federal Reserve Board prior written notice of any purchase or redemption of its outstanding equity securities if the gross consideration for the purchase or redemption, when combined with the net consideration paid for all such purchases or redemptions during the preceding 12 months, is equal to 10% or more of its consolidated retained earnings. The Federal Reserve Board may disapprove such a purchase or redemption if it determines that the proposal would constitute an unsafe or unsound practice or would violate any law, regulation, Federal Reserve Board order, or any condition imposed by, or written agreement with, the Federal Reserve Board.

The Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994, ("Riegle-Neal Act") was enacted to ease restrictions on interstate banking. Effective September 29, 1995, the Riegle-Neal Act allows the Federal Reserve Board to approve an application of an adequately capitalized and adequately managed bank holding company to acquire control of, or acquire all or substantially all of the assets of, a bank located in a state other than such holding company's state, without regard to whether the transaction is prohibited by the laws of any state. The Federal Reserve Board may not approve the acquisition of a bank that has not been in existence for the minimum time period (not exceeding five years) specified by the statutory law of the host state. The Riegle-Neal Act also prohibits the Federal Reserve Board from approving an application if the applicant (and its depository institution affiliates) controls or would control more than 10% of the insured deposits in the United States or 30% or more of the deposits in the target bank's home state or in any state in which the target bank maintains a branch. The Riegle-Neal Act does not affect the authority of states to limit the percentage of total insured deposits in the state which may be held or controlled by a bank or bank holding company to the extent that such limitation does not discriminate against out-of-state banks or bank holding companies. Individual states may also waive the 30% statewide concentration limits contained in the Riegle-Neal Act. The Riegle-Neal Act also allows banks to establish branch offices in other than the bank's home state if the target state has "opted in" to interstate branching.

Bancorp is subject to capital adequacy rules and guidelines issued by the OCC, the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), and the Bank is subject to capital adequacy rules and guidelines issued by the OCC. These substantially identical rules

and guidelines require Bancorp to maintain certain minimum ratios of capital to adjusted total assets and/or risk-weighted assets. Under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvements Act of 1991, the Federal regulatory agencies are required to implement and enforce these rules in a stringent manner. Bancorp is also subject to applicable provisions of Connecticut law insofar as they do not conflict with, or are not otherwise preempted by, Federal banking law.

Bancorp is subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), and, in accordance with the Exchange Act, files periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). The Bank’s operations are subject to regulation, supervision and examination by the OCC and the FDIC.

Federal and state banking regulations govern, among other things, the scope of the business of a bank, a bank holding company or a financial holding company, the investments a bank may make, deposit reserves a bank must maintain, the establishment of branches and the activities of a bank with respect to mergers and acquisitions. The Bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System and is subject to applicable provisions of the Federal Reserve Act and regulations there under. The Bank is subject to the federal regulations promulgated pursuant to the Financial Institutions Supervisory Act to prevent banks from engaging in unsafe and unsound practices, as well as various other federal and state laws and consumer protection laws. The Bank is also subject to the comprehensive provisions of the National Bank Act.

The OCC regulates the number and locations of the branch offices of a national bank. The OCC may only permit a national bank to maintain branches in locations and under the conditions imposed by state law upon state banks. At this time, applicable Connecticut banking laws do not impose any material restrictions on the establishment of branches by Connecticut banks throughout Connecticut. New York State law is similar; however, the Bank cannot establish a branch in a town with a population of less than 50,000 that is the town of another bank’s headquarters.

The earnings and growth of Bancorp, the Bank and the banking industry are affected by the monetary and fiscal policies of the United States Government and its agencies, particularly the Federal Reserve Board. The Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve Board implements national monetary policy to curb inflation and combat recession. The Federal Reserve Board uses its power to adjust interest rates in United States Government securities, the Discount Rate and deposit reserve retention rates. The actions of the Federal Reserve Board influence the growth of bank loans, investments and deposits. They also affect interest rates charged on loans and paid on deposits. The nature and impact of any future changes in monetary policies cannot be predicted.

In addition to other laws and regulations, Bancorp and the Bank are subject to the Community Reinvestment Act (“CRA”), which requires the federal bank regulatory agencies, when considering certain applications involving Bancorp or the Bank, to consider Bancorp’s and the Bank’s record of helping to meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The CRA was originally enacted because of concern over unfair treatment of prospective borrowers by banks and over unwarranted geographic differences

in lending patterns. Existing banks have sought to comply with CRA in various ways; some banks have made use of more flexible lending criteria for certain types of loans and borrowers (consistent with the requirement to conduct safe and sound operations), while other banks have increased their efforts to make loans to help meet identified credit needs within the consumer community, such as those for home mortgages, home improvements and small business loans. Compliance may also include participation in various government insured lending programs, such as Federal Housing Administration insured or Veterans Administration guaranteed mortgage loans, Small Business Administration loans, and participation in other types of lending programs such as high loan-to-value ratio conventional mortgage loans with private mortgage insurance. To date, the market area from which the Bank draws much of its business is in the towns and cities in which the Bank has branch offices, which are characterized by a very diverse ethnic, economic and racial cross-section of the population. As the Bank expands further, the market areas served by the Bank will continue to evolve. Bancorp and the Bank have not and will not adopt any policies or practices, which discourage credit applications from, or unlawfully discriminate against, individuals or segments of the communities served by the Bank.

On October 26, 2001, the United and Strengthening America by Providing Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, or the USA Patriot Act, was enacted to further strengthen domestic security following the September 11, 2001 attacks. This Act amends various federal banking laws, particularly the Bank Secrecy Act, with the intent to curtail money laundering and other activities that might be undertaken to finance terrorist actions. The Act also requires that financial institutions in the United States enhance already established anti-money laundering policies, procedures and audit functions and ensure that controls are reasonably designed to detect instances of money laundering through certain correspondent or private banking accounts. Verification of customer identification, maintenance of said verification records and cross checking names of new customers against government lists of known or suspected terrorists is also required. The Patriot Act was reauthorized and modified with the enactment of The USA Patriot Act Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005.

On July 20, 2002, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 was enacted, the primary purpose of which is to protect investors through improved corporate governance and responsibilities of, and disclosures by, public companies. The Act contains provisions for the limitations of services that external auditors may provide as well as requirements for the credentials of Audit Committee members. In addition, the principal executive and principal financial officers are required to certify in quarterly and annual reports that they have reviewed the report; and based on the officers' knowledge, the reports accurately present the financial condition and results of operations of the company and contain no untrue statement or omission of material fact. The officers also certify their responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls, which insure that all material information is made known to the officers; this certification also includes the evaluation of the effectiveness of disclosure controls and procedures and their impact upon financial reporting. Section 404 of the Act entitled Management Assessment of Internal Controls, requires that each annual report include an internal control report which states that it is the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining an adequate internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting, as well as an assessment by management of the effectiveness of the internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting. This section further requires that the external auditors attest to, and report on, the assessment made by management.

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (“EESA”), which includes the Troubled Asset Relief Program (“TARP”). The legislation was in response to the financial crises affecting the banking system and financial markets. The TARP gave the United States Department of the Treasury (the “Treasury”) authority to deploy up to \$700 billion into the financial system with an objective of improving liquidity in the capital markets. On October 14, 2008, the Treasury announced plans to direct \$250 billion of this authority into preferred stock investments in banks, the first \$125 billion of which has been allocated to nine major financial institutions. Shortly thereafter, the initial \$250 billion authorization was increased to \$350.0 billion upon the President’s certification to Congress that the increase was necessary. This additional \$100 billion was used for the purchase of \$40 billion in preferred shares of American International Group, a \$20 billion commitment to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for losses that may be incurred under the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility, an additional \$25.0 billion commitment to Citigroup and an initial loan to U.S. automakers, GM and Chrysler, in the amount of \$13 billion. In January 2009, Congress approved the release of the final \$350 billion. The Bank is not participating in the TARP.

Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program

On November 21, 2008, the FDIC adopted the Final Rule implementing the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (“TLGP”) inaugurated October 14, 2008. The TLGP consists of two basic components: (1) the Debt Guarantee Program which guarantees newly issued senior unsecured debt of banks, thrifts, and certain holding companies and (2) the Transaction Account Guarantee Program which guarantees certain non-interest bearing deposit transaction accounts, such as business payroll accounts, regardless of dollar amount. The purpose of the TLGP is to provide an initiative to counter the system wide crisis in the nation’s financial sector by promoting financial stability by preserving confidence in the banking system and encourages liquidity in order to ease lending to creditworthy business and consumers. It is anticipated that the TLGP will favorably impact both the availability and the cost of credit.

The Bank is participating in the TLGP and as a result, its non-interest bearing transaction deposit accounts and interest bearing transaction accounts paying 50 basis points or less will be fully insured through December 31, 2009. Currently the Bancorp is not participating in the Debt Guarantee portion of the TLGP. However, if Bancorp decided to take advantage of this aspect of the program, then all newly-issued senior unsecured debt up to prescribed limits issued by June 30, 2009 would be temporarily guaranteed through June 30, 2012. Bancorp would be assessed a fee equal to a range of 50 to 100 basis points depending on the maturity date of the debt multiplied by the amount of the debt issued and calculated for the maturity period of that debt or June 30, 2012, whichever was earlier.

Bancorp does not anticipate that compliance with applicable federal and state banking laws will have a material adverse effect on its business or the business of the Bank. Neither Bancorp nor the Bank has any material patents, trademarks, licenses, franchises, concessions and royalty agreements or labor contracts, other than the charter granted to the Bank by the OCC.

Employees

As of December 31, 2008, Bancorp had 150 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees. None of the employees of Bancorp is covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The risks involved in Bancorp's construction and commercial real estate loan portfolios are material.

Commercial real estate and construction loans generally have more risk than residential mortgage loans. Both commercial real estate and construction loans often involve larger loan balances concentrated with single borrowers or groups of related borrowers as compared to single-family residential loans. Construction loans are secured by the property under construction, the value of which is uncertain prior to completion. Thus, it is more difficult to evaluate accurately the total loan funds required to complete a project and the related loan-to-value ratios. Speculative construction loans involve additional risk because the builder does not have a contract for the sale of the property at the time of construction.

Because the repayment of commercial real estate and construction loans depends on the successful management and operation of the borrower's properties or related businesses, repayments of such loans can be affected by adverse conditions in the real estate market or local economy as have been experienced in Bancorp's market area. The downturn in the real estate market within Bancorp's market area has and may continue to adversely impact the value of properties securing these loans. Bancorp's ability to recover on defaulted loans by selling the underlying real estate may be diminished, and Bancorp is more likely to suffer losses on defaulted loans. A significant portion of Bancorp's total loan portfolio is secured by real estate located in Fairfield County, Connecticut and Westchester County, New York, areas historically of high affluence that have been materially impacted by the financial troubles experienced by Wall Street.

Real estate lending in Bancorp's core Fairfield County, Connecticut market involves risks related to a decline in value of commercial and residential real estate.

The market value of real estate can fluctuate significantly in a relatively short period of time as a result of market conditions in the geographic area in which the real estate is located. The value of the real estate serving as collateral for the Bank's loan portfolio has and may continue to decline materially, and transactional liquidity has materially slowed putting additional pressure on pricing. Accordingly, a significant part of the Bank's loan portfolio could become under-collateralized and the Bank may not be able to realize the amount of security that the Bank anticipated at the time of originating the loan. Credit markets have become tight and underwriting standards more strict, and the inability of purchasers of real estate to obtain financing may further weaken the real estate market. Therefore, these loans may be subject to changes in grade, classification, accrual status, foreclosure, or loss which could have an effect on the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses.

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Bancorp's business is subject to various lending and other economic risks that could adversely impact Bancorp's results of operations and financial condition.

Changes in economic conditions, particularly a continued economic slowdown in Fairfield County, Connecticut and the New York metropolitan area, could hurt Bancorp's financial performance. Bancorp's business is directly affected by political and market conditions, broad trends in industry and finance, legislative and regulatory changes and changes in governmental monetary and fiscal policies and inflation, all of which are beyond Bancorp's control. A further deterioration in economic conditions, in particular an economic slowdown within Fairfield County, Connecticut and/or the New York metropolitan area, could result in the following consequences, any of which may hurt the business of Bancorp materially: loan delinquencies may increase; problem assets and foreclosures may increase; demand for the Bank's products and services may decline; and assets and collateral associated with the Bank's loans, especially real estate, may decline in value, thereby reducing a customer's borrowing power. Beginning in 2007 and worsening through 2008 and into 2009, the general economic conditions and specific business conditions in the United States including Fairfield County, Connecticut have deteriorated resulting in increases in loan delinquencies, problem assets and foreclosures and declines in the value and collateral associated with the Bank's loans. A prolonged period of economic recession or worsening of these adverse economic conditions may have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The Bank may suffer losses in its loan portfolio despite its underwriting practices. The Bank seeks to mitigate the risks inherent in its loan portfolio by adhering to specific underwriting practices. These practices include analysis of a borrower's prior credit history, financial statements, tax returns and cash flow projections, valuation of collateral based on reports of independent appraisers and verification of liquid assets. Although the Bank believes that its underwriting criteria is appropriate for the various types of loans the Bank makes, the Bank may still incur losses on loans, and these losses may exceed the amounts set aside as reserves in the allowance for loan losses.

Bancorp is Subject to a Formal Agreement with the OCC

The Bank is subject to a formal agreement with the OCC entered into in February 2009. The agreement is based on the results of an annual examination by the OCC. The agreement provides for, among other things, the enhancement and implementation of certain programs to reduce the Bank's credit risk, commercial real estate loan concentration and level of criticized assets, along with the augmentation of a profit plan and three-year capital program. Additionally, the agreement provides for certain asset growth restrictions for a limited period of time. The Bank does not anticipate that these restrictions will impair its current business plan. However, failure to comply with the provisions of the Agreement could result in more severe enforcement actions and further restrictions.

Bancorp's allowance for loan losses may not be adequate to cover actual losses.

Like all financial institutions, the Bank maintains an allowance for loan losses to provide for loan defaults and non-performance. Experience in the banking industry indicates that a portion of the Bank's loans in all categories of its lending business will become delinquent, and some may only be partially repaid or may never be repaid at all. The Bank's allowance in recent years has reflected the Bank's historically strong credit quality. If economic conditions further deteriorate, the allowance for loan losses may no longer be adequate to cover actual loan losses; future provisions for loan losses may become necessary which could materially and adversely affect Bancorp's operating results.

The allowance for loan losses is based on an evaluation of the risks associated with the Bank's loans receivable as well as the Bank's prior loss experience. A substantial portion of the Bank's loans are unseasoned and lack an established record of performance. Deterioration in general economic conditions and unforeseen risks affecting customers will have an adverse effect on borrowers' capacity to repay timely their obligations before risk grades could reflect those changing conditions.

The recent adverse changes in economic and market conditions in the Bank's market areas increase the risk that the allowance will become inadequate if borrowers continue to experience economic and other conditions adverse to their incomes and businesses. Maintaining the adequacy of the Bank's allowance for loan losses may require that the Bank make significant and unanticipated increases in our provisions for loan losses, which would materially affect our results of operations and capital adequacy. The amount of future losses is susceptible to changes in economic, operating and other conditions, including changes in interest rates that may be beyond the Bank's control and these losses may exceed current estimates. The current recessionary economic environment creates additional risk of loan losses.

Federal regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, review the Bank's loans and assess the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses. The regulatory agencies may require us to change classifications or grades on loans, increase the allowance for loan losses with large provisions for loan losses and to recognize further loan charge-offs based upon their judgments, which may differ from ours. Any increase in the allowance for loan losses required by these regulatory agencies could have a negative effect on our results of operations and financial condition. During 2008, the Bank significantly increased its allowance for loan losses based on management's evaluation of the current economic crisis and its impact on the Bank's real estate market and its primary federal regulator's recommendations. While management believes that the allowance for loan losses is currently adequate to cover anticipated losses, management cannot assure shareholders that there will not be a need to increase the allowance for loan losses or that the regulators will not require management to increase this allowance. Either of these occurrences could materially and adversely affect Bancorp's earnings and profitability.

Bancorp's business is subject to interest rate risk and variations in interest rates may negatively affect Bancorp's financial performance.

Bancorp is unable to predict fluctuations of market interest rates, which are affected by many factors including: inflation, recession, a rise in unemployment, a tightening money supply, domestic and international disorder and instability in domestic and foreign financial markets. Changes in the interest rate environment may reduce Bancorp's profits. Bancorp realizes income from the differential or "spread" between the interest earned on loans, securities and other interest-earning assets, and interest paid on deposits, borrowings and other interest-bearing liabilities. Net interest spreads are affected by the difference between the maturities and repricing characteristics of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. Bancorp is vulnerable to a decrease in interest rates because its interest-earning assets generally have shorter durations than its interest-bearing liabilities. As a result, material and prolonged decreases in interest rates would decrease Bancorp's net interest income. In contrast, an increase in the general level of interest rates may adversely affect the ability of some borrowers to pay the interest on and principal of their obligations. Like most financial institutions, Bancorp is affected by changes in interest rates, which are currently at record low levels, and by other economic factors beyond Bancorp's control. Although Bancorp has implemented strategies which are designed to reduce the potential effects of changes in interest rates on operations, these strategies may not always be successful. Accordingly, changes in levels of market interest rates could materially and adversely affect Bancorp's net interest spread, asset quality, levels of prepayments and cash flow as well as the market value of its securities portfolio and overall profitability.

Mortgage brokerage activity is also affected by interest rate fluctuations. Generally, increases in interest rates often lead to decreases in home refinancing activity, thus reducing the number of mortgage loans that Bancorp originates.

Bancorp's investment portfolio includes securities which are sensitive to interest rates and variations in interest rates may adversely impact Bancorp's profitability.

Bancorp's securities portfolio is classified as available-for-sale, and is comprised of mortgage-backed securities, which are insured or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies or government-sponsored enterprises, U.S. government agency obligation and auction rate preferred equity securities. These securities are sensitive to interest rate fluctuations. Unrealized gains or losses in the available-for-sale portfolio for securities other than those for which other-than-temporary impairment charges have been recorded are reported as a separate component of shareholders' equity. As a result, future interest rate fluctuations may impact shareholders' equity, causing material fluctuations from quarter to quarter. Failure to hold its securities until payments are received on mortgage-backed securities, other investments mature or market conditions are favorable for a sale could adversely affect Bancorp's earnings and profitability.

Bancorp is dependent on its management team, and the loss of its senior executive officers or other key employees could impair its relationship with its customers and adversely affect its business and financial results.

Bancorp's success is dependent upon the continued services and skills of Angelo De Caro, Charles F. Howell, Robert F. O'Connell, Philip W. Wolford and other senior officers including Martin G. Noble, its chief lender, and John Kantzas, a founder and an executive vice president. While Bancorp has employment agreements containing non-competition provisions with Messrs. Howell and O'Connell, these agreements do not prevent them from terminating their employment with Bancorp. The unexpected loss of services of one or more of these key personnel could have an adverse impact on Bancorp's business because of their skills, knowledge of Bancorp's market, years of industry experience and the difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement personnel.

Bancorp's success also depends, in part, on its continued ability to attract and retain experienced commercial lenders and residential mortgage originators, as well as other management personnel. The loss of the services of several of such key personnel could adversely affect Bancorp's growth and prospects to the extent it is unable to quickly replace such personnel. Competition for commercial lenders and residential mortgage originators is strong within the commercial banking and mortgage banking industries, and Bancorp may not be successful in retaining or attracting personnel.

Bancorp has expanded into a new geographic market in which current senior management has limited experience.

Bancorp has recently expanded into Westchester County and New York City, New York. The Bank currently has three branch offices in New York.

The vast majority of Bancorp's deposits and loans are derived from and made to customers who live and work in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Although management believes that the demographics for Westchester County, New York closely resemble those of Fairfield County Connecticut, the Bank has not previously conducted significant deposit generating activity in New York State. The senior management team includes several individuals with substantial banking experience in Connecticut, but with less experience in New York. Bancorp's ability to compete effectively in New York State will depend in part on management's ability to hire and retain key employees who have extensive banking experience in Westchester County.

A breach of information security could negatively affect Bancorp's earnings.