



# FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TODAY

*News and topics of interest to financial institutions regulated by the Department of Banking and Finance*

April 2021

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## Senior Deputy Commissioner Steve Pleger Reappointed to FFIEC State Liaison Committee

On April 2, 2021, the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS) announced that it reappointed Senior Deputy Commissioner Steve Pleger as its representative on the Federal Financial Institution Examiner Council's (FFIEC) State Liaison Committee. Senior Deputy Commissioner Pleger was named to a second two-year term on the committee, which represents state supervisory interests before the FFIEC. More information on the committee can be found [here](#).

## Updates to Department Website—Consumer Resources

The Department has recently updated the [Consumer Resources](#) section of our website with particular focus on the [Index of Financial Topics](#). In this section, information and resources are available on various topics of interest related to financial matters and financial service providers. This information can be used as a resource to provide information to your employees, customers/members, and the general public. The topics include, but are not limited to, appraisals, check cashers, credit counseling and repair, finance companies, mortgage fraud, and payday lending.

## 2021 National Survey for Community Banks

Survey Link: <https://sri.cornell.edu/cb21/2021/>  
Survey Close Date: July 15, 2021

The Department would like to share with you that the [2021 National Survey of Community Banks](#) is now live. This survey is a vital pillar of the Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference sponsored by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB), and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The results from the survey have enabled community banks to inform policymakers and researchers about the opportunities and challenges facing the community banking industry.

This year's questions focus on current bank conditions and emerging issues, responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, product and service design and offerings, and the future of community banking.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete the survey by **July 15, 2021** so the findings can be analyzed and presented in the national publication released during the 9th annual Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference, which is being held September 28-29, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri.

We hope you will share your story. If you would like to participate in the survey, please complete the survey available at <https://sri.cornell.edu/cb21/2021/>.

This is a unique opportunity to have your voice heard during these especially challenging times. Thank you for your participation and for all you do to serve our communities.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Deputy Commissioner for Supervision Melissa Sneed at [Msneed@dbf.state.ga.us](mailto:Msneed@dbf.state.ga.us).

## Community Bank Sentiment Index Results

The CSBS publicly released the first quarter 2021 results of the Community Bank Sentiment Index (CBSI), which reflects data collected from 200 community banks across the nation during the month of March. The results showed a sentiment index of 115 points, up from 98 in the fourth quarter 2020 and 91 in the first quarter 2020. The continued vaccine rollout and rebounding economic sentiment pushed the index into positive territory for the first time since 2019. Prior to the pandemic, the sentiment index hovered in the low 120s. A link to the CBSI can be accessed [here](#). The Department encourages all state-chartered banks to participate in the survey.

## Interagency Presentation: CRA Community Development Activities and COVID

The FDIC, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the FRB of Atlanta are hosting an Interagency CRA Community Development Activities and COVID presentation on May 6, 2021 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. You may register for the presentation [here](#). Bank management; CRA, community development, and other bank officers; and community development financial institutions are encouraged to attend.

The presentation will include the following topics: CRA and community development, the Joint Statement on CRA Consideration – Activities in Response to COVID-19, and community development partnership opportunities in the areas of affordable housing, small business, affordable bank accounts, and workforce development.

If you have any questions about this event, then please contact Elaine M. Hunter at [ehunter@fdic.gov](mailto:ehunter@fdic.gov).

## Interagency Statement on Model Risk Management for Bank Systems Supporting BSA/AML Compliance

On April 9, 2021, the FRB, FDIC, and the OCC, in consultation with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and the National Credit Union Association, issued the [Interagency Statement on Model Risk Management for Bank Systems Supporting Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Compliance](#). The joint statement addresses how risk management principles described in the [Supervisory Guidance on Model Risk Management](#) relate to systems or models used by banks to assist in complying with the requirement of Bank Secrecy Act (BSA)/Anti-Money Laundering (AML) laws and regulations. The statement indicates that it neither alters existing BSA/AML legal or regulatory requirements nor establishes new supervisory expectations, and that no specific model risk management framework is required.

## Speaking Engagements

Deputy Commissioner Melissa Sneed will be speaking at the LSCU Virtual Small Credit Union Summit on May 13th. Details of the event can be found at <https://www.lscu.coop/education/sas-cu/index.php>.

## ACTION ON APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH

The following is a summary of official action taken by the Department on certain applications by Georgia state-chartered financial institutions, petitions for certificate of incorporation of financial institutions, and other matters of interest during the month of April 2021:

### **FINANCIAL INSTITUTION MERGERS**

<u><b>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</b></u>	<u><b>MERGED INSTITUTION</b></u>	<u><b>APPROVAL DATE</b></u>	<u><b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b></u>
First National Community Bank Chatsworth, GA	Heritage First Bank Rome, GA	04/15/2021	
Wilkinson County Bank Irwinton, GA	Apex Investment Group GA, Inc. Cleveland, GA	04/27/2021	
Bridgeway Credit Union Phenix City, AL	Members United Credit Union Albany, GA	Pending	
Envision Credit Union Tallahassee, FL	Flowers Employees Credit League Thomasville, GA	04/27/2021	
My Georgia Credit Union Gainesville, GA	First Reliance Federal Credit Union Athens, GA	11/16/2020	04/01/2021
Georgia's Own Credit Union Atlanta, GA	Ft. McPherson Credit Union Atlanta, GA	04/29/2021	

### **APPLICATIONS TO FORM A BANK HOLDING COMPANY**

<u><b>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</b></u>	<u><b>APPROVAL DATE</b></u>	<u><b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b></u>
M&C Bancshares, Inc McRae-Helen, GA	04/02/2021	
Primary Bancshares Corporation Atlanta, GA	01/29/2021	04/01/2021
ST HLDGS, Inc. Orlando, FL	04/28/2021	

### **APPLICATIONS TO CHANGE LOCATION**

<u><b>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</b></u>	<u><b>CHANGE LOCATION OF</b></u>	<u><b>APPROVAL DATE</b></u>	<u><b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b></u>
Ameris Bank Atlanta, GA	From: 1708 Old Trolley Road, Suite C Summerville, SC 29485 Manatee County	05/06/2020	04/19/2021
	To: 140 North Main Street, Suite 102 Summerville, SC 29483 Dorchester County		

**APPLICATIONS TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE**

<b><u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u></b>	<b><u>BRANCH OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVAL DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u></b>
OneSouth Bank Blakely, GA	1204 US-19 Leesburh, GA 31763 Early County	01-19-2021	04-07-2021
Barwick Banking Company Barwick, GA	111 Grand Preserve Way Daytona Beach, FL 32117 Volusia County	Pending	
Barwick Banking Company Barwick, GA	101 Marina Cove Drive St. Augustine, FL 32080 St. Johns County	Pending	
Coosa Valley Credit Union Rome, GA	12178 Highway 92 Woodstock, GA 30188 Cherokee County	04/15/2021	
Georgia Banking Company Atlanta, GA	1776 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, GA 30309 Fulton County	04/19/2021	
Heritage Southeast Bank Jonesboro, GA	108 Canton Highway Cumming, GA 30040 Douglas County	04/19/2021	
First IC Bank Doraville, GA	3170 Peachtree Parkway Suwanee, GA 30024 Forsyth County	07/10/2017	04/20/2021
Peach State Bank Gainesville, GA	6323 Grand Hickory Drive Suite 100G Braselton, GA 30517 Mecklenburg County	04/23/2021	
Center Parc Credit Union, a divi- sion of APCU Atlanta, GA	72 Georgia Ave Atlanta, GA 30312 Fulton County	10/27/2020	04/12/2021

**APPLICATIONS TO ACQUIRE A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**

<b><u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u></b>	<b><u>TO ACQUIRE</u></b>	
ST HLDGS, Inc. Orlando, FL	Rochelle State Bank	04/28/2021

**APPLICATIONS TO RESERVE A NAME**

<b><u>Proposed Name of Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Applicant</u></b>
Georgia Bank Holding Company, Inc.	Robert N. Flowers Stinson LLP 312 Oak Lawn Avenue, Suite 777 Dallas, TX 75219

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The Department is the state agency that regulates and examines Georgia state-chartered banks, state-chartered credit unions, state-chartered trust companies, international banking organizations, and bank holding companies that own Georgia state-chartered financial institutions. The Department also has responsibility for the supervision, regulation, and examination of Merchant Acquirer Limited Purpose Banks chartered in Georgia.

In addition, the Department has regulatory and/or licensing authority over mortgage brokers, lenders and processors, mortgage loan originators, consumer installment loan companies, check cashers, sellers-issuers of payment instruments, and money transmitters.

**Our Mission** is to promote safe, sound, competitive financial services in Georgia through innovative, responsive regulation and supervision.

**Our Vision** is to be a willing and able partner with our regulated entities in order to support vibrant eco-