

FIRST HOME BANK

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FIRST HOME BANK REACHES \$50 MILLION MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS LENDING GOAL *Two-Year Goal Achieved in 10 Months, 130+ Businesses Impacted*

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (August 26, 2021) – Less than 10 months since St. Petersburg-based First Home Bank launched its Minority-Owned Business Lending Program (MOBLP) and announced an ambitious goal to loan \$50 million to women- and minority-owned businesses by 2023, the Bank has surpassed its goal with loans originated now exceeding \$51.6 million.

The MOBLP was designed to address the financial challenges facing minority-owned small businesses, including language and cultural barriers, lack of trust in financial institutions, red tape, financial literacy and more. To achieve its goal, First Home's Small Business Administration (SBA) and commercial lending divisions sought ways to further assist these businesses at every stage of growth, from startup to expansion, also focusing on those that have been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We set out to establish First Home as the preeminent minority business lender in Tampa Bay and a leader in corporate social responsibility; achieving this goal brings us one step closer," said First Home Bank CEO Anthony N. Leo. "We're proud to play a small role in ensuring these business owners have equal access to resources they need to support and grow their businesses."

To reach this lending goal and widen its impact on the broad community it serves, First Home Bank focused on identifying tactical aspects, increasing its training and mentoring programs and expanding its community involvement.

"At a time when it is clear that minority-owned businesses are not getting their proportionate share of funding, we're proud to be part of the solution. And this is just the beginning," added Leo.

In fact, despite having just reached its goal, First Home Bank is already working to expand its minority lending program and establish an even more ambitious goal for the future. The new program is expected to extend beyond SBA and commercial lending to also include residential and consumer loans to further increase the program's impact on minority populations throughout the Tampa Bay region.

And this is just the latest in a series of initiatives developed by First Home Bank to support and improve the greater Tampa Bay community. In recent months it launched a PEACE Team (Providing Equal Access to Credit Envoy) to better serve the needs of minority and low-to-moderate income homebuyer; established a \$18 minimum wage and donated \$100,000 to

support the operations of Arts Conservatory for Teens, a St. Petersburg afterschool arts education program.

About First Home Bank

Headquartered in St. Petersburg, First Home Bank operates six banking centers in the Tampa Bay area and originates residential mortgages through 26 loan production offices nationwide. In addition to residential mortgages, First Home Bank offers a broad range of retail and business banking services, including small business loans through its SBA loan division, CreditBench, and is one of the top producing SBA lenders in the country. Since it opened in 1999, First Home Bank has grown to employ more than 600 without losing sight of its commitment to making an impact in the community and being there for what's next in the lives of its customers. For more information visit: www.firsthomebank.com.

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