



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Shaun P. Merriman
941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization) Names Dennis B. Murphy Vice President and Commercial Lender

March 27, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization) announced today Dennis B. Murphy has joined the company as Vice President and Commercial Lender. He joins Gateway Bank from his previous position as Commercial Credit Analyst with Regions Bank in Sarasota. He began his banking career with AmSouth Bank, which eventually became Regions Bank through acquisition.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Murphy holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, majoring in Finance. He earned his MBA at the University of South Florida. Prior to launching his career in banking he worked for New York Life Insurance Company in Jacksonville and A.G. Edwards & Sons in Punta Gorda. He is an active member of the Sarasota and Manatee Chambers of Commerce and the Manatee Young Professionals Group.

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization): Initially organized in 2007, Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization) proposes to operate an independent community bank serving business and personal banking customers in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

The organization expects to open the proposed bank in May 2008 at 2033 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, one block east of South Washington Boulevard.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization) are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties.

The founding Board of Directors of the proposed banking institution include: Charles J. Bartlett - Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. “Bud” Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Capital, LLC; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization); Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; and David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc.

Through an association with affiliated Gateway Banks located in Marion and Volusia counties, the proposed bank operates a loan production office at the Main Street location.

Further information regarding Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO at 941/306-0105.

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