



PRESS RELEASE

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

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization) Names Joy M. Turner Sr. Vice President and Sr. Lender

March 19, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida (In Organization) announced today the appointment of Joy M. Turner to the post of Sr. Vice President and Sr. Lender for the proposed independent community bank. In this capacity, Ms. Turner will oversee the commercial and consumer lending operations for the bank, in organization.

In making the announcement, Merriman stated, “Joy Turner is an established lending professional in the Sarasota/Manatee communities and brings over twenty six years of commercial lending experience to our organization.” Merriman continued, “Of high importance is her longevity in this specific market through a broad range of economic conditions. We are confident her leadership and experience, particularly in the area of risk analysis, will be invaluable in navigating the pitfalls of the current economy.”

Joy Turner is a native of Columbus, Georgia and a graduate of the University of South Florida with a major in Finance. In her most recent position she held the post of Sr. Vice President in Risk Management for the Business Banking Group in Southwest Florida with Wachovia National Bank. Her responsibility with Wachovia, while concentrated in Sarasota and Manatee counties, spanned the area from Hillsborough south to Lee County.

Her roots with the Wachovia organization date back to 1981 when she began her commercial lending career with Southeast Bank, which was acquired by First Union National Bank. She held the position of Sr. Underwriter at First Union from 1994 through

2001. She remained with the organization through the acquisition by Wachovia from 2002 through 2007.

Ms. Turner has served on a number of community boards including the Tampa Bay Estuary Program; the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association and the Pinellas County Sierra Club.

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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