## <u>St. Louis Equal Housing and Community Reinvestment Alliance</u> c/o EHOC · 1027 S. Vandeventer Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> floor · St. Louis, MO · 63110 · www.slehcra.org

Member	
ORGANIZATIONS	5

January 7, 2011

## (

Center for the Acceleration of African American Business	Ms. Lesslie Swip Office of the Comptroller of the Currency 2350 Market Street, Suite 100 St. Louis, MO 63103-2555
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County	Dear Ms. Swip, The St. Louis Equal Housing and Community Reinvestment Alliance (SLEHCRA) would like to offer additional comments regarding First National Bank of St. Louis pursuant to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and the bank's CRA performance evaluation. SLEHCRA filed a public comment with the OCC on November 5, 2010 regarding our concerns with the bank's performance in low-income and minority communities. We provided additional comments on September 23, 2010 detailing the progress being made to resolve our concerns with First National Bank of St. Louis.
Citizens Coalition to Fight Eminent Domain Abuse	
Human Development Corporation	
Justine Petersen	We are pleased to announce the final resolution through a conciliation agreement affective December 17, 2010. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Lemay Housing Partnership	<ul> <li>effective December 17, 2010. The US Department of Housing and Urban Developme (HUD) facilitated the agreement between First National Bank of St. Louis and the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council (EHOC), a member organization of SLEHCRA. The agreement includes the following commitments over the next four years:</li> <li>1. First National Bank of St. Louis will expand its assessment area to include th entirety of St. Louis County, Missouri, the St. Louis City, Missouri, and St. Clair County, Illinois.</li> <li>2. Within 18 months, First National Bank of St. Louis will open a branch in a majority African-American census tract within the newly incorporated areas of its assessment area. The bank will conduct a feasibility study to determine the</li> </ul>
Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council	
Missourians Organizing for	
Reform and Empowerment	
MoKan	<ul><li>best location for this new branch.</li><li>First National Bank of St. Louis will spend at least \$50,000 on advertising and</li></ul>
NAACP St. Louis	marketing directed towards African-American and Hispanic residents within the newly incorporated assessment area. This will include print media, radio
North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice	advertisements, other promotional materials, and at least six outreach events per year. All branches will have access to at least one fluent Spanish speaking employee who is trained to assist with residential lending transactions and who can be available to borrowers upon request.
Ready, Aim, Advocate! Committee	<ul> <li>4. First National Bank of St. Louis will commit to spending at least \$100,000 for the purpose of financial literacy, credit counseling, and other educational programs for residents in the newly incorporated assessment area. The Bank</li> </ul>
St. Louis Community Land Trust	can accomplish this through the hiring of additional staff with responsibilities primarily for these tasks.
Union Sarah Community Corporation	<ol> <li>First National Bank of St. Louis will commit to \$2 million of community development loans and investments within the newly incorporated assessment area.</li> </ol>
Corporation Wellston Community Support Association	<ul> <li>6. First National Bank of St. Louis will commit \$500,000 for a special financing program available to residents in the newly incorporated assessment area. This program will provide subsidies on mortgages for purchase, refinance, or improvement by charging an interest rate at least <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of a percentage point</li> </ul>

## Page 2

(50 basis points) below the prevailing rate, and/or providing between \$500 to \$2500 in direct grants for closing costs or down payment assistance.

- 7. Within six months, First National Bank of St. Louis will offer a free checking account for residents in the newly incorporated assessment area that features no annual fees, no minimum balance, a debit card, and no ATM fees, as well as other provisions.
- 8. First National Bank of St. Louis will commit \$100,000 to further fair housing and community reinvestment activities.

SLEHCRA is pleased with the bank's commitment to increasing services, products, and resources within the St. Louis metropolitan area. We believe these commitments will make a significant difference in providing access to quality mainstream financial services in underserved areas, especially within the areas newly incorporated in the bank's assessment area. We are proud to partner with the bank in taking these steps to improve their performance in serving low-income and minority communities.

As a result of this significant commitment and agreement, we feel that the concerns detailed in our November 5, 2010 comment have been addressed. The bank is increasing its presence within minority communities by expanding their assessment area, opening a branch, and providing specialized products for residents in those areas, among other items. We ask the OCC to move forward with the bank's CRA performance evaluation considering this agreement and the substantial commitments included. It is our desire that any bank making such meaningful commitments to underserved areas would not be penalized for taking positive steps forward. We are encouraged by First National Bank of St. Louis and the model they are providing for other banks to increase service within our community. We look forward to continue working with the bank to fulfill these commitments and to make a lasting change in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Will Jordan, Executive Director Metro St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council

Jane Tho

Dr. Rance Thomas, President North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony & Justice

Adolphus Pruitt, President NAACP St. Louis

acqueline a Nutchenson

Jacqueline Hutchinson, Director Special Programs Human Development Corporation

Rob Boyle, Executive Director Justine Petersen

Yaphett El-Am

Yaphett El-Amin, Executive Director MoKan

wille Watton

Lucille Walton, Executive Director Wellston Community Support Association

um Och

Lynn Oldham, Board Member, Missourians Organizing for Reform & Empowerment