



## **For Immediate Release**

### **Here's A Switch: A Community Bank That's Actually Doing Very Well**

(Atlanta, GA, March 1, 2009)

Providing a welcome contrast to recent headlines emphasizing banks in poor health, Atlanta's **Midtown Bank & Trust Company** stands out as a shining example of a well-managed, well-capitalized community bank, as it qualified for \$5.2 million in new capital from the U.S. Treasury Capital Purchase Program this weekend.

The late Friday agreement with the Treasury Department can be interpreted as an active endorsement of Midtown Bank's operating health, as it continues to thrive by focusing on long term banking relationships with promising small businesses and smaller-scale commercial development projects in the Midtown Atlanta community. This disciplined approach, combined with the bank's expanded capital base, will allow it to increase small business loan volume for qualified borrowers and help stimulate economic growth in the area served by Midtown Bank.

"We're very pleased to qualify for capital purchase program funds from the Treasury and we look forward to continuing to support small businesses that are the lifeblood of economic development in our community," said Stan Kryder, President & CEO of Midtown Bank. "This commitment in Midtown Bank is a statement of confidence, acknowledging how we've consistently and prudently managed our capital levels and loan activities since we started five years ago. Now, with an expanded pool of capital, we can look for many new small business lending projects that can stimulate growth and positively shape the community we serve."

With more than 300 community banks chartered in Georgia, Midtown Bank joins an elite group of just ten other community banks in the state to qualify and receive funds from this capital purchase program, according to the website of Atlanta law firm Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein which closely monitors these events - <http://www.bankbryancave.com/>. The qualification process is rigorous and requires each bank to meet stringent criteria applied by the Treasury. The criteria include an evaluation of the bank's capital adequacy, overall asset quality, management practices, earnings, overall liquidity, and ability to endure potential volatility in the marketplace. The strict criteria are designed to limit the government's investment risk by only investing in the healthiest of community banks.

Joe Brannen, President and CEO of the Georgia Bankers Association, expects the community to benefit. "Midtown Bank's plan to put its investment from the government directly to work is a great example of how Georgia banks can use this capital to quickly boost the economy. Creating jobs as well as focusing on finding good loans for small businesses shows how capital can be leveraged. Plus there's exponential power in getting more of this investment capital into community bank markets."



Under terms of the Treasury's Capital Purchase Program, shares of Midtown Bank stock equivalent to the \$5.2 million dollars in capital received will be held by the Treasury. At the Bank's option, Midtown Bank can re-purchase these shares to reduce and eventually eliminate the government's capital investment in the bank.

The government's selective inclusion of well-managed community banks in its overall release of funds reflects a stark contrast to the emergency investments in some of America's largest and most troubled financial institutions, which are judged 'too big to fail'. As summed-up by Kryder, "It's nice to have a good news story to tell after we have all been exposed to so much negative news about our nation's financial institutions. There are plenty of healthy banks out there doing positive things for their customers and communities. We're glad to be doing that right here in Midtown Atlanta."

- 30 -

About Midtown Bank:

Midtown Bank (formally incorporated as Midtown Bank & Trust Company) is a state chartered, FDIC insured, full service retail and commercial bank offering a wide array consumer and business banking products and services. In the five years since its incorporation in the Fall of 2003, Midtown Bank has exhibited dramatic growth, increasing its total assets more than ten-fold to \$212,639,000 by the end of 2008. It was the first, of now several, community banks headquartered in Midtown, located at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and West Peachtree Street, at 712 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia, 30308. <http://www.midtownbank.com/>

For more information contact:

Jennifer Klein  
JMK & Associates  
404-374-2487 (Mobile)  
[jenniferklein@earthlink.net](mailto:jenniferklein@earthlink.net)  
[www.jmkandassoc.com](http://www.jmkandassoc.com)