

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020

or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
For the transition period from to  
Commission File No. 001-34096

**DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEW YORK

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

11-2934195

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

898 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, SUITE 560, HAUPPAUGE, NY

(Address of principal executive offices)

11788

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 631-537-1000

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Trading Symbol	Name of each exchange on which registered
DCOM	The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC
DCOMP	The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

(Title of Class)  
None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C.7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

The approximate aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, based upon the closing price of the Common Stock on June 30, 2020, was \$377,838,854.

The number of shares of the Registrant's common stock outstanding on February 28, 2021 was 41,488,275.

Portions of the following documents are incorporated into the Parts of this Report on Form 10-K indicated below:

The Registrant's definitive Proxy Statement for the 2021 Annual Meeting to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A on or before April 30, 2021 (Part III).

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## PART I

*In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, unless otherwise mentioned, the terms the “Company”, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and our wholly-owned subsidiary, Dime Community Bank (the “Bank”). We use the term “Holding Company” to refer solely to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and not to our consolidated subsidiary.*

### **Item 1. Business**

#### **Completion of Merger of Equals**

On February 1, 2021, Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“Legacy Dime”) merged with and into Bridge Bancorp, Inc., a New York corporation (“Legacy Bridge”) (the “Merger”), with Legacy Bridge as the surviving corporation under the name “Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.” (the “Company”). At the effective time of the Merger (the “Effective Time”), each outstanding share of Legacy Dime common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, was converted into the right to receive 0.6480 shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

At the Effective Time, each outstanding share of Legacy Dime’s Series A preferred stock, par value \$0.01 (the “Dime Preferred Stock”), was converted into the right to receive one share of a newly created series of the Company’s preferred stock having the same powers, preferences and rights as the Dime Preferred Stock.

Immediately following the Merger, Dime Community Bank, a New York-chartered commercial bank and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Legacy Dime, merged with and into BNB Bank, a New York-chartered commercial bank and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bridge, with BNB Bank as the surviving bank, under the name “Dime Community Bank.”

In connection with the Merger, the Company assumed \$115.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.50% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Debentures due 2027 of Legacy Dime.

See “Note 23. Subsequent Event” of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

#### **General**

Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., (the “Holding Company”), which was known as Bridge Bancorp, Inc., prior to the Merger, is a bank holding company engaged in commercial banking and financial services through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Dime Community Bank, which was known as BNB Bank prior to the Merger. The Bank was established in 1910 and is headquartered in Hauppauge, New York. The Holding Company was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1988 to serve as the holding company for the Bank. The Company functions primarily as the holder of all of the Bank’s common stock. In May 1999, the Bank established a real estate investment trust subsidiary, Bridgehampton Community, Inc. (“BCI”), as an operating subsidiary. The assets of BCI are viewed by the bank regulators as part of the Bank’s assets in consolidation. Our bank operations also include Bridge Abstract LLC (“Bridge Abstract”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank, which is a broker of title insurance services. In connection with the Merger, on February 1, 2021, the Holding Company acquired Dime Community Bank and its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

As of December 31, 2020, we operated 39 branch locations in the primary market areas of Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island and the New York City boroughs, including 35 in Suffolk and Nassau Counties, two in Queens and two in Manhattan. Following the Merger, we operate 67 branch locations throughout Long Island and the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx.

For over a century, we have maintained our focus on building customer relationships in our market area. Our mission is to grow through the provision of exceptional service to our customers, our employees, and the community. We strive to achieve excellence in financial performance and build long-term shareholder value. We engage in a full service commercial and consumer banking business, including accepting time, savings and demand deposits from the consumers, businesses and local municipalities in our market area. These deposits, together with funds generated from operations and borrowings, are invested primarily in: (1) commercial real estate loans; (2) multi-family mortgage loans; (3) residential mortgage loans; (4) secured and unsecured commercial and consumer loans; (5) home equity loans; (6) construction and land loans;

(7) Federal Home Loan Bank (“FHLB”), Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”), Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae”) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”) mortgage-backed securities, collateralized mortgage obligations and other asset backed securities; (8) New York State and local municipal obligations; (9) U.S. government-sponsored enterprise (“U.S. GSE”) securities; and (10) corporate bonds. We also offer the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (“CDARS”) and Insured Cash Sweep (“ICS”) programs, providing multi-millions of dollars of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) insurance on deposits to our customers. In addition, we offer merchant credit and debit card processing, automated teller machines, cash management services, lockbox processing, online banking services, remote deposit capture, safe deposit boxes, and individual retirement accounts as well as investment services through Bridge Financial Services LLC, which offers a full range of investment products and services through a third-party broker dealer. Through its title insurance abstract subsidiary, the Bank acts as a broker for title insurance services. Our customer base is comprised principally of small businesses, municipal relationships and consumer relationships.

We believe the Merger will create a company with a more diversified loan portfolio, across geographies, asset classes and commercial industries, and that the resulting company will have increased capacity for loan growth while maintaining its current business risk tolerances.

## **Human Capital Resources**

### Demographics and Culture

As of December 31, 2020, we employed 502 full-time equivalent employees. As a result of the Merger, on February 1, 2021, we added 373 full-time equivalent employees. Our employees are not represented by a collective bargaining agreement. We have been recognized as one of Long Island’s Top Workplaces in 2020 and consider our relationship with our employees to be good. Our culture in the workplace encourages employees to care about each other, the communities they serve, and the work they do. We believe strong community ties, customer focus, accountability, and development of the communities in which we operate will have a favorable long-term impact on our business performance. Our employees are passionate about building relationships and providing customized banking solutions to our communities. We believe in hiring well-qualified people from a wide range of backgrounds who also fit our value system. As an equal opportunity employer, our decisions to select and promote employees are unbiased as we seek to build a diverse team of employees.

### Labor Policies and Benefits

We offer our employees a comprehensive benefits package that will support, maintain, and protect their physical, mental, and financial health. We sponsor various wellness programs that promote the health and wellness of our employees. The COVID-19 pandemic presented a challenge of maintaining the health and safety of our employees. Our employees complete daily COVID-19 health assessments and must remain at home if they experience COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive, or have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Our return to work phase-in began on July 6, 2020 for back office employees. Our branch network has returned to operating regular business hours. Our branch employees receive 100% weekly pay, regardless of the number of hours worked. All front-line employees received special bonus payments for the team effort in issuing the Small Business Administration’s (“SBA”) Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) loans.

### Training, Development and Retention

We are committed to retaining employees by monitoring salaries in our markets and offering competitive salaries. In addition, we maintain equity incentive plans under which we may issue shares of our common stock. Refer to Note 15. “Stock-Based Compensation Plans” of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further details of our equity incentive plans. We promote career development and continuing education by offering internal training programs and tuition reimbursement for programs that develop skills related to our business.

## **Competition and Principal Market Areas**

All phases of our business are highly competitive. We face direct competition from a significant number of financial institutions operating in our market area, many with a statewide or regional presence, and in some cases, a national presence. There is also competition for banking business from competitors outside of our market areas. Most of these competitors are significantly larger than us, and therefore have greater financial and marketing resources and lending limits than us. The fixed cost of regulatory compliance remains high for community banks as compared to their larger competitors that are able to achieve economies of scale. We consider our major competition to be local commercial banks as well as other commercial banks with branches in our market area. Other competitors include savings banks, credit unions, mortgage brokers and financial services firms other than financial institutions, such as investment and insurance companies. Increased competition within our market areas may limit growth and profitability. Additionally, as our market area expands westward, competitive pressure in new markets is expected to be strong. The title insurance abstract subsidiary also faces competition from other title insurance brokers as well as directly from the companies that underwrite title insurance. In New York State, title insurance is obtained on most transfers of real estate and mortgage transactions.

As of December 31, 2020, our principal market areas were Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island and the New York City boroughs, with our legacy markets being primarily in Suffolk County and our newer expansion markets being primarily in Nassau County, Queens and Manhattan. Long Island has a population of approximately 3 million and both counties are relatively affluent and well-educated, enjoying above average median household incomes. In total, Long Island has a sizable industry base with a majority of Suffolk County tending towards high-tech manufacturing and Nassau County favoring wholesale and retail trade. Suffolk County, particularly Eastern Long Island, is semi-rural and also the point of origin for us. Surrounded by water and including the Hamptons and North Fork, the region is a recreational destination for the New York metropolitan area, and a highly regarded resort locale worldwide. While the local economy flourishes in the summer months as a result of the influx of tourists and second homeowners, the year-round population has grown considerably in recent years, resulting in a reduction of the seasonal fluctuations in the economy, which has boosted our legacy market opportunities. Industries represented across the principal market areas include retail establishments; construction and trades; restaurants and bars; lodging and recreation; professional entities; real estate; health services; passenger transportation; high-tech manufacturing; and agricultural and related businesses. Given its proximity, Long Island's economy is closely linked with New York City's and major employers in the area include municipalities, school districts, hospitals, and financial institutions.

We believe the completion of the Merger unites two iconic New York community banks, creating the premier community-based business bank in our region. Our enhanced branch footprint in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Nassau County, and increased capital base will allow the combined bank to better serve the needs of our customers across the greater New York and Long Island marketplaces.

## **Taxation**

The Holding Company, the Bank and its subsidiaries, with the exception of the real estate investment trust, which files its own federal and state income tax returns, report their income on a consolidated basis using the accrual method of accounting and are subject to federal and state income taxation. In general, banks are subject to federal income tax in the same manner as other corporations. However, gains and losses realized by banks from the sale of available for sale securities are generally treated as ordinary income, rather than capital gains or losses. We are subject to the New York State Franchise Tax on Banking Corporations based on certain criteria. The taxation of net income is similar to federal taxable income subject to certain modifications.

## **Regulation and Supervision**

### *Dime Community Bank*

The Bank is a New York chartered commercial bank and a member of the Federal Reserve System (a "member bank"). The lending, investment, and other business operations of the Bank are governed by New York and federal laws and regulations. The Bank is subject to extensive regulation by the New York State Department of Financial Services ("NYSDFS") and, as a member bank, by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("FRB"). The Bank's deposit accounts are insured up to applicable limits by the FDIC under its Deposit Insurance Fund ("DIF") and the FDIC

has certain regulatory authority as deposit insurer. A summary of the primary laws and regulations that govern the Bank's operations are set forth below.

#### Loans and Investments

The powers of a New York commercial bank are established by New York law and applicable federal law. New York commercial banks have authority to originate and purchase any type of loan, including commercial, commercial real estate, residential mortgages or consumer loans. Aggregate loans by a state commercial bank to any single borrower or group of related borrowers are generally limited to 15% of the Bank's capital and surplus, plus an additional 10% if secured by specified readily marketable collateral.

Federal and state law and regulations limit the Bank's investment authority. Generally, a state member bank is prohibited from investing in corporate equity securities for its own account other than the equity securities of companies through which the bank conducts its business. Under federal and state regulations, a New York state member bank may invest in investment securities for its own account up to specified limit depending upon the type of security. "Investment Securities" are generally defined as marketable obligations that are investment grade and not predominantly speculative in nature. Applicable regulations classify investment securities into five different types and, depending on its type, a state member bank may have the authority to deal in and underwrite the security. New York-chartered state member banks may also purchase certain non-investment securities that can be reclassified and underwritten as loans.

#### Lending Standards

The federal banking agencies adopted uniform regulations prescribing standards for extensions of credit that are secured by liens on interests in real estate or made for the purpose of financing the construction of a building or other improvements to real estate. Under these regulations, all insured depository institutions, like the Bank, adopted and maintain written policies that establish appropriate limits and standards for extensions of credit that are secured by liens or interests in real estate or are made for the purpose of financing permanent improvements to real estate. These policies must establish loan portfolio diversification standards, prudent underwriting standards (including loan-to-value limits) that are clear and measurable, loan administration procedures, and documentation, approval and reporting requirements. The real estate lending policies must reflect consideration of the Interagency Guidelines for Real Estate Lending Policies that have been adopted by the federal bank regulators.

#### Federal Deposit Insurance

The Bank is a member of the DIF, which is administered by the FDIC. Our deposit accounts are insured by the FDIC. Effective July 22, 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") permanently raised the deposit insurance available on all deposit accounts to \$250,000 with a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2008.

The FDIC assesses insured depository institutions to maintain the DIF. Under the FDIC's risk-based assessment system, institutions deemed less risky pay lower assessments. Assessments for institutions of less than \$10 billion of assets are based on financial measures and supervisory ratings derived from statistical modeling estimating the probability of an institution's failure within three years. However, inasmuch as the Bank's assets have exceeded \$10 billion due to the Merger of Dime Community Bank and BNB Bank, the Bank will become subject to larger institution assessment procedures. Such institutions are assigned an individual rate based on a scorecard combining examination ratings, financial measures, a bank's ability to withstand asset-related and funding-related stress and a measure of potential losses to the DIF in the event of the institution's failure.

The Dodd-Frank Act required the FDIC to revise its procedures to base assessments upon each insured institution's total assets less tangible equity instead of deposits. The FDIC finalized a rule, effective April 1, 2011, that set the assessment range at 2.5 basis points to 45 basis points of total assets less tangible equity. In conjunction with the DIF's reserve ratio achieving 1.15%, the assessment range (inclusive of possible adjustments) was reduced for insured institutions of less than \$10 billion of total assets to 1.5 basis points to 30 basis points, effective July 1, 2016. As noted, the Bank will be subject to large institution procedures in the future following the Merger, and the applicable range for such institutions of 1.5 basis points to 40 basis points.

The Dodd-Frank Act increased the minimum target DIF ratio from 1.15% of estimated insured deposits to 1.35% of estimated insured deposits. The FDIC was required to achieve the 1.35% ratio by September 30, 2020. The Dodd-Frank Act eliminated the 1.5% maximum fund ratio, instead leaving it to the discretion of the FDIC. The FDIC has exercised that discretion by establishing a long-range fund ratio of 2%.

Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the FDIC upon a finding that an institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order or condition imposed by the FDIC. The Company does not know of any practice, condition or violation that might lead to termination of deposit insurance.

### Capitalization

Federal regulations require FDIC insured depository institutions, including state member banks, to meet several minimum capital standards: a common equity tier 1 capital to risk-based assets ratio of 4.5%, a tier 1 capital to risk-based assets ratio of 6.0%, a total capital to risk-based assets ratio of 8.0%, and a tier 1 capital to total assets leverage ratio of 4.0%. The existing capital requirements were effective January 1, 2015 and are the result of a final rule implementing regulatory amendments based on recommendations of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and certain requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act. Common equity tier 1 capital is generally defined as common stockholders' equity and retained earnings. Tier 1 capital is generally defined as common equity tier 1 and additional tier 1 capital. Additional tier 1 capital generally includes certain noncumulative perpetual preferred stock and related surplus and minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries. Total capital includes tier 1 capital (common equity tier 1 capital plus additional tier 1 capital) and tier 2 capital. Tier 2 capital is comprised of capital instruments and related surplus meeting specified requirements, and may include cumulative preferred stock and long-term perpetual preferred stock, mandatory convertible securities, intermediate preferred stock and subordinated debt. Also included in tier 2 capital is the allowance for loan and lease losses limited to a maximum of 1.25% of risk-weighted assets and, for institutions that have exercised an opt-out election regarding the treatment of accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI"), up to 45% of net unrealized gains on available-for-sale equity securities with readily determinable fair market values. Institutions that have not exercised the AOCI opt-out have AOCI incorporated into common equity tier 1 capital (including unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities). Calculation of all types of regulatory capital is subject to deductions and adjustments specified in the regulations.

In determining the amount of risk-weighted assets for purposes of calculating risk-based capital ratios, assets, including certain off-balance sheet assets (e.g., recourse obligations, direct credit substitutes, residual interests) are multiplied by a risk weight factor assigned by the regulations based on the risks believed inherent in the type of asset. Higher levels of capital are required for asset categories believed to present greater risk. For example, a risk weight of 0% is assigned to cash and U.S. government securities, a risk weight of 50% is generally assigned to prudently underwritten first lien one-to-four family residential mortgages, a risk weight of 100% is assigned to commercial and consumer loans, a risk weight of 150% is assigned to certain past due loans and a risk weight of between 0% to 600% is assigned to permissible equity interests, depending on certain specified factors.

In addition to establishing the minimum regulatory capital requirements, the regulations limit capital distributions and certain discretionary bonus payments to management if the institution does not hold a "capital conservation buffer" consisting of 2.5% of common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets above the amount necessary to meet its minimum risk-based capital requirements. The capital conservation buffer requirement was phased in beginning January 1, 2016 at 0.625% of risk-weighted assets and increasing each year until fully implemented at 2.5% on January 1, 2019.

### Community Bank Leverage Ratio

Legislation enacted in 2018 required the federal banking agencies, including the FRB, to amend the regulatory capital regulations to establish an optional "Community Bank Leverage Ratio" (the ratio of a bank's tangible equity capital to average total consolidated assets) of between 8% and 10% of average total consolidated assets. Banking organizations of less than \$10 billion of assets that have capital meeting the specified level and satisfying other criteria may elect to follow this alternative framework and be deemed in compliance with all applicable capital requirements, including the risk-based requirements, and would be considered "well capitalized" under "prompt corrective action" statutes. The agencies finalized a rule, effective January 1, 2020, that set the Community Bank Leverage Ratio at 9% tier 1 capital to average

total consolidated assets. Pursuant to 2020 federal legislation, the Community Bank Leverage Ratio was temporarily lowered to 8%, transitioning back to 9% by year-end 2021. Since the merged bank exceeds \$10 billion of assets, its eligibility to elect the community bank leverage ratio will be terminated in the future following the Merger.

#### Safety and Soundness Standards

Each federal banking agency, including the FRB, has adopted guidelines establishing general standards relating to internal controls, information and internal audit systems, loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate exposure, asset growth, asset quality, earnings and compensation, fees, and benefits. In general, the guidelines require, among other things, appropriate systems and practices to identify and manage the risks and exposures specified in the guidelines. The guidelines prohibit excessive compensation as an unsafe and unsound practice and describe compensation as excessive when the amounts paid are unreasonable or disproportionate to the services performed by an executive officer, employee, director, or principal shareholder.

On April 26, 2016, the federal regulatory agencies approved a second proposed joint rulemaking to implement Section 956 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which prohibits incentive-based compensation that encourages inappropriate risk taking. In addition, the NYSDFS issued guidance applicable to incentive compensation in October 2016.

#### Prompt Corrective Regulatory Action

Federal law requires, among other things, that federal bank regulatory authorities take “prompt corrective action” with respect to institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements. For these purposes, the statute establishes five capital tiers: well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized.

The FRB may order member banks which have insufficient capital to take corrective actions. For example, a bank, which is categorized as “undercapitalized” would be subject to other growth limitations, would be required to submit a capital restoration plan, and a holding company that controls such a bank would be required to guarantee that the bank complies with the restoration plan. A “significantly undercapitalized” bank would be subject to additional restrictions. Member banks deemed by the FRB to be “critically undercapitalized” would be subject to the appointment of a receiver or conservator.

The final rule that increased regulatory capital standards adjusted the prompt corrective action tiers as of January 1, 2015. The various categories were revised to incorporate the new common equity tier 1 capital requirement, the increase in the tier 1 to risk-based assets requirement and other changes. Under the revised prompt corrective action requirements, insured depository institutions are required to meet the following in order to qualify as “well capitalized:” (1) a common equity tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6.5% (new standard); (2) a tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 8.0% (increased from 6.0%); (3) a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.0% (unchanged); and (4) a tier 1 leverage ratio of 5.0% (unchanged). Under the final rulemaking discussed above, a qualifying institution would be deemed to be “well capitalized” if it complies with the Community Bank Leverage Ratio, and elects to follow that alternative framework.

#### Dividends

Under federal law and applicable regulations, a New York member bank may generally declare a dividend, without prior regulatory approval, in an amount equal to its year-to-date retained net income plus the prior two years’ retained net income that is still available for dividend. Dividends exceeding those amounts require application to and approval by the



NYSDFS and FRB. In addition, a member bank may be limited in paying cash dividends if it does not maintain the capital conservation buffer described previously.

#### Transactions with Affiliates and Insiders

Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act govern transactions between a member bank and its affiliates, which includes the Company. The FRB has adopted Regulation W, which comprehensively implements and interprets Sections 23A and 23B, in part by codifying prior FRB interpretations under Sections 23A and 23B.

An affiliate of a bank is any company or entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the bank. A subsidiary of a bank that is not also a depository institution or a “financial subsidiary” under federal law is not treated as an affiliate of the bank for the purposes of Sections 23A and 23B; however, the FRB has the discretion to treat subsidiaries of a bank as affiliates on a case-by-case basis. Sections 23A and 23B limit the extent to which a bank or its subsidiaries may engage in “covered transactions” with any one affiliate to an amount equal to 10% of such bank’s capital stock and surplus, and limit all such transactions with all affiliates to an amount equal to 20% of such capital stock and surplus. The statutory sections also require that all such transactions be on terms that are consistent with safe and sound banking practices. The term “covered transaction” includes the making of loans, purchase of assets, issuance of guarantees and other similar types of transactions. Further, most loans by a bank to any of its affiliates must be secured by collateral in amounts ranging from 100 to 130 percent of the loan amounts. In addition, any covered transaction by an association with an affiliate and any purchase of assets or services by an association from an affiliate must be on terms that are substantially the same, or at least as favorable, to the bank as those that would be provided to a non-affiliate.

A bank’s loans to its executive officers, directors, any owner of more than 10% of its stock (each, an insider) and any of certain entities affiliated with any such person (an insider’s related interest) are subject to the conditions and limitations imposed by Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and the FRB’s Regulation O thereunder. Under these restrictions, the aggregate amount of the loans to any insider and the insider’s related interests may not exceed the loans-to-one-borrower limit applicable to national banks. All loans by a bank to all insiders and insiders’ related interests in the aggregate may not exceed the bank’s unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus. With certain exceptions, loans to an executive officer, other than loans for the education of the officer’s children and certain loans secured by the officer’s residence, may not exceed the greater of \$25,000 or 2.5% of the bank’s unimpaired capital and unimpaired surplus, but in no event more than \$100,000. Regulation O also requires that any proposed loan to an insider or a related interest of that insider be approved in advance by a majority of the board of directors of the bank, with any interested director not participating in the voting, if such loan, when aggregated with any existing loans to that insider and the insider’s related interests, would exceed either \$500,000 or the greater of \$25,000 or 5% of the bank’s unimpaired capital and surplus. Generally, such loans must be made on substantially the same terms as, and follow credit underwriting procedures that are no less stringent than, those that are prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons and must not present more than a normal risk of collectability. An exception is made for extensions of credit made pursuant to a benefit or compensation plan of a bank that is widely available to employees of the bank and that does not give any preference to insiders of the bank over other employees of the bank.

#### Examinations and Assessments

The Bank is required to file periodic reports with and is subject to periodic examination by the NYSDFS and the FRB. Applicable laws and regulations generally require periodic on-site examinations and annual audits by independent public accountants for all insured institutions. The Bank is required to pay an annual assessment to the NYSDFS to fund its supervision.

The Bank’s assets exceeded \$10 billion due to the Merger of BNB Bank and Dime Community Bank. Federal law provides that institutions above that asset size be examined by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”), rather than its primary federal bank regulator, as to compliance with certain federal consumer protection and fair lending laws and

regulations. The Bank will therefore be subject to examination by the CFPB as to those matters in the future, rather than the FDIC.

#### Community Reinvestment Act

Under the federal Community Reinvestment Act (“CRA”), the Bank has a continuing and affirmative obligation consistent with its safe and sound operation to help meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low and moderate-income neighborhoods. The CRA does not establish specific lending requirements or programs for financial institutions nor does it limit an institution’s discretion to develop the types of products and services that it believes are best suited to its particular community, consistent with the CRA. The CRA requires the FRB, in connection with its examination of the Bank, to assess its record of meeting the credit needs of its community and to take that record into account in its evaluation of certain applications by the Bank. For example, the regulations specify that a bank’s CRA performance will be considered in its expansion (e.g., branching or mergers) proposals and may be the basis for approving, denying or conditioning the approval of an application. As of the date of its most recent CRA examination, which was conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the NYSDDFS, the Bank’s CRA performance was rated “Satisfactory”.

New York law imposes a similar obligation on the Bank to serve the credit needs of its community. New York law contains its own CRA provisions, which are substantially similar to federal law.

#### USA PATRIOT Act

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 gave the federal government new powers to address terrorist threats through enhanced domestic security measures, expanded surveillance powers, increased information sharing and broadened anti-money laundering requirements. The USA PATRIOT Act also required the federal banking agencies to take into consideration the effectiveness of controls designed to combat money-laundering activities in determining whether to approve a merger or other acquisition application of a member institution. Accordingly, if the Bank engages in a merger or other acquisition, the Bank’s controls designed to combat money laundering would be considered as part of the application process. The Bank has established policies, procedures and systems designed to comply with these regulations.

#### Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.

The Holding Company, as a bank holding company controlling the Bank, is subject to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (“BHCA”), and the rules and regulations of the FRB under the BHCA applicable to bank holding companies. We are required to file reports with, and otherwise comply with the rules and regulations of the FRB.

The FRB previously adopted consolidated capital adequacy guidelines for bank holding companies structured similarly, but not identically, to those applicable to the Bank. The Dodd-Frank Act directed the FRB to issue consolidated capital requirements for depository institution holding companies that are no less stringent, both quantitatively and in terms of components of capital, than those applicable to institutions themselves. The FRB subsequently issued regulations amending its regulatory capital requirements to implement the Dodd-Frank Act as to bank holding company capital standards. Consolidated regulatory capital requirements identical to those applicable to the subsidiary banks applied to bank holding companies as of January 1, 2015. As is the case with institutions themselves, the capital conservation buffer was phased-in between 2016 and 2019. We met all capital adequacy requirements under the FRB’s capital rules on December 31, 2020.

The policy of the FRB is that a bank holding company must serve as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks by providing capital and other support in times of distress. The Dodd-Frank Act codified the source of strength policy.

Under the prompt corrective action provisions of federal law, a bank holding company parent of an undercapitalized subsidiary bank is required to guarantee, within specified limits, the capital restoration plan that is required of an undercapitalized bank. If an undercapitalized bank fails to file an acceptable capital restoration plan or fails to implement an accepted plan, the FRB may prohibit the bank holding company parent of the undercapitalized bank from paying dividends or making any other capital distribution.

As a bank holding company, we are required to obtain the prior approval of the FRB to acquire more than 5% of a class of voting securities of any additional bank or bank holding company or to acquire all, or substantially all, the assets of any

additional bank or bank holding company. In addition, the bank holding companies may generally only engage in activities that are closely related to banking as determined by the FRB. Bank holding companies that meet certain criteria may opt to become a financial holding company and thereby engage in a broader array of financial activities.

FRB policy is that a bank holding company should pay cash dividends only to the extent that the company's net income for the past two years is sufficient to fund the dividends and the prospective rate of earnings retention is consistent with the company's capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. In addition, FRB guidance sets forth the supervisory expectation that bank holding companies will inform and consult with FRB staff in advance of issuing a dividend that exceeds earnings for the quarter and should inform the FRB and should eliminate, defer or significantly reduce dividends if (i) net income available to stockholders for the past four quarters, net of dividends previously paid during that period, is not sufficient to fully fund the dividends, (ii) prospective rate of earnings retention is not consistent with the bank holding company's capital needs and overall current and prospective financial condition, or (iii) the bank holding company will not meet, or is in danger of not meeting, its minimum regulatory capital adequacy ratios.

Current FRB regulations provide that a bank holding company that is not well capitalized or well managed, as such terms are defined in the regulations, or that is subject to any unresolved supervisory issues, is required to give the FRB prior written notice of any repurchase or redemption of its outstanding equity securities if the gross consideration for repurchase or redemption, when combined with the net consideration paid for all such repurchases or redemptions during the preceding 12 months, will be equal to 10% or more of the company's consolidated net worth. The FRB may disapprove such a repurchase or redemption if it determines that the proposal would constitute an unsafe and unsound practice or violate a law or regulation. FRB guidance generally provides for bank holding company consultation with FRB staff prior to engaging in a repurchase or redemption of a bank holding company's stock, even if a formal written notice is not required. The guidance provides that the purpose of such consultation is to allow the FRB to review the proposed repurchases or redemption from a supervisory perspective and possibly object.

The NYSDFS and FRB have extensive enforcement authority over the institutions and holding companies that they regulate to prohibit or correct activities that violate law, regulation or a regulatory agreement or which are deemed to be unsafe or unsound banking practices. Enforcement actions may include: the appointment of a conservator or receiver for an institution; the issuance of a cease and desist order; the termination of deposit insurance; the imposition of civil money penalties on the institution, its directors, officers, employees and institution-affiliated parties; the issuance of directives to increase capital; the issuance of formal and informal agreements; the removal of or restrictions on directors, officers, employees and institution-affiliated parties; and the enforcement of any such mechanisms through restraining orders or other court actions. Any change in applicable New York or federal laws and regulations could have a material adverse impact on us and our operations and stockholders.

We file certain reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") under the federal securities laws. Our operations are also subject to extensive regulation by other federal, state and local governmental authorities and it is subject to various laws and judicial and administrative decisions imposing requirements and restrictions on part or all of its operations. We believe that we are in substantial compliance, in all material respects, with applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations. Because our business is highly regulated, the laws, rules and regulations applicable to it are subject to regular modification and change. There can be no assurance that these proposed laws, rules and regulations, or any other laws, rules or regulations, will not be adopted in the future, which could make compliance more difficult or expensive or otherwise adversely affect our business, financial condition or prospects.

#### **Other Information**

Through a link on the Investor Relations section of our website of [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com), copies of our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) for 15(d) of the Exchange Act, are made available, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after electronically filing such material with, or furnishing it to, the SEC. Copies of such reports and other information also are available at no charge to any person who requests them or at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Such requests may be

directed to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., Investor Relations, 898 Veterans Memorial Highway, Suite 560, Hauppauge, NY 11788, (631) 537-1000.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

### ***Risks Related to our Mergers and Acquisitions Activities***

#### **Combining Legacy Bridge and Legacy Dime may be more difficult, costly or time consuming than expected and the Company may fail to realize the anticipated benefits of the Merger.**

The success of the Merger will depend, in part, on the ability to realize the anticipated cost savings from combining the businesses of Legacy Bridge and Legacy Dime. To realize the anticipated benefits and cost savings from the Merger, we must successfully integrate and combine the two businesses in a manner that permits those cost savings to be realized. If the Company is not able to successfully achieve these objectives, the anticipated benefits of the Merger may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected. In addition, the actual cost savings and anticipated benefits of the Merger could be less than anticipated, and integration may result in additional unforeseen expenses.

It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of the Company's ongoing businesses or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect the Company's ability to maintain relationships with clients, customers, depositors and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the Merger. Integration efforts may also divert management attention and resources. These integration matters could have an adverse effect on the Company for an undetermined period after completion of the Merger.

#### **The combined company may be unable to retain personnel successfully following the Merger.**

The success of the Merger will depend in part on the Company's ability to retain the talents and dedication of key employees of Legacy Bridge and Legacy Dime. It is possible that these employees may decide not to remain with the Company. If the Company is unable to retain key employees, including management, who are critical to the successful integration and future operations of the companies, the Company could face disruptions in its operations, loss of existing customers, loss of key information, expertise or know-how and unanticipated additional recruitment costs. In addition, if key employees terminate their employment, the Company's business activities may be adversely affected and management's attention may be diverted from successfully integrating the businesses of Legacy Bridge and Legacy Dime to hiring suitable replacements, all of which may cause the Company's business to suffer. In addition, the Company may not be able to locate or retain suitable replacements for any key employees who leave.

#### **Acquisitions involve integrations and other risks.**

Acquisitions involve a number of risks and challenges including: our ability to integrate the branches and operations acquired, and the associated internal controls and regulatory functions, into our current operations; our ability to limit the outflow of deposits held by our new customers in the acquired branches and to successfully retain and manage the loans acquired; and our ability to attract new deposits and to generate new interest-earning assets in geographic areas not previously served. Additionally, no assurance can be given that the operation of acquired branches would not adversely affect our existing profitability; that we would be able to achieve results in the future similar to those achieved by our existing banking business; that we would be able to compete effectively in the market areas served by acquired branches; or that we would be able to manage any growth resulting from the transaction effectively. We face the additional risk that the anticipated benefits of the acquisition may not be realized fully or at all, or within the time period expected. Finally, acquisitions typically involve the payment of a premium over book and trading values and therefore, may result in dilution of our book and tangible book value per share.

#### **We may incur impairment to our goodwill.**

Goodwill arises when a business is purchased for an amount greater than the fair value of the net assets acquired. We recognized goodwill as an asset on our balance sheet in connection with our merger with Legacy Dime and our acquisitions of Community National Bank ("CNB") in 2015, FNB NY Bancorp ("FNB NY") in 2014, and Hamptons State Bank

("HSB") in 2011. We evaluate goodwill for impairment at least annually. Although we determined that goodwill was not impaired during 2020, a significant and sustained decline in our stock price and market capitalization, a significant decline in our expected future cash flows, a significant adverse change in the business climate, slower growth rates or other factors could result in impairment of goodwill. If we were to conclude that a future write-down of the goodwill was necessary, then we would record the appropriate charge to earnings, which could be materially adverse to our consolidated financial statements.

### ***Risks Related to the COVID-19 Outbreak***

#### **The economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak may continue to have an adverse impact on our business and results of operations.**

In December 2019, a novel coronavirus was reported in China, and, in March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. On March 12, 2020 the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States a national emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic dislocation in the United States as many state and local governments, including New York, have ordered non-essential businesses to close and residents to shelter in place at home. This has resulted in an unprecedented slow-down in economic activity and a related increase in unemployment. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, more than 30 million people nationwide have filed claims for unemployment, and stock markets have declined in value and in particular bank stocks have significantly declined in value. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Federal Reserve has reduced the benchmark federal funds rate to a target range of 0% to 0.25%, and the yields on 10 and 30-year treasury notes have declined to historic lows. Various state governments and federal agencies are requiring lenders to provide forbearance and other relief to borrowers (e.g., waiving late payment and other fees). The federal banking agencies have encouraged financial institutions to prudently work with affected borrowers and recently passed legislation has provided relief from reporting loan classifications due to modifications related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Certain industries have been particularly hard-hit, including the travel and hospitality industry, the restaurant industry and the retail industry. Finally, the spread of the coronavirus has caused us to modify our business practices, including employee travel, employee work locations, and cancellation of physical participation in meetings, events and conferences. We have many employees working remotely and we may take further actions as may be required by government authorities or that we determine are in the best interests of our employees, customers and business partners.

Given the ongoing and dynamic nature of the circumstances, it is difficult to predict the full impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on our business. The extent of such impact will depend on future developments, which are highly uncertain, including when the coronavirus can be controlled and abated and when and how the economy may be reopened. As the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related adverse local and national economic consequences, we may be subject to any of the following risks, any of which could have a material, adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations:

- demand for our products and services may decline, making it difficult to grow assets and income;
- if the economy is unable to substantially reopen, and high levels of unemployment continue, for an extended period of time, loan delinquencies, problem assets, and foreclosures may increase, resulting in increased charges and reduced income;
- collateral for loans, especially real estate, may decline in value, which could cause loan losses to increase;
- our allowance for credit losses may have to be increased if borrowers experience financial difficulties beyond forbearance periods, which will adversely affect our net income;
- the net worth and liquidity of loan guarantors may decline, impairing their ability to honor commitments to us;
- as the result of the decline in the Federal Reserve Board's target federal funds rate to near 0%, the yield on our assets may decline to a greater extent than the decline in our cost of interest-bearing liabilities, reducing our net interest margin and spread and reducing net income;
- a material decrease in net income or a net loss over several quarters could result in a decrease in the rate of our quarterly cash dividend;

- our cyber security risks are increased as the result of an increase in the number of employees working remotely; and
- we rely on third party vendors for certain services and the unavailability of a critical service due to the COVID-19 outbreak could have an adverse effect on us.

Moreover, our future success and profitability substantially depends on the management skills of our executive officers and directors, many of whom have held officer and director positions with us for many years. The unanticipated loss or unavailability of key employees due to the outbreak could harm our ability to operate our business or execute our business strategy. We may not be successful in finding and integrating suitable successors in the event of key employee loss or unavailability. Any one or a combination of the factors identified above could negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations and prospects.

#### ***Risks Related to our Loan Portfolio***

**The concentration of our loan portfolio in loans secured by commercial, multi-family and residential real estate properties located on Long Island and the New York City boroughs could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations if general economic conditions or real estate values in this area decline.**

Unlike larger banks that are more geographically diversified, our loan portfolio consists primarily of real estate loans secured by commercial, multi-family and residential real estate properties located in Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island, and in the New York City boroughs. The local economic conditions on Long Island and in New York City have a significant impact on the volume of loan originations and the quality of loans, the ability of borrowers to repay these loans, and the value of collateral securing these loans. A considerable decline in the general economic conditions caused by inflation, recession, unemployment or other factors beyond our control would impact these local economic conditions and could negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, decreases in tenant occupancy may also have a negative effect on the ability of borrowers to make timely repayments of their loans, which would have an adverse impact on our earnings.

**If our regulators impose limitations on our commercial real estate lending activities, earnings could be adversely affected.**

In 2006, the federal bank regulatory agencies (collectively, the “Agencies”) issued joint guidance entitled “Concentrations in Commercial Real Estate Lending, Sound Risk Management Practices” (the “CRE Guidance”). Although the CRE Guidance did not establish specific lending limits, it provides that a bank’s commercial real estate lending exposure may receive increased supervisory scrutiny where total non-owner occupied commercial real estate loans, including loans secured by apartment buildings, investor commercial real estate and construction and land loans, represent 300% or more of an institution’s total risk-based capital and the outstanding balance of the commercial real estate loan portfolio has increased by 50% or more during the preceding 36 months. Our non-owner occupied commercial real estate level equaled 390% of total risk-based capital at December 31, 2020. Including owner-occupied commercial real estate, the ratio of commercial real estate loans to total risk-based capital ratio would be 495% at December 31, 2020.

If our regulators were to impose restrictions on the amount of commercial real estate loans we can hold in our portfolio, or require higher capital ratios as a result of the level of commercial real estate loans held, our earnings would be adversely affected.

**We are subject to litigation, regulatory enforcement and reputation risk due to our participation in the SBA PPP, and we are subject to the risk that the SBA may not fund some or all PPP loan guarantees.**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES” Act) included the PPP as a loan program administered through the SBA. Under the PPP, small businesses and other entities and individuals can apply for loans from existing SBA lenders and other lenders, subject to detailed qualifications and eligibility criteria.

Because of the short timeframe between the passing of the CARES Act and implementation of the PPP, some of the rules and guidance relating to PPP were issued after lenders began processing PPP applications. Also, there was and continues

to be uncertainty in the laws, rules and guidance relating to the PPP. Since the opening of the PPP, several banks have been subject to litigation regarding the procedures used in processing PPP applications and the payment of fees to agents that assisted borrowers in obtaining PPP loans. In addition, some banks and borrowers have received negative media attention associated with PPP loans. Although we believe that we have administered the PPP in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and guidance, we may be exposed to litigation risk and negative media attention related to our participation in the PPP. If any such litigation is not resolved in our favor, it may result in significant financial liability to us or adversely affect our reputation. In addition, litigation can be costly, regardless of outcome. Any financial liability, litigation costs or reputational damage caused by PPP-related litigation or media attention could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Federal and state regulators can impose or request that we consent to substantial sanctions, restrictions and requirements if they determine there are violations of laws, rules or regulations or weaknesses or failures with respect to general standards of safety and soundness, including with respect to the PPP, which could adversely affect our business, reputation, results of operation and financial condition, and thereby adversely affect your investment.

We also have credit risk on PPP loans if the SBA determines that there is a deficiency in the manner in which we originated, funded or serviced loans, including any issue with the eligibility of a borrower to receive a PPP loan. In the event of a loss resulting from a default on a PPP loan and a determination by the SBA that there was a deficiency in the manner in which we originated, funded or serviced a PPP loan, the SBA may deny its liability under the guaranty, reduce the amount of the guaranty or, if the SBA has already paid under the guaranty, seek recovery of any loss related to the deficiency from us.

**The performance of our multi-family real estate loans could be adversely impacted by regulation.**

Multi-family real estate loans generally involve a greater risk than residential real estate loans because of legislation and government regulations involving rent control and rent stabilization, which are outside the control of the borrower or the Bank, and could impair the value of the security for the loan or the future cash flow of such properties. For example, on June 14, 2019, the State of New York enacted legislation increasing the restrictions on rent increases in a rent-regulated apartment building, including, among other provisions, (i) repealing the vacancy bonus and longevity bonus, which allowed a property owner to raise rents as much as 20% each time a rental unit became vacant, (ii) eliminating high rent vacancy deregulation and high-income deregulation, which allowed a rental unit to be removed from rent stabilization once it crossed a statutory high-rent threshold and became vacant, or the tenant's income exceeded the statutory amount in the preceding two years, and (iii) eliminating an exception that allowed a property owner who offered preferential rents to tenants to raise the rent to the full legal rent upon renewal. The new legislation still permits a property owner to charge up to the full legal rent once the tenant vacates. As a result of this new legislation as well as previously existing laws and regulations, it is possible that rental income might not rise sufficiently over time to satisfy increases in the loan rate at repricing or increases in overhead expenses (*e.g.*, utilities, taxes, etc.). In addition, if the cash flow from a collateral property is reduced (*e.g.*, if leases are not obtained or renewed), the borrower's ability to repay the loan and the value of the security for the loan may be impaired. Therefore, impaired multi-family real estate loans may be more difficult to identify before they become problematic than residential real estate loans.

**Increases to the allowance for credit losses may cause our earnings to decrease.**

The Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") has issued an accounting standard that we adopted in the first quarter of 2020. This standard, referred to as Current Expected Credit Loss, requires that we determine periodic estimates of lifetime expected credit losses on loans, and recognize the expected credit losses as allowances for credit losses. This changed the previous method of providing allowances for loan losses that are probable, which required us to increase our allowance for credit losses, and greatly increases the types of data we need to collect and review to determine the appropriate level of the allowance for credit losses.

Customers may not repay their loans according to the original terms, and the collateral securing the payment of those loans may be insufficient to pay any remaining loan balance. Hence, we may experience significant credit losses, which could have a material adverse effect on its operating results. We make various assumptions and judgments about the collectability of its loan portfolio, including the creditworthiness of borrowers and the value of the real estate and other assets serving

as collateral for the repayment of loans. In determining the amount of the allowance for credit losses, we rely on loan quality reviews, past loss experience, and an evaluation of economic conditions, among other factors. If our assumptions prove to be incorrect, the allowance for credit losses may not be sufficient to cover expected losses in the loan portfolio, resulting in additions to the allowance. Material additions to the allowance through charges to earnings would materially decrease our net income.

Bank regulators periodically review our allowance for credit losses and may require us to increase our provision for credit losses or loan charge-offs. Any increase in our allowance for credit losses or loan charge-offs as required by these regulatory authorities could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and/or financial condition.

**We are subject to the CRA and fair lending laws, and failure to comply with these laws could lead to material penalties.**

The CRA, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act and other fair lending laws and regulations impose nondiscriminatory lending requirements on financial institutions. With respect to the Bank, the NYSDFS, FRB, CFPB, the United States Department of Justice and other federal and state agencies are responsible for enforcing these laws and regulations. A successful regulatory challenge to an institution's performance under the CRA or fair lending laws and regulations could result in a wide variety of sanctions, including the required payment of damages and civil money penalties, injunctive relief, imposition of restrictions on mergers and acquisitions activity and restrictions on expansion. Private parties may also have the ability to challenge an institution's performance under fair lending laws in private class action litigation. Such actions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**The Company is subject to environmental liability risk associated with lending activities.**

A significant portion of the Company's loan portfolio is secured by real property. During the ordinary course of business, the Company may foreclose on and take title to properties securing certain loans. In doing so, there is a risk that hazardous or toxic substances could be found on these properties. If hazardous or toxic substances are found, the Company may be liable for remediation costs, as well as for personal injury and property damage. Environmental laws may require the Company to incur substantial expenses and may materially reduce the affected property's value or limit the Company's ability to use or sell the affected property. In addition, future laws or more stringent interpretations or enforcement policies with respect to existing laws may increase the Company's exposure to environmental liability. Environmental reviews of real property before initiating foreclosure may not be sufficient to detect all potential environmental hazards. The remediation costs and any other financial liabilities associated with an environmental hazard could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Risks Related to Interest Rates***

**Changes in interest rates could affect our profitability.**

Our ability to earn a profit, like most financial institutions, depends primarily on net interest income, which is the difference between the interest income that we earn on our interest-earning assets, such as loans and investments, and the interest expense that we pay on our interest-bearing liabilities, such as deposits and borrowings. Our profitability depends on our ability to manage our assets and liabilities during periods of changing market interest rates.

In a period of rising interest rates, the interest income earned on our assets may not increase as rapidly as the interest paid on our liabilities. In an increasing interest rate environment, our cost of funds is expected to increase more rapidly than interest earned on our loan and investment portfolio as our primary source of funds is deposits with generally shorter maturities than those on our loans and investments. This makes the balance sheet more liability sensitive in the short term.

A sustained decrease in market interest rates could adversely affect our earnings. When interest rates decline, borrowers tend to refinance higher-rate, fixed-rate loans at lower rates. Under those circumstances, we would not be able to reinvest those prepayments in assets earning interest rates as high as the rates on those prepaid loans or in investment securities. In addition, the majority of our loans are at variable interest rates, which would adjust to lower rates.



Changes in interest rates also affect the fair value of the securities portfolio. Generally, the value of securities moves inversely with changes in interest rates. As of December 31, 2020, the securities portfolio totaled \$559.4 million.

**We are required to transition from the use of LIBOR.**

In 2017, the Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”), announced that it intends to stop persuading or compelling banks to submit rates for the calibration of LIBOR to the administrator of LIBOR after 2021. LIBOR will be discontinued on December 31, 2021. At this time, no consensus exists as to what rate or rates may become acceptable alternatives to LIBOR and it is impossible to predict the effect of any such alternatives on the value of LIBOR-based securities and variable rate loans, subordinated debentures, or other securities or financial arrangements, given LIBOR's role in determining market interest rates globally. Regulators, industry groups and certain committees (e.g. the Alternative Reference Rates Committee) have published recommended fallback language for LIBOR-linked financial instruments, identified recommended alternatives for the LIBOR (e.g. the Secured Overnight Financing Rate), and proposed implementations of the recommended alternatives in floating-rate financial instruments. At this time, it is not possible to predict whether these specific recommendations and proposals will be broadly accepted. Uncertainty as to the nature of alternative reference rates and as to potential changes or other reforms to LIBOR may adversely affect LIBOR rates and the value of LIBOR-based loans and securities in our portfolio and may impact the availability and cost of hedging instruments and borrowings. We have material contracts that are indexed to LIBOR and are monitoring this activity and evaluating the related risks. If LIBOR rates are no longer available and we are required to implement substitute indices for the calculation of interest rates, we may incur expenses in effecting the transition, and may be subject to disputes or litigation with customers and security holders over the appropriateness or comparability to LIBOR of the substitute indices, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations. Additionally, since alternative rates are calculated differently, payments under contracts referencing new rates will differ from those referencing LIBOR. The transition may change our market risk profile, requiring changes to risk and pricing models.

***Risks Related to Regulation***

**We operate in a highly regulated environment, Federal and state regulators periodically examine our business, and we may be required to remediate adverse examination findings.**

The FRB and the NYSDFS periodically examine our business, including our compliance with laws and regulations. If, as a result of an examination, a federal banking agency were to determine that our financial condition, capital resources, asset quality, earnings prospects, management, liquidity or other aspects of any of our operations had become unsatisfactory, or that we were in violation of any law or regulation, we may take a number of different remedial actions as we deem appropriate. These actions include the power to enjoin “unsafe or unsound” practices, to require affirmative action to correct any conditions resulting from any violation or practice, to issue an administrative order that can be judicially enforced, to direct an increase in our capital, to restrict our growth, to assess civil monetary penalties against our officers or directors, to remove officers and directors and, if it is concluded that such conditions cannot be corrected or there is an imminent risk of loss to depositors, to terminate our deposit insurance and place it into receivership or conservatorship. If we become subject to any regulatory actions, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and growth prospects.

Additionally, the CFPB has the authority to issue consumer finance regulations and is authorized, individually or jointly with bank regulatory agencies, to conduct investigations to determine whether any person is, or has, engaged in conduct that violates new and existing consumer financial laws or regulations. Previously, we had less than \$10 billion in total consolidated assets so the FRB and NYSDFS, not the CFPB, was responsible for examining and supervising our compliance with these consumer protection laws and regulations. However, following the Merger with Legacy Dime, the merged Bank's assets exceed \$10 billion. Banks with assets in excess of \$10 billion are subject to requirements imposed by the Dodd-Frank and its implementing regulations, including the examination authority of the CFPB to assess our compliance with federal consumer financial laws, imposition of higher FDIC premiums, reduced debit card interchange fees, and enhanced risk management frameworks, all of which increase operating costs and reduce earnings. In addition, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered into between the CFPB and U.S. Department of Justice, the

two agencies have agreed to coordinate efforts related to enforcing the fair lending laws, which includes information sharing and conducting joint investigations, and have done so on a number of occasions.

**We face a risk of noncompliance and enforcement action with the federal Bank Secrecy Act (the “BSA”) and other anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing statutes and regulations.**

The BSA, the USA PATRIOT Act and other laws and regulations require financial institutions, among others, to institute and maintain an effective anti-money laundering compliance program and to file reports such as suspicious activity reports and currency transaction reports. Our products and services, including our debit card issuing business, are subject to an increasingly strict set of legal and regulatory requirements intended to protect consumers and to help detect and prevent money laundering, terrorist financing and other illicit activities. We are required to comply with these and other anti-money laundering requirements. The federal banking agencies and the U.S. Treasury Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network are authorized to impose significant civil money penalties for violations of those requirements and have recently engaged in coordinated enforcement efforts against banks and other financial services providers with the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration and Internal Revenue Service. We are also subject to increased scrutiny of compliance with the regulations administered and enforced by the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. If we violate these laws and regulations, or our policies, procedures and systems are deemed deficient, we would be subject to liability, including fines and regulatory actions, which may include restrictions on our ability to pay dividends and the necessity to obtain regulatory approvals to proceed with certain aspects of our business plan, including our acquisition plans.

Failure to maintain and implement adequate programs to combat money laundering and terrorist financing could also have serious reputational consequences for us. Any of these results could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and growth prospects.

**The short-term and long-term impact of the changing regulatory capital requirements and anticipated new capital rules are uncertain.**

In July 2013, federal bank regulatory agencies issued a final rule that revised their leverage and risk-based capital requirements and the method for calculating risk-weighted assets to make them consistent with agreements that were reached by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. Among other things, the rule established a new common equity tier 1 minimum capital requirement of 4.5% of risk-weighted assets, set the leverage ratio at a uniform 4.0% of total assets, increased the minimum tier 1 capital to risk-based assets requirement from 4.0% to 6.0% of risk-weighted assets and assigned a higher risk weight of 150% to exposures that are more than 90 days past due or are on non-accrual status and to certain commercial real estate facilities that finance the acquisition, development or construction of real property. The rule also requires unrealized gains and losses on certain “available-for-sale” securities holdings to be included for purposes of calculating regulatory capital requirements unless a one-time opt-out is exercised. The rule limits a banking organization’s capital distributions and certain discretionary bonus payments to executive officers if the banking organization does not hold a “capital conservation buffer” consisting of 2.5% of common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets in addition to the amount necessary to meet its minimum risk-based capital requirements. The final rule became effective January 1, 2015. The “capital conservation buffer” was phased in from January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2019.

The application of more stringent capital requirements could, among other things, result in lower returns on equity, require the raising of additional capital, and result in regulatory actions if we were unable to comply with such requirements. Furthermore, the imposition of liquidity requirements in connection with the implementation of Basel III could result in our having to lengthen the terms of our funding, restructure business models, and/or increase holdings of liquid assets. Implementation of changes to asset risk weightings for risk-based capital calculations, items included or deducted in calculating regulatory capital or additional capital conservation buffers, could result in management modifying our business strategy and could limit our ability to make distributions, including paying dividends or buying back shares.

### ***Risks Related to our Debt Securities***

#### **The subordinated debentures that we issued have rights that are senior to those of our common shareholders.**

In 2015, we issued \$40.0 million of 5.25% fixed-to-floating rate subordinated debentures due 2025 and \$40.0 million of 5.75% fixed-to-floating rate subordinated debentures due 2030. Because these subordinated debentures rank senior to our common stock, if we fail to timely make principal and interest payments on the subordinated debentures, we may not pay any dividends on our common stock. Further, if we declare bankruptcy, dissolve or liquidate, we must satisfy all of our subordinated debenture obligations before we may pay any distributions on our common stock.

### ***Operational Risk Factors***

#### **Strong competition within our market area may limit our growth and profitability.**

Our primary market area is located in Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island and the New York City boroughs. Competition in the banking and financial services industry remains intense. Our profitability depends on the continued ability to successfully compete. We compete with commercial banks, savings banks, credit unions, insurance companies, and brokerage and investment banking firms. Many of our competitors have substantially greater resources and lending limits than us and may offer certain services that we do not provide. In addition, competitors may offer deposits at higher rates and loans with lower fixed rates, more attractive terms and less stringent credit structures than we have been willing to offer.

#### **Our future success depends on the success and growth of Dime Community Bank.**

Our primary business activity for the foreseeable future will be to act as the holding company of the Bank. Therefore, our future profitability will depend on the success and growth of this subsidiary. The continued and successful implementation of our growth strategy will require, among other things that we increase our market share by attracting new customers that currently bank at other financial institutions in our market area. In addition, our ability to successfully grow will depend on several factors, including favorable market conditions, the competitive responses from other financial institutions in our market area, and our ability to maintain high asset quality. While we believe we have the management resources, market opportunities and internal systems in place to obtain and successfully manage future growth, growth opportunities may not be available, and we may not be successful in continuing our growth strategy. In addition, continued growth requires that we incur additional expenses, including salaries, data processing and occupancy expense related to new branches and related support staff. Many of these increased expenses are considered fixed expenses. Unless we can successfully continue our growth, our results of operations could be negatively affected by these increased costs.

#### **The loss of key personnel could impair our future success.**

Our future success depends in part on the continued service of our executive officers, other key management, and staff, as well as its ability to continue to attract, motivate, and retain additional highly qualified employees. The loss of services of one or more of our key personnel or our inability to timely recruit replacements for such personnel, or to otherwise attract, motivate, or retain qualified personnel could have an adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

#### **Our business may be adversely affected by fraud and other financial crimes.**

Our loans to businesses and individuals and our deposit relationships and related transactions are subject to exposure to the risk of loss due to fraud and other financial crimes. While we have policies and procedures designed to prevent such losses, losses may still occur.

We have recently experienced losses due to fraud. In 2018, we incurred a pre-tax charge, net of recovery, of \$8.9 million relating to the fraudulent conduct of a business customer through its deposit accounts. In September 2020, we resolved our claim for the loss with our insurance carrier to the full extent of the available coverage.

**Risks associated with system failures, interruptions, or breaches of security could negatively affect our operations and earnings.**

Information technology systems are critical to our business. We collect, process and store sensitive customer data by utilizing computer systems and telecommunications networks operated by us and third-party service providers. We have established policies and procedures to prevent or limit the impact of system failures, interruptions, and security breaches, but such events may still occur or may not be adequately addressed if they do occur. In addition, any compromise of our systems could deter customers from using our products and services. Although we take numerous protective measures and otherwise endeavor to protect and maintain the privacy and security of confidential data, these systems may be vulnerable to unauthorized access, computer viruses, other malicious code, cyberattacks, including distributed denial of service attacks, cyber-theft and other events that could have a security impact. If one or more of such events were to occur, this potentially could jeopardize confidential and other information processed and stored in, and transmitted through, our systems or otherwise cause interruptions or malfunctions in our or our customers' operations.

In addition, we maintain interfaces with certain third-party service providers. If these third-party service providers encounter difficulties, or if we have difficulty communicating with them, our ability to adequately process and account for transactions could be affected, and our business operations could be adversely affected. Threats to information security also exist in the processing of customer information through various other vendors and their personnel.

The occurrence of any system failures, interruption, or breach of security could damage our reputation and result in a loss of customers and business, thereby subjecting us to additional regulatory scrutiny, or could expose us to litigation and possible financial liability. We may be required to expend significant additional resources to modify our protective measures or to investigate and remediate vulnerabilities or other exposures, and we may be subject to litigation and financial losses that are not fully covered by our insurance. Any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

**We are exposed to cyber-security risks, including denial of service, hacking, and identity theft.**

There have been well-publicized distributed denials of service attacks on large financial services companies. Distributed denial of service attacks are designed to saturate the targeted online network with excessive amounts of network traffic, resulting in slow response times, or in some cases, causing the site to be temporarily unavailable. Hacking and identity theft risks, in particular, could cause serious reputational harm. Cyber threats are rapidly evolving, and we may not be able to anticipate or prevent all such attacks. We may incur increasing costs in an effort to minimize these risks and could be held liable for any security breach or loss.

**Severe weather, acts of terrorism and other external events could impact our ability to conduct business.**

Weather-related events have adversely impacted our market area in recent years, especially areas located near coastal waters and flood prone areas. Such events that may cause significant flooding and other storm-related damage may become more common events in the future. Financial institutions have been, and continue to be, targets of terrorist threats aimed at compromising operating and communication systems and the metropolitan New York area remains a central target for potential acts of terrorism. Such events could cause significant damage, impact the stability of our facilities and result in additional expenses, impair the ability of borrowers to repay their loans, reduce the value of collateral securing repayment of loans, and result in the loss of revenue. While we have established and regularly test disaster recovery procedures, the occurrence of any such event could have a material adverse effect on our business, operations and financial condition.

Additionally, global markets may be adversely affected by natural disasters, the emergence of widespread health emergencies or pandemics, cyberattacks or campaigns, military conflict, terrorism or other geopolitical events. Global market fluctuations may affect our business liquidity. Also, any sudden or prolonged market downturn in the U.S. or abroad, as a result of the above factors or otherwise could result in a decline in revenue and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition, including capital and liquidity levels.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 2. Properties**

At December 31, 2020, we owned eight properties located in Suffolk County, New York consisting of our corporate headquarters and branch office located at 2200 Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton; six branches located in Montauk, Southold, Westhampton Beach, Southampton Village, East Hampton Village and Mattituck; and one drive-up facility located in Sag Harbor. In 2018, we purchased the Mattituck branch property, which we had previously leased. We lease a portion of the Montauk and Westhampton Beach properties to commercial lessees.

At December 31, 2020, we maintained executive offices and back office operations at leased facilities located in Suffolk County, New York at 898 and 888 Veterans Highway in Hauppauge. We lease 30 additional properties as branch locations in New York: 20 in Suffolk County; six in Nassau County; two in Queens; and two in Manhattan. We sublease a portion of the leased properties located in Patchogue and Melville in Suffolk County to commercial sublessees.

Following the Merger, our corporate headquarters is located at 898 Veterans Highway in Hauppauge, New York. The Bank's main office continues to be located at 2200 Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton, New York. In connection with the Merger, we expanded our footprint with the addition of 31 properties consisting of Legacy Dime's 28 full-service retail banking offices located throughout Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Nassau and Suffolk Counties in New York, and Legacy Dime's three operations offices located in Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York and New Jersey. As of February 1, 2021, following the Merger, of the 31 Legacy Dime properties, 23 were leased and eight were owned.

For additional information on our premises and equipment, see Note 5. "Premises and Equipment, net" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The Registrant and its subsidiary are subject to certain pending and threatened legal actions that arise out of the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, the resolution of any such pending or threatened litigation is not expected to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial statements.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable.

## PART II

### **Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Our common stock trades on the NASDAQ® Stock Market under the symbol “DCOM”. Prior to the Merger, our common shares were traded under the symbol “BDGE”. At February 28, 2021, we had approximately 1,066 shareholders of record, not including the number of persons or entities holding stock in nominee or the street name through various banks and brokers.

#### **DCOM Performance Graph**

Pursuant to the regulations of the SEC, the graph below compares our performance with that of the total return for the NASDAQ® stock market and for certain bank stocks of financial institutions with an asset size of \$5 billion to \$10 billion, as reported by SNL Financial LC (“SNL”) from December 31, 2015 through December 31, 2020. The graph assumes the reinvestment of dividends in additional shares of the same class of equity securities as those listed below.



Index	Period Ending					
	12/31/15	12/31/16	12/31/17	12/31/18	12/31/19	12/31/20
Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.	100.00	128.58	121.98	91.29	123.90	92.39
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	108.87	141.13	137.12	187.44	271.64
SNL Bank \$5B-\$10B	100.00	143.27	142.73	129.17	160.06	145.37

## Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table presents information in connection with repurchases of our shares of common stock during the three months ended December 31, 2020:

	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)</b>	<b>Average Price Paid per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (2)</b>
October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020	39	\$ 19.54	—	797,780
November 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020	63	21.52	—	797,780
December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020	62,468	24.16	—	797,780
Total	<u>62,570</u>	24.15	<u>—</u>	

- (1) Represents shares withheld by the Company to pay the taxes associated with the vesting of restricted stock awards.
- (2) The Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase plan in March 2006 that authorized the repurchase of 309,000 shares. In February 2019, the Company announced the adoption of a new stock repurchase plan for up to 1,000,000 shares, replacing the previous plan. There is no expiration date for the stock repurchase plan. No shares were purchased under the repurchase program during the three months ended December 31, 2020.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

### Five-Year Summary of Operations

(In thousands, except per share data and financial ratios)

Set forth below are our selected consolidated financial and other data. Our business is primarily the business of our Bank. This financial data is derived in part from, and should be read in conjunction with, our consolidated financial statements.

Selected Financial Data:	December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Securities available for sale, at fair value	\$ 450,360	\$ 638,291	\$ 680,886	\$ 759,916	\$ 819,722
Securities, restricted	23,362	32,879	24,028	35,349	34,743
Securities held to maturity	85,700	133,638	160,163	180,866	223,237
Loans held for sale	52,785	12,643	—	—	—
Loans held for investment	4,597,403	3,680,285	3,275,811	3,102,752	2,600,440
Total assets	6,434,296	4,921,520	4,700,744	4,430,002	4,054,570
Total deposits	5,489,253	3,814,647	3,886,393	3,334,543	2,926,009
Total stockholders' equity	517,831	497,154	453,830	429,200	407,987

Selected Operating Data:	Year Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total interest income	\$ 184,232	\$ 181,541	\$ 168,984	\$ 149,849	\$ 137,716
Total interest expense	23,451	39,338	32,204	22,689	16,845
Net interest income	160,781	142,203	136,780	127,160	120,871
Provision for credit losses	11,500	5,700	1,800	14,050	5,550
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	149,281	136,503	134,980	113,110	115,321
Total non-interest income	19,703	25,387	11,568	18,102	16,046
Total non-interest expense	113,257	96,139	98,180	91,727	77,081
Income before income taxes	55,727	65,751	48,368	39,485	54,286
Income tax expense	13,685	14,060	9,141	18,946	18,795
Net income <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>	\$ 42,042	\$ 51,691	\$ 39,227	\$ 20,539	\$ 35,491

### Selected Financial Ratios and Other Data:

Return on average equity <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>	8.26 %	10.84 %	8.66 %	4.64 %	9.82 %
Return on average assets <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>	0.72	1.10	0.87	0.49	0.92
Average equity to average assets	8.67	10.11	10.08	10.53	9.38
Dividend payout ratio <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>	45.66	35.63	46.76	88.80	45.48
Basic earnings per share <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.59	\$ 1.97	\$ 1.04	\$ 2.01
Diluted earnings per share <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup>	2.11	2.59	1.97	1.04	2.00
Cash dividends declared per common share	0.96	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92

- (1) 2020 amount includes \$4.5 million of merger expenses and \$4.2 million of stock acceleration expenses related to the Merger.
- (2) 2018 amount includes \$6.2 million of net securities losses, net of taxes, associated with the balance sheet restructure, \$6.9 million of net fraud loss, net of taxes, related to fraudulent conduct of a business customer through its deposit accounts at BNB, and \$0.6 million of office relocation costs, net of taxes.
- (3) 2017 amount includes \$5.2 million, net of taxes, associated with restructuring costs and a charge of \$7.6 million associated with the write-down of deferred tax assets due to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- (4) 2016 amount includes reversal of \$0.6 million of acquisition costs, net of taxes, associated with the CNB and FNBNY acquisitions.



## **Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

*In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, unless otherwise mentioned, the terms the “Company”, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and our wholly-owned subsidiary, Dime Community Bank (the “Bank”). We use the term “Holding Company” to refer solely to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and not to our consolidated subsidiary.*

The following discussion and analysis covers changes in our results of operations and financial condition from 2019 to 2020. A discussion and analysis of changes in our results of operations and financial condition from 2018 to 2019 may be found in “Item 7 – Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our [Annual Report on Form 10-K](#) for the year ended December 31, 2019, which was filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2020.

### **Private Securities Litigation Reform Act Safe Harbor Statement**

This report may contain statements relating to our future results (including certain projections and business trends) that are considered “forward-looking statements” as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the “PSLRA”). Such forward-looking statements, in addition to historical information, which involve risk and uncertainties, are based on the beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our management. Words such as “expects,” “believes,” “should,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “will,” “potential,” “could,” “intend,” “may,” “outlook,” “predict,” “project,” “would,” “estimated,” “assumes,” “likely,” and variations of such similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, possible or assumed estimates with respect to the financial condition, expected or anticipated revenue, and results of operations and our business, including earnings growth; revenue growth in retail banking, lending and other areas; origination volume in the consumer, commercial and other lending businesses; current and future capital management programs; non-interest income levels, including fees from the title insurance subsidiary and banking services as well as product sales; tangible capital generation; market share; expense levels; and other business operations and strategies. We claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the PSLRA.

Factors that could cause future results to vary from current management expectations include, but are not limited to, changing economic conditions; legislative and regulatory changes, including increases in FDIC insurance rates; monetary and fiscal policies of the federal government; changes in tax policies; rates and regulations of federal, state and local tax authorities; changes in interest rates; deposit flows; the cost of funds; demand for loan products; demand for financial services; competition; our ability to successfully integrate acquired entities; changes in the quality and composition of our loan and investment portfolios; changes in management’s business strategies; changes in accounting principles, policies or guidelines; changes in real estate values; expanded regulatory requirements, which could adversely affect operating results; and other factors discussed elsewhere in this report including factors set forth under Item 1A., Risk Factors, and in quarterly and other reports filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this report, and we assume no obligation to update the forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those projected in the forward-looking statements.

### **Overview**

#### *Who We Are and How We Generate Income*

Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., a New York corporation previously known as “Bridge Bancorp, Inc.,” is a bank holding company formed in 1989. On a parent-only basis, the Holding Company has had minimal results of operations. The Holding Company is dependent on dividends from its wholly-owned subsidiary, Dime Community Bank, which was previously known as “BNB Bank,” its own earnings, additional capital raised, and borrowings as sources of funds. The information in this report reflects principally the financial condition and results of operations of the Bank. The Bank’s results of operations are primarily dependent on its net interest income, which is the difference between interest income on loans and investments and interest expense on deposits and borrowings. The Bank also generates non-interest income, such as fee income on deposit accounts and merchant credit and debit card processing programs, loan swap fees, investment services, income from its title insurance subsidiary, and net gains on sales of securities and loans. The level of non-interest expenses, such as salaries and benefits, occupancy and equipment costs, other general and administrative expenses,

expenses from the Bank's title insurance subsidiary, and income tax expense, further affects our net income. We believe the Merger created the opportunity for the resulting company to leverage complementary and diversified revenue streams and to potentially have superior future earnings and prospects compared to our current earnings and prospects on a stand-alone basis. Certain reclassifications have been made to prior year amounts and the related discussion and analysis to conform to the current year presentation. These reclassifications did not have an impact on net income or total stockholders' equity.

Year and Quarterly Highlights (prior to the completion of the Merger on February 1, 2021)

- Net income for the 2020 fourth quarter of \$9.0 million, or \$0.45 per diluted share, inclusive of merger and stock acceleration expenses related to the Merger.
- Net income for the full year 2020 was \$42.0 million, or \$2.11 per diluted share, compared to \$51.7 million, or \$2.59 per diluted share, for the full year 2019. Inclusive of:
  - o Pre-tax merger expenses of \$4.5 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, in the last six months of 2020.
  - o Pre-tax stock acceleration expenses of \$4.2 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, in the 2020 fourth quarter.
- Net interest income increased to \$160.8 million for 2020, compared to \$142.2 million in 2019.
- Tax-equivalent net interest margin was 2.99% for 2020 and 3.31% in 2019.
- Total assets of \$6.4 billion at December 31, 2020, an increase of \$1.5 billion, or 30.7%, over December 31, 2019.
- Total loans held for investment at December 31, 2020 of \$4.6 billion, inclusive of PPP loans totaling \$844.7 million, an increase of \$917.1 million, or 24.9%, over December 31, 2019.
- Total deposits of \$5.5 billion at December 31, 2020, an increase of \$1.7 billion, or 43.9%, compared to December 31, 2019.
- Provision for credit losses of \$11.5 million for 2020, compared to \$5.7 million in 2019.
- Allowance for credit losses was 0.96% of loans as of December 31, 2020, compared to 0.89% at December 31, 2019.
- Cash dividends of \$19.2 million were paid in 2020, representing \$0.96 per share. A cash dividend of \$4.8 million, or \$0.24 per share, was declared in January 2021 and paid in February 2021 for the fourth quarter.

Challenges and Opportunities

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to modify our business practices, including employee travel and employee work locations, as many employees are working remotely. Various state governments and federal agencies are requiring lenders to provide forbearance and other relief to borrowers, such as waiving late payment and other fees. Given the ongoing and dynamic nature of the circumstances, it is difficult to predict the challenges our business will face and the full impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on our business.

We continue to face challenges associated with ever-increasing banking regulations and the current low interest rate environment. A prolonged inverted or flat yield curve presents a challenge to a bank, like us, that derives most of its revenue from net interest margin. A sustained decrease in market interest rates could adversely affect our earnings. When interest rates decline, borrowers tend to refinance higher-rate, fixed-rate loans at lower rates. In addition, the majority of our loans are at variable interest rates, which would adjust to lower rates. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Federal Reserve has reduced the benchmark federal funds rate to a target range of 0% to 0.25% during the 2020 first quarter. We took this opportunity to lower our funding costs and stabilize our net interest margin.

We established five strategic objectives to achieve our vision: (1) acquire new customers in growth markets; (2) build new sales and marketing disciplines; (3) deepen customer relationships; (4) expand use of automation; and (5) improve talent management. We believe there remain opportunities to grow our franchise and that continued investments to generate core funding, quality loans and new sources of revenue remain keys to continue creating long-term shareholder value. Our ability to attract, retain, train and cultivate employees at all levels of our Company remains significant to meeting our corporate objectives. In particular, we are focused on expanding and retaining our loan team as we continue to grow the loan portfolio. We have capitalized on opportunities presented by the market and diligently seek opportunities to grow and strengthen the franchise. We recognize the potential risks of the current economic environment and will monitor the impact of market events as we evaluate loans and investments and consider growth initiatives. Our management and Board of Directors have built a solid foundation for growth, and we are positioned to adapt to anticipated changes in the industry resulting from new regulations and legislative initiatives.

Paycheck Protection Program

We are an active participant in the SBA PPP for small business customers. As of December 31, 2020, we originated over 4,200 loans totaling approximately \$980 million. The top industries were construction, professional, manufacturing, health care, accommodation/food, and administrative. The mean and median PPP loan amounts were \$229 thousand and \$70 thousand, respectively.

The following table presents the outstanding balance and range of loan size of our PPP loans as of December 31, 2020:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	Number of	Outstanding
Range of Loan Size	Loans	Balance
\$150 and Below	2,618	\$ 124,461
Between \$150 and \$350	539	122,600
Between \$350 and \$2,000	463	359,307
Over \$2,000	66	238,284
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,686</b>	<b>\$ 844,652</b>

Substantially all of the PPP loans we originated have a two-year term and a 1% interest rate. Subsequent CARES Act changes extended the maturities of these loans to potentially five years at the borrower's option. Any changes are expected to be made at the end of the interest only phase and are expected to coincide with the forgiveness process. The SBA pays us fees ranging from 1% to 5% per loan depending on the loan principal amount. Fee income from processing PPP loans is amortized as a yield adjustment over the life of the loan. PPP loans are expected to be fully guaranteed by the SBA.

Prior to the commencement of the PPP program, in the 2020 first quarter we funded 80 loans totaling \$4.2 million with an average loan size of \$53 thousand. These streamlined loans were our initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic to quickly provide customers with small loans to bridge short term cash flow. We terminated this program and focused our efforts on developing a process to accept PPP loans when the PPP program commenced on April 3, 2020. As of December 31, 2020, \$3.2 million of these loans remain outstanding.

COVID-19 Loan Moratoriums and Forbearance Programs

We are supporting our customers who may experience financial difficulty due to COVID-19 through loan moratoriums and forbearance programs. We began offering 90-day payment modifications on a case-by-case basis to those customers whose income was adversely impacted by COVID-19. The loan modifications in this program primarily consist of three-month deferrals of interest and principal payments. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis. As of December 31, 2020, approximately 500 loans totaling \$635 million were granted payment moratoriums during 2020. These deferrals are not considered TDRs based on the CARES Act and/or the interagency guidance. As of January 21, 2021, \$76.1 million in moratoriums were outstanding.

The industries we identified as most significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic based on the potential risk to cash flows are hotels, restaurants, passenger transportation, leisure, museums and catering.

### Community Support

We continue to support our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic by pledging a total of \$1.8 million to support COVID-19 affected communities, including \$500 thousand in grants to non-profit partners working on the COVID-19 relief effort in our footprint. These grants are focused on organizations working to address meeting the basic needs of the vulnerable populations, providing emergency food, and health services. We have partnered with local governments to help coordinate emergency relief.

The PPP loans we funded also benefitted hundreds of non-profit partners. A portion of the fees generated by the PPP will be set aside to increase funding for local organizations.

### **Significant Events**

#### Merger Agreement with Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.

On July 1, 2020, the Company entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”) with Legacy Dime. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, on February 1, 2021, Legacy Dime merged with and into Bridge, with Bridge as the surviving corporation under the name “Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.”

At the Effective Time, each outstanding share of Legacy Dime common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, was converted into the right to receive 0.6480 shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

At the Effective Time of the Merger, each outstanding share of Dime Preferred Stock was converted into the right to receive one share of a newly created series of Company preferred stock having the same powers, preferences and rights as the Dime Preferred Stock.

Immediately following the Merger, Dime Community Bank, a New York-chartered commercial bank and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Legacy Dime, merged with and into BNB Bank, a New York-chartered commercial bank and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, with BNB Bank as the surviving bank, under the name “Dime Community Bank.”

In connection with the Merger, the Company assumed \$115.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.50% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Debentures due 2027 of Legacy Dime.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 contains a summary of significant accounting policies. Various elements of our accounting policies, by their nature, are inherently subject to estimation techniques, valuation assumptions and other subjective assessments. Our policy with respect to the methodologies used to determine the allowance for credit losses is our most critical accounting policy. This policy is important to the presentation of the financial condition and results of operations, and it involves a higher degree of complexity and requires management to make difficult and subjective judgments, which often require assumptions or estimates about highly uncertain matters. The use of different judgments, assumptions and estimates could result in material differences in the results of operations or financial condition.

The following is a description of this critical accounting policy and an explanation of the methods and assumptions underlying its application.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses

On January 1, 2020, we adopted the current expected credit loss model (“CECL” or the “CECL Standard”), which requires that loans held for investment be accounted for under the current expected credit losses model. Although the CARES Act provided the option to delay the adoption of the current expected credit loss model until the earlier of December 31, 2020 or the termination of the current national emergency declaration related to the COVID-19 outbreak, we implemented the CECL Standard in the first quarter of 2020 as previously planned. The allowance for credit losses is established and maintained through a provision for credit losses based on expected losses inherent in our loan portfolio. Management evaluates the adequacy of the allowance on a quarterly basis. Management monitors its entire loan portfolio regularly, with consideration given to detailed analysis of classified loans, repayment patterns, past loss experience, various types of

concentrations of credit, current economic conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. Additions to the allowance are charged to expense and realized losses, net of recoveries, are charged against the allowance.

The credit loss estimation process involves procedures to appropriately consider the unique characteristics of our loan portfolio segments. These segments are further disaggregated into loan risk ratings, the level at which credit risk is monitored. When computing allowance levels, credit loss assumptions are estimated using a model that categorizes loan pools based on expected loss history, delinquency status and other credit trends and risk characteristics, including current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts about the future. Determining the appropriateness of the allowance is complex and requires judgment by management about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. In future periods, evaluations of the overall loan portfolio, in light of the factors and forecasts then prevailing, may result in significant changes in the allowance and provision for credit losses in those future periods.

Credit quality is assessed and monitored by evaluating various attributes and the results of those evaluations are utilized in our process for estimation of expected credit losses. The allowance level is influenced by loan volumes, loan risk rating migration, historic loss experience and other conditions influencing loss expectations, such as reasonable and supportable forecasts of economic conditions. The methodology for estimating the amount of expected credit losses reported in the allowance for credit losses has two basic components: (1) an asset-specific component involving individual loans that do not share risk characteristics with other loans and the measurement of expected credit losses for such individual loans; and (2) a pooled component for estimated expected credit losses for pools of loans that share similar risk characteristics.

#### Loans that do not share similar credit risk characteristics

For a loan that does not share risk characteristics with other loans, expected credit loss is measured based on net realizable value, that is, the difference between the discounted value of the expected future cash flows, based on the original effective interest rate, and the amortized cost basis of the loan. For these loans, we recognize expected credit loss equal to the amount by which the net realizable value of the loan is less than the amortized cost basis of the loan (which is net of previous charge-offs), except when the loan is collateral dependent, that is, when the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty and repayment is expected to be provided substantially through the operation or sale of the collateral. In these cases, expected credit loss is measured as the difference between the amortized cost basis of the loan and the fair value of the collateral. The fair value of the collateral is adjusted for the estimated costs to sell the loan if repayment or satisfaction of a loan is dependent on the sale (rather than only on the operation) of the collateral.

The fair value of real estate collateral is determined based on recent appraised values. Appraisals are performed by certified general appraisers (for commercial properties) or certified residential appraisers (for residential properties) whose qualifications and licenses have been reviewed and verified by us. All appraisals undergo a second review process to ensure that the methodology employed and the values derived are reasonable. Generally, collateral values for real estate loans for which measurement of expected losses is dependent on collateral values are updated every twelve months. Non-real estate collateral may be valued using an appraisal, net book value per the borrower's financial statements, or aging reports, adjusted or discounted based on management's historical knowledge, changes in market conditions from the time of the valuation, and management's expertise and knowledge of the borrower and its business. Once the expected credit loss amount is determined, an allowance is provided for equal to the calculated expected credit loss and included in the allowance for credit losses. Pursuant to our policy, credit losses must be charged-off in the period the loans, or portions thereof, are deemed uncollectable.

#### Loans that share similar credit risk characteristics

In estimating the component of the allowance for credit losses for loans that share similar risk characteristics with other loans, such loans are segmented into loan types. Loans are designated into loan pools with similar risk characteristics based on product type in conjunction with other homogeneous characteristics. Loan types include commercial real estate mortgages, owner and non-owner occupied; multi-family mortgage loans; residential real estate mortgages and home equity loans; commercial, industrial and agricultural loans, real estate construction and land loans; and consumer loans.

In determining the allowance for credit losses, we derive an estimated credit loss assumption from a model that categorizes loan pools based on loan type and further segmented by risk rating. This model is known as Probability of Default/Loss Given Default, utilizing a Transition Matrix approach. This model calculates an expected loss percentage for each loan

pool by considering the probability of default, based upon the historical transition or migration of loans from performing (various pass ratings) to criticized, and classified risk ratings to default by risk rating buckets using life-of-loan analysis runout periods for all loan segments, and the historical severity of loss, based on the aggregate net lifetime losses (loss given default) per loan pool. The default trigger, which is defined as the earlier of ninety days past-due or non-accrual status, and severity factors used to calculate the allowance for credit losses for loans in pools that share similar risk characteristics with other loans, are adjusted for differences between the historical period used to calculate historical default and loss severity rates and expected conditions over the remaining lives of the loans in the portfolio. These factors include: (1) lending policies and procedures; (2) international, national, regional and local economic business conditions and developments that affect the collectability of the portfolio, including the condition of various markets; (3) the nature and volume of the loan portfolio including the terms of the loans; (4) the experience, ability, and depth of the lending management and other relevant staff; (5) the volume and severity of past due and adversely classified or graded loans and the volume of non-accrual loans; (6) the quality of our loan review system; (7) the value of underlying collateral for collateralized loans; (8) the existence and effect of any concentrations of credit, and changes in the level of such concentrations; and (9) the effect of external factors such as competition and legal and regulatory requirements on the level of estimated credit losses in the existing portfolio. Such factors are used to adjust the historical probabilities of default and severity of loss for current conditions that are not reflective of the model results. In addition, the economic factor includes management's expectation of future conditions based on a reasonable and supportable forecast of the economy. To the extent the lives of the loans in the portfolio extend beyond the period for which a reasonable and supportable forecast can be made (currently two years), the Bank immediately reverts back to the historical rates of default and severity of loss. Management believes that this transition approach to the Probability of Default/Loss Given Default is a relevant calculation of expected credit losses as there is sufficient volume as well as movement in the risk ratings due to the initial grading system as well as timely updates to risk ratings when necessary. Credit risk ratings are based on management's evaluation of a credit's cash flow, collateral, guarantor support, financial disclosures, industry trends and strength of borrowers' management.

The adequacy of the allowance is analyzed quarterly, with any adjustment to a level deemed appropriate by the Credit Risk Management Committee ("CRMC"), based on its risk assessment of the entire portfolio. Each quarter, members of the CRMC meet with the Credit Risk Committee of our Board of Directors to review credit risk trends and the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses. Based on the CRMC's review of the classified loans, delinquency and charge-off trends, current economic conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts, and the overall allowance levels as they relate to the entire loan portfolio at December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, we believe the allowance for credit losses has been established at levels sufficient to cover the expected losses inherent in our loan portfolio. Future additions or reductions to the allowance may be necessary based on changes in economic, market or other conditions. Changes in estimates could result in a material change in the allowance. In addition, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of the examination process, periodically review the allowance for credit losses. Such agencies may require us to recognize adjustments to the allowance based on their judgments of the information available to them at the time of their examination.

For additional information regarding the allowance for credit losses, see Note 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

### **Net Income**

Net income for the year ended December 31, 2020 was \$42.0 million and \$2.11 per diluted share as compared to \$51.7 million and \$2.59 per diluted share for the same period in 2019. Changes in net income for the year ended December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019 include: (i) an \$18.6 million, or 13.1%, increase in net interest income; (ii) a \$5.8 million, or 101.8%, increase in the provision for credit losses; (iii) a \$5.7 million, or 22.4%, decrease in non-interest

income; (iv) a \$17.1 million, or 17.8%, increase in non-interest expense; and (v) a \$0.4 million, or 2.7%, decrease in income tax expense.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income, the primary contributor to earnings, represents the difference between income on interest-earning assets and expenses on interest-bearing liabilities. Net interest income depends on the volume of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the interest rates earned or paid on them.

The following table presents certain information relating to our average consolidated balance sheets and our consolidated statements of income for the periods indicated and reflects the average yield on assets and average cost of liabilities for those periods on a tax-equivalent basis based on the U.S. federal statutory tax rate. Such yields and costs are derived by dividing income or expense by the average balance of assets or liabilities, respectively, for the periods shown. Average balances are derived from daily average balances and include non-accrual loans. The yields and costs include fees and costs, which are considered adjustments to yields. Interest on non-accrual loans has been included only to the extent reflected in the consolidated statements of income. For purposes of this table, the average balances for investments in debt and equity securities exclude unrealized appreciation/depreciation due to the application of FASB Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 320, “Investments - Debt and Equity Securities”.

	Year Ended December 31,								
	2020			2019			2018		
	Average Balance	Interest	Average Yield/ Cost	Average Balance	Interest	Average Yield/ Cost	Average Balance	Interest	Average Yield/ Cost
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>									
<b>Interest-earning assets:</b>									
Loans, net <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	\$ 4,341,647	\$ 169,611	3.91 %	\$ 3,410,773	\$ 158,492	4.65 %	\$ 3,167,933	\$ 144,568	4.56 %
Mortgage-backed securities, CMOs and other asset-backed securities	470,306	9,329	1.98	651,262	16,182	2.48	679,805	16,591	2.44
Taxable securities	149,156	4,158	2.79	138,625	4,477	3.23	168,326	5,413	3.22
Tax-exempt securities <sup>(2)</sup>	22,999	841	3.66	33,393	1,215	3.64	62,595	1,932	3.09
Deposits with banks	404,272	673	0.17	75,600	1,697	2.24	52,143	1,076	2.06
Total interest-earning assets <sup>(2)</sup>	5,388,380	184,612	3.43	4,309,653	182,063	4.22	4,130,802	169,580	4.11
<b>Non-interest-earning assets:</b>									
Cash and due from banks	91,736			81,850			76,730		
Other assets	391,911			326,963			285,546		
Total assets	\$ 5,872,027			\$ 4,718,466			\$ 4,493,078		
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities:</b>									
Savings, NOW and money market deposits	\$ 2,527,785	\$ 10,435	0.41 %	\$ 2,109,891	\$ 23,687	1.12 %	\$ 1,922,515	\$ 15,928	0.83 %
Certificates of deposit of \$100,000 or more	217,624	3,346	1.54	208,875	4,270	2.04	184,438	3,007	1.63
Other time deposits	86,113	1,198	1.39	78,800	1,502	1.91	107,153	1,801	1.68
Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements	8,595	79	0.92	41,077	767	1.87	69,604	1,200	1.72
FHLB advances	284,718	3,992	1.40	245,283	4,573	1.86	324,653	5,729	1.76
Subordinated debentures	78,985	4,401	5.57	78,845	4,539	5.76	78,706	4,539	5.77
Total interest-bearing liabilities	3,203,820	23,451	0.73	2,762,771	39,338	1.42	2,687,069	32,204	1.20
<b>Non-interest-bearing liabilities:</b>									
Demand deposits	2,020,575			1,392,606			1,310,857		
Other liabilities	138,665			86,130			42,392		
Total liabilities	5,363,060			4,241,507			4,040,318		
Stockholders' equity	508,967			476,959			452,760		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 5,872,027			\$ 4,718,466			\$ 4,493,078		
Net interest income/net interest rate spread <sup>(2) (3)</sup>		161,161	2.70 %		142,725	2.80 %		137,376	2.91 %
Net interest-earning assets	\$ 2,184,560			\$ 1,546,882			\$ 1,443,733		
Net interest margin <sup>(2) (4)</sup>			2.99 %			3.31 %			3.33 %
Tax-equivalent adjustment		(380)	(0.01)		(522)	(0.01)		(596)	(0.02)
Net interest income		\$ 160,781			\$ 142,203			\$ 136,780	
Net interest margin <sup>(4)</sup>			2.98 %			3.30 %			3.31 %
Ratio of interest-earning assets to interest-bearing liabilities			168.19 %			155.99 %			153.73 %

- (1) Amounts are net of deferred origination costs/(fees) and allowance for credit losses, and include loans held for sale.
- (2) Presented on a tax-equivalent basis based on the U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 21%.
- (3) Net interest rate spread represents the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities.
- (4) Net interest margin represents net interest income divided by average interest-earning assets.



### Rate/Volume Analysis

Net interest income can be analyzed in terms of the impact of changes in rates and volumes. The following table illustrates the extent to which changes in interest rates and in the volume of average interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities have affected our interest income and interest expense during the periods indicated. Information is provided in each category with respect to (i) changes attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate); (ii) changes attributable to changes in rates (changes in rates multiplied by prior volume); and (iii) the net changes. For purposes of this table, changes that are not due solely to volume or rate changes have been allocated to these categories based on the respective percentage changes in average volume and rate. Due to the numerous simultaneous volume and rate changes during the periods analyzed, it is not possible to precisely allocate changes between volume and rates. In addition, average interest-earning assets include non-accrual loans.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,					
	2020 Over 2019			2019 Over 2018		
	Changes Due To			Changes Due To		
	Volume	Rate	Net Change	Volume	Rate	Net Change
<b>Interest income on interest-earning assets:</b>						
Loans, net <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	\$ 38,905	\$ (27,786)	\$ 11,119	\$ 11,245	\$ 2,679	\$ 13,924
Mortgage-backed securities, CMOs and other asset-backed securities	(3,970)	(2,883)	(6,853)	(706)	297	(409)
Taxable securities	323	(642)	(319)	(958)	22	(936)
Tax-exempt securities <sup>(2)</sup>	(380)	6	(374)	(1,018)	301	(717)
Deposits with banks	1,746	(2,770)	(1,024)	520	101	621
<b>Total interest income on interest-earning assets <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>36,624</b>	<b>(34,075)</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>9,083</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>12,483</b>
<b>Interest expense on interest-bearing liabilities:</b>						
Savings, NOW and money market deposits	3,984	(17,236)	(13,252)	1,671	6,088	7,759
Certificates of deposit of \$100,000 or more	172	(1,096)	(924)	433	830	1,263
Other time deposits	130	(434)	(304)	(519)	220	(299)
Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements	(419)	(269)	(688)	(526)	93	(433)
FHLB advances	664	(1,245)	(581)	(1,465)	309	(1,156)
Subordinated debentures	8	(146)	(138)	8	(8)	—
<b>Total interest expense on interest-bearing liabilities</b>	<b>4,539</b>	<b>(20,426)</b>	<b>(15,887)</b>	<b>(398)</b>	<b>7,532</b>	<b>7,134</b>
<b>Net interest income <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$ 32,085</b>	<b>\$ (13,649)</b>	<b>\$ 18,436</b>	<b>\$ 9,481</b>	<b>\$ (4,132)</b>	<b>\$ 5,349</b>

(1) Amounts are net of deferred origination costs/(fees) and allowance for credit losses, and include loans held for sale.

(2) Presented on a tax-equivalent basis based on the U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 21%.

Net interest income increased \$18.6 million, or 13.1%, to \$160.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2020 compared to \$142.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2019. Average net interest-earning assets increased \$637.7 million to \$2.2 billion for 2020 compared to \$1.5 billion for 2019. The increase in average net interest-earning assets was primarily driven by loan growth in the commercial and industrial portfolio, and a rise in deposits with banks, partially offset by increases in average deposits and average borrowings, and a decrease in average investment securities. Tax-equivalent net interest margin was 2.99% in 2020 compared to 3.31% in 2019. The decrease in tax-equivalent net interest margin for 2020 compared to 2019 reflects the lower average yield on our loan portfolio and significantly higher levels of cash earning low average yields, partially offset by lower overall funding costs, due in part to federal funds rate decreases during the third and fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Federal Reserve has reduced the benchmark federal funds rate to a target range of 0% to 0.25% during the 2020 first quarter. We took this opportunity to lower our funding costs and stabilize our net interest margin.

Total interest income increased \$2.7 million, or 1.5%, to \$184.2 million in 2020 compared to \$181.5 million in 2019 as average interest-earning assets increased \$1.1 billion, or 25.0%, to \$5.4 billion in 2020 compared to \$4.3 billion in 2019. The increase in average interest-earning assets in 2020 compared to 2019 reflects growth in the commercial and industrial portfolio driven by PPP loan originations, and a rise in deposits with banks driven by deposit growth, partially offset by a

decrease in average investment securities. The decline in economic activity during the COVID-19 shut-down resulted in more of our customers increasing their deposits, which raised our average deposits with banks in the current year. The tax-equivalent average yield on interest-earning assets decreased to 3.43% in 2020 compared to 4.22% in 2019. The PPP loans and excess liquidity in banks had the effect of depressing our net interest margin in the current year.

Interest income on loans increased to \$169.4 million for 2020 compared to \$158.2 million for 2019, primarily due to growth in the commercial and industrial loan portfolio, partially offset by a decrease in yield on loans. Average loans grew by \$930.9 million, or 21.4%, to \$4.3 billion in 2020 compared to \$3.4 billion in 2019. The tax-equivalent average yield on loans was 3.91% in 2020 compared to 4.65% in 2019. The PPP loans had the effect of decreasing the tax-equivalent yield by 17 basis points in 2020.

Interest income on investment securities decreased to \$14.1 million in 2020 from \$21.6 million in 2019. The decrease in 2020 compared to 2019 reflects a decrease in the average balance of investment securities and a lower average yield on investment securities. Interest income on investment securities included net amortization of premiums on securities of \$3.6 million in 2020, compared to \$4.4 million in 2019. Average total investment securities decreased by \$180.8 million, or 22.0%, to \$642.5 million in 2020 compared to \$823.3 million in 2019. The decline in tax-equivalent average yield on total investment securities to 2.23% in 2020 compared to 2.66% in 2019 reflected the impact of the reductions in the benchmark federal funds rate by the Federal Reserve in the third and fourth quarter of 2019, and the first quarter of 2020, and the related decline in market interest rates available on securities purchases.

Total interest expense decreased \$15.9 million, or 40.4%, to \$23.5 million in 2020 compared to \$39.3 million in 2019. The decrease in interest expense between periods was a result of the decrease in the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities, partially offset by an increase in average deposits and average borrowings. The average cost of interest-bearing liabilities was 0.73% in 2020 compared to 1.42% in 2019. The decrease in the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities is primarily due to federal funds rate decreases during the third and fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. Average total interest-bearing liabilities increased to \$3.2 billion in 2020 compared to \$2.8 billion in 2019 due to an increase in average deposits and average borrowings.

Average total deposits increased to \$4.9 billion in 2020 compared to \$3.8 billion in 2019 primarily due to increases in average demand deposits, and average savings, NOW and money market deposits. Average demand deposits increased to \$2.0 billion in 2020 compared to \$1.4 billion in 2019. The increase in demand deposits was primarily driven by an inflow of deposits from PPP loan customers in 2020. The average balances in savings, NOW and money market accounts increased to \$2.5 billion in 2020 compared to \$2.1 billion in 2019. Average certificates of deposit increased \$16.1 million to \$303.7 million in 2020 compared to 2019. The average cost of savings, NOW and money market accounts decreased to 0.41% in 2020 compared to 1.12% in 2019. The average cost of certificates of deposit decreased to 1.50% in 2020 compared to 2.01% in 2019. Average public fund deposits increased to 17.5% of total average deposits during 2020 compared to 15.2% in 2019.

Average federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements declined to \$8.6 million in 2020 compared to \$41.1 million in 2019. The cost of average federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements was 0.92% in 2020, compared to 1.87% for the same period in 2019. Average FHLB advances increased to \$284.7 million in 2020, compared to \$245.3 million in 2019. Average subordinated debentures increased to \$79.0 million in 2020, compared to \$78.8 million in 2019.

#### Provision and Allowance for Credit Losses

At December 31, 2020, our loan portfolio consists primarily of real estate loans secured by commercial, multi-family and residential real estate properties located in our principal lending areas of Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island and the New York City boroughs. The interest rates we charge on loans are affected primarily by the demand for such loans, the supply of money available for lending purposes, the rates offered by our competitors, our relationship with the customer, and the related credit risks of the transaction. These factors are affected by general and economic conditions including, but not limited to, monetary policies of the federal government, including the Federal Reserve Board, legislative policies and governmental budgetary matters.

Based on our adoption of the CECL Standard on January 1, 2020, our continuing review of the overall loan portfolio, the current asset quality of the portfolio, the growth in the loan portfolio, the net charge-offs, and current and forecasted

economic conditions, a provision for credit losses of \$11.5 million was recorded in 2020, as compared to \$5.7 million in 2019. The increase in allowance for credit losses in the first half of 2020 was primarily related to the reasonable and supportable forecast component of the newly adopted CECL Standard which includes the impact of COVID-19. COVID-19 continues to have a profound impact on economic activity. While there have been some signs of economic improvement during the latter half of 2020, significant uncertainty remains. Management still believes that the economic recovery will continue during 2021 and 2022, however, based on the aforementioned uncertainty and negative impact the virus has had to date, the decision was made to maintain the current risk level for the reasonable and supportable forecast component of the allowance for credit losses as of December 31, 2020.

Net charge-offs were \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2020, as compared to \$4.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2019. The charge-offs in 2020 relate primarily to one relationship that totaled \$2.7 million as of June 30, 2020. In the 2020 third quarter, a settlement agreement was entered into resulting in \$1.4 million in payments and a charge-off totaling \$1.3 million. The charge-offs in 2019 relate primarily to the \$3.7 million charge-off related to one CRE loan totaling \$16.3 million which was written down to the loan's estimated fair value of \$12.6 million and moved into loans held for sale in June 2019. The ratio of allowance for credit losses to non-accrual loans was 363% and 750% at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The allowance for credit losses totaled \$44.2 million at December 31, 2020 and \$32.8 million at December 31, 2019. The allowance as a percentage of total loans was 0.96% and 0.89% at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The addition of PPP loans, which are expected to be fully guaranteed by the SBA and have a nominal reserve associated with them, decreased the allowance as a percentage of total loans by 20 basis points at December 31, 2020. We continue to carefully monitor the loan portfolio as well as real estate trends in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the New York City boroughs.

Loans totaling \$121.7 million, or 2.6%, of total loans at December 31, 2020 were categorized as classified loans compared to \$88.3 million or 2.4%, at December 31, 2019. Classified loans include loans with credit quality indicators with the internally assigned grades of special mention, substandard and doubtful. These loans are categorized as classified loans as we have information that indicates the borrower may not be able to comply with the present repayment terms. These loans are subject to increased management attention and their classification is reviewed at least quarterly.

At December 31, 2020, \$43.3 million of these classified loans were commercial real estate ("CRE") loans. Of the \$43.3 million of CRE loans, \$35.9 million were current and \$7.4 million were past due. At December 31, 2020, \$20.0 million of classified loans were residential real estate loans with \$15.7 million current and \$4.3 million past due. Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans represented \$47.7 million of classified loans, with \$41.2 million current and \$6.5 million past due. Taxi medallion loans represented \$9.6 million of the classified commercial, industrial and agricultural loans at December 31, 2020. All of our taxi medallion loans are collateralized by New York City medallions and have personal guarantees. No new originations of taxi medallion loans are currently planned, and we expect these balances to continue to decline through amortization and pay-offs. In January 2021, six taxi medallion loans, totaling \$2.6 million, net of charge-offs, were paid off under settlements we accepted. The charge-offs related to the settlements were recognized in January 2021. At December 31, 2020, there was \$8.5 million of classified multi-family loans which were current; \$1.2 million of classified real estate construction and land loans substantially all of which were current; and \$1.0 million of classified consumer loans substantially all of which were current.

CRE loans, including multi-family loans, represented \$2.5 billion, or 55.1%, of the total loan portfolio at December 31, 2020 compared to \$2.4 billion, or 64.8%, at December 31, 2019. Our underwriting standards for CRE loans require an evaluation of the cash flow of the property, the overall cash flow of the borrower and related guarantors as well as the value of the real estate securing the loan. In addition, our underwriting standards for CRE loans are consistent with regulatory requirements with original loan to value ratios generally less than or equal to 75%. We consider charge-off history, delinquency trends, cash flow analysis, and the impact of the local economy on CRE values when evaluating the appropriate level of the allowance for credit losses.

As of December 31, 2020, we had \$20.3 million in loans which were individually evaluated, with a specific reserve of \$6.7 million. Individually evaluated loans include \$9.6 million of taxi medallion loans. As of June 30, 2020, taxi loans were changed from being collectively evaluated to individually evaluated. While our collectively evaluated taxi loans were all performing in accordance with the terms of the renewals, the taxi industry, like many others, suffered greatly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Substantially all of our taxi borrowers requested payment moratoriums and until such time as business fully resumes and cash flows return to normal, we will value the taxi loans assuming they are collateral

dependent. As of December 31, 2019, we had individually impaired loans as defined by FASB ASC No. 310, "Receivables" (prior to adoption of the CECL Standard) of \$27.0 million, with a specific reserve totaling \$4.7 million. Impaired loans include individually classified non-accrual loans and troubled debt restructuring loans ("TDRs"). At December 31, 2019, impaired loans also included \$1.1 million in other impaired performing loans which were related to borrowers with other performing TDRs. Upon adoption of the CECL Standard on January 1, 2020, we re-evaluated our impaired loans to determine which loans should be evaluated on a collective (pooled) basis and which loans do not share similar risk characteristics with loans evaluated using a collective (pooled) basis and therefore should be individually evaluated. The majority of our impaired loans at December 31, 2019 were performing TDRs where there was no write-off of principal as a result of the restructure and interest was at a market rate. We concluded the risks associated with these loans were consistent with the other pooled loans and therefore they were appropriately evaluated on a collective (pooled) basis under the CECL Standard.

Non-accrual loans were \$12.2 million, or 0.26%, of total loans at December 31, 2020 compared to \$4.4 million, or 0.12%, of total loans at December 31, 2019. TDRs represent \$346 thousand of the non-accrual loans at December 31, 2020 and \$405 thousand at December 31, 2019.

There was no other real estate owned at December 31, 2020 and 2019.

The following table presents changes in the allowance for credit losses:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Beginning balance	\$ 32,786	\$ 31,418	\$ 31,707	\$ 25,904	\$ 20,744
Impact of adopting CECL	1,625	—	—	—	—
Charge-offs:					
Commercial real estate mortgage loans	(1)	(3,670)	—	—	—
Residential real estate mortgage loans	—	—	(24)	—	(56)
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans	(2,004)	(799)	(2,806)	(8,245)	(930)
Installment/consumer loans	(7)	(13)	(11)	(49)	(1)
Total	(2,012)	(4,482)	(2,841)	(8,294)	(987)
Recoveries:					
Commercial real estate mortgage loans	—	1	—	—	109
Residential real estate mortgage loans	3	112	3	28	96
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans	298	25	747	16	386
Installment/consumer loans	—	12	2	3	6
Total	301	150	752	47	597
Net charge-offs	(1,711)	(4,332)	(2,089)	(8,247)	(390)
Provision for credit losses charged to operations	11,500	5,700	1,800	14,050	5,550
Ending balance	\$ 44,200	\$ 32,786	\$ 31,418	\$ 31,707	\$ 25,904
Ratio of net charge-offs during period to average loans outstanding	(0.04)%	(0.13)%	(0.07)%	(0.30)%	(0.02)%

### Allocation of Allowance for Credit Losses

The following table presents the allocation of the total allowance for credit losses by loan classification:

	December 31,									
	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016	
	Amount	Percentage of Loans to Total Loans	Amount	Percentage of Loans to Total Loans	Amount	Percentage of Loans to Total Loans	Amount	Percentage of Loans to Total Loans	Amount	Percentage of Loans to Total Loans
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>										
Commercial real estate mortgage loans	\$ 8,534	35.6 %	\$ 12,150	42.7 %	\$ 10,792	42.0 %	\$ 11,048	41.7 %	\$ 9,225	42.0 %
Multi-family mortgage loans	1,736	19.5	4,829	22.1	2,566	17.9	4,521	19.2	6,264	20.0
Residential real estate mortgage loans	3,062	9.4	1,882	13.4	3,935	15.9	2,438	15.0	1,495	14.1
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans	27,363	33.2	12,583	18.5	12,722	19.8	12,838	19.9	7,837	20.2
Real estate construction and land loans	2,175	1.8	1,066	2.6	1,297	3.8	740	3.5	955	3.1
Installment/consumer loans	1,330	0.5	276	0.7	106	0.6	122	0.7	128	0.6
Total	\$ 44,200	100.0 %	\$ 32,786	100.0 %	\$ 31,418	100.0 %	\$ 31,707	100.0 %	\$ 25,904	100.0 %

### Non-Interest Income

Total non-interest income decreased \$5.7 million, or 22.4%, to \$19.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2020, compared to \$25.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2019. The decline in total non-interest income in the current year compared to 2019 was driven by a \$3.7 million decrease in loan swap fees, a \$3.4 million loss on termination of swaps, a \$2.9 million decrease in fair value of loans held for sale, and a \$1.1 million decrease in service charges and other fees, partially offset by a \$3.3 million increase in net securities gains, a \$2.0 million increase in gain on sale of Small Business Administration (“SBA”) loans, and a \$0.6 million increase in title fees.

During the third quarter of 2020, we restructured our wholesale balance sheet, offsetting net securities gains of \$3.5 million with swap termination losses of \$3.4 million, which positively impacted our net interest margin in the fourth quarter of 2020.

During the second quarter of 2020, an additional write-down was recognized on one CRE mortgage loan held for sale for the decrease in the estimated fair value of the loan by \$2.6 million to \$10.0 million through a valuation allowance which was charged against non-interest income in the consolidated statements of income.

Loan swap fees recorded on interest rate swaps decreased to \$3.7 million in 2020, compared to \$7.5 million in 2019. We increased the notional amount of interest rate swaps to \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2020, compared to \$823.8 million at December 31, 2019. The loan swap program allows us to deliver fixed rate exposure to our customers while we retain a floating rate asset and generate fee income. These interest rate swap agreements do not qualify for hedge accounting treatment, and therefore changes in fair value are reported in non-interest income in the consolidated statements of income.

### Non-Interest Expense

Total non-interest expense increased \$17.1 million, or 17.8%, to \$113.3 million in 2020 compared to \$96.1 million in 2019. The increase was mainly due to expenses associated with the Merger, and higher salaries and benefits, technology and communications, professional services, and FDIC assessment expenses, partially offset by lower marketing and advertising and other operating expenses in 2020.

Salaries and employee benefits increased to \$67.2 million in 2020 compared to \$56.2 million in 2019. The rise in salaries and employee benefits was primarily due to stock acceleration expense related to the Merger and higher incentive accruals in 2020.

Technology and communications increased to \$9.7 million in 2020 compared to \$7.9 million in 2019. The rise in technology and communications expenses reflect higher software maintenance and system services expenses as we increased our investment in technology and expanded our use of automation in 2020.

FDIC assessments increased to \$2.0 million in 2020, compared to \$0.6 million in 2019, primarily due to FDIC assessment credits totaling \$0.7 million in 2019.

Marketing and advertising decreased to \$3.3 million in 2020 compared to \$4.7 million in 2019. Professional services increased to \$5.0 million in 2020 compared to \$3.8 million in 2019. We recorded amortization of other intangible assets of \$0.7 million in 2020 and \$0.8 million in 2019, related to the CNB and FNBNY core deposit intangible assets subject to amortization. Other operating expenses increased to \$6.8 million in 2020 compared to \$7.7 million in 2019.

#### Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense decreased to \$13.7 million in 2020 compared to \$14.1 million in 2019, reflecting lower income before income taxes, partially offset by a higher effective tax rate in 2020. The effective tax rate for 2020 was 24.6%, compared to 21.4% for 2019. The increase in our effective tax rate resulted primarily from non-deductible salaries and merger expenses related to the Merger.

#### **Financial Condition**

Total assets were \$6.4 billion at December 31, 2020, \$1.5 billion, or 30.7%, higher than December 31, 2019. The rise in total assets in 2020 reflects increases in loans held for investment and cash and cash equivalents, partially offset by a decrease in securities.

Cash and cash equivalents increased \$759.6 million, or 648.2%, to \$876.8 million at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019. Total securities decreased \$245.4 million to \$559.4 million at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019. Total loans held for investment, net, increased \$917.1 million, or 24.9%, to \$4.6 billion at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019, inclusive of PPP loans totaling \$844.7 million. Net deferred loan fees were \$8.2 million at December 31, 2020, inclusive of \$15.4 million remaining unamortized net loan fees related to PPP loans. Our focus is on our ability to grow the loan portfolio, while maintaining interest rate risk sensitivity and maintaining credit quality.

Total liabilities were \$5.9 billion at December 31, 2020, \$1.5 billion higher than December 31, 2019. The increase in total liabilities in 2020 was mainly due to deposit growth, primarily attributable to PPP related deposits, partially offset by a decrease in FHLB advances.

Total deposits increased \$1.7 billion, or 43.9%, to \$5.5 billion at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019. The increase in total deposits in 2020 was largely attributable to higher demand deposits and savings, NOW and money market deposits, partially offset by a decrease in certificates of deposit. Demand deposits increased \$953.8 million, or 62.8% year-over-year, to \$2.5 billion at December 31, 2020. The rise in demand deposits in 2020 was primarily driven by an inflow of PPP-related deposits. Savings, NOW and money market deposits increased \$740.4 million, or 37.2% year-over-year, to \$2.7 billion at December 31, 2020. Certificates of deposit decreased \$19.5 million, or 6.3% year-over-year, to \$288.4 million at December 31, 2020. FHLB advances decreased \$220.0 million, or 50.6% year-over-year, to \$215.0 million at December 31, 2020. The decline in FHLB advances was mainly due to our decreased reliance on borrowings in 2020 by using deposit growth to fund our loan portfolio growth.

Total stockholders' equity was \$517.8 million at December 31, 2020, an increase of \$20.7 million, or 4.2%, from December 31, 2019. We adopted the CECL Standard on January 1, 2020, which resulted in a charge to retained earnings and reduction to stockholders' equity of \$1.5 million. The increase in stockholders' equity was largely attributable to net income of \$42.0 million, partially offset by \$19.2 million in dividends, and \$4.6 million in purchases of common stock. During the year ended December 31, 2020, there were 179,620 shares purchased under the 2019 Stock Repurchase Program at a cost of \$4.6 million.

## Loans

During 2020, despite the pandemic, we continued to experience growth in the commercial real estate and multifamily mortgage loan portfolios, coupled with significant growth in the commercial, industrial and agricultural loan portfolio as a result of the PPP loans. The concentration of loans in our primary market areas may increase risk. Unlike larger banks that are more geographically diversified, our loan portfolio consists primarily of real estate loans secured by commercial, multi-family and residential real estate properties located in our principal lending areas of Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island and the New York City boroughs. The local economic conditions on Long Island and the New York City boroughs have a significant impact on the volume of loan originations, the quality of loans, the ability of borrowers to repay these loans, and the value of collateral securing these loans. A considerable decline in general economic conditions caused by inflation, recession, unemployment or other factors beyond our control would impact these local economic conditions and could negatively affect the financial results of our operations. Additionally, decreases in tenant occupancy may also have a negative effect on the ability of borrowers to make timely repayments of their loans, which would have an adverse impact on our earnings.

The interest rates charged by us on loans are affected primarily by the demand for such loans, the supply of money available for lending purposes, the rates offered by our competitors, our relationship with the customer, and the related credit risks of the transaction. These factors are affected by general and economic conditions including, but not limited to, monetary policies of the federal government, including the FRB, legislative policies and governmental budgetary matters.

We target our business lending and marketing initiatives towards promotion of loans that primarily meet the needs of small to medium-sized businesses. These small to medium-sized businesses generally have fewer financial resources in terms of capital or borrowing capacity than larger entities. If general economic conditions negatively impact these businesses, our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

With respect to the underwriting of loans, there are certain risks, including the risk of non-payment that are associated with each type of loan that we market. Approximately 66.3% of our loan portfolio at December 31, 2020 was secured by real estate. Commercial real estate loans represented 35.6% of our loan portfolio. Multi-family mortgage loans represented 19.5% of our loan portfolio. Residential real estate mortgage loans represented 9.4% of our loan portfolio, including home equity lines of credit representing 1.4% and residential mortgages representing 8.0% of our loan portfolio. Real estate construction and land loans represented 1.8% of our loan portfolio. Risks associated with a concentration in real estate loans include potential losses from fluctuating values of land and improved properties. Home equity loans represent loans originated in our geographic markets with original loan to value ratios generally of 75% or less. Our residential mortgage portfolio included approximately \$14.7 million in interest only mortgages at December 31, 2020. The underwriting standards for interest only mortgages are consistent with the remainder of the loan portfolio and do not include any features that result in negative amortization. We use conservative underwriting criteria to better insulate us from a downturn in real estate values and economic conditions on Long Island and the New York City boroughs that could have a significant impact on the value of collateral securing the loans as well as the ability of customers to repay loans.

The remainder of the loan portfolio was comprised of commercial and consumer loans, which represented 33.7% of our loan portfolio, at December 31, 2020. The commercial loans are made to businesses and include term loans, lines of credit, senior secured loans to corporations, equipment financing, taxi medallion loans and, beginning in 2020, PPP loans. The primary risks associated with commercial loans are the cash flow of the business, the experience and quality of the borrowers' management, the business climate, and the impact of economic factors. The primary risks associated with consumer loans relate to the borrower, such as the risk of a borrower's unemployment as a result of deteriorating economic conditions or the amount and nature of a borrower's other existing indebtedness, and the value of the collateral securing the loan if we must take possession of the collateral.

Our policy for charging off loans is a multi-step process. A loan is considered a potential charge-off when it is in default of either principal or interest for a period of 90, 120 or 180 days, depending upon the loan type, as of the end of the prior month. In addition to delinquency criteria, other triggering events may include, but are not limited to, notice of bankruptcy by the borrower or guarantor, death of the borrower, and deficiency balance from the sale of collateral. These loans identified are presented for evaluation at the regular meeting of the CRMC. A loan is charged off when a loss is reasonably assured. The recovery of charged-off balances is actively pursued until the potential for recovery has been exhausted, or until the expense of collection does not justify the recovery efforts.

Total loans grew \$917.1 million, or 24.9%, to \$4.6 billion at December 31, 2020 compared to \$3.7 billion at December 31, 2019, with commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans being the largest contributor of the growth. Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans increased \$847.7 million, or 124.8% in 2020 as a result of PPP loans totaling \$844.7 million at December 31, 2020. Multi-family mortgage loans increased \$87.6 million, or 10.8%, in 2020. Commercial real estate mortgage loans increased \$72.8 million, or 4.7%, during 2020. Residential real estate mortgage loans decreased \$58.5 million, or 11.9%, during 2020. Real estate construction and land loans decreased \$14.8 million, or 15.2%, in 2020. Installment/consumer loans decreased slightly during 2020. Fixed rate loans represented 35.5% and 21.9% of total loans at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The increase in fixed rate loans from December 31, 2019 relates to the PPP loans.

The following table presents the major classifications of loans at the dates indicated:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Commercial real estate mortgage loans	\$ 1,638,519	\$ 1,565,687	\$ 1,373,556	\$ 1,293,906	\$ 1,091,752
Multi-family mortgage loans	899,730	812,174	585,827	595,280	518,146
Residential real estate mortgage loans	434,689	493,144	519,763	464,264	364,884
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans	1,527,147	679,444	645,724	616,003	524,450
Real estate construction and land loans	82,479	97,311	123,393	107,759	80,605
Installment/consumer loans	23,019	24,836	20,509	21,041	16,368
Total loans	4,605,583	3,672,596	3,268,772	3,098,253	2,596,205
Net deferred loan costs and fees	(8,180)	7,689	7,039	4,499	4,235
Total loans held for investment	4,597,403	3,680,285	3,275,811	3,102,752	2,600,440
Allowance for credit losses	(44,200)	(32,786)	(31,418)	(31,707)	(25,904)
Net loans	\$ 4,553,203	\$ 3,647,499	\$ 3,244,393	\$ 3,071,045	\$ 2,574,536

#### *Selected Loan Maturity Information*

The following table presents the approximate maturities and sensitivity to changes in interest rates of certain loans, exclusive of real estate mortgage loans and installment/consumer loans to individuals as of December 31, 2020:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Within One Year	After One But Within Five Years	After Five Years	Total
Commercial loans <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 303,631	\$ 1,081,141	\$ 142,375	\$ 1,527,147
Construction and land loans <sup>(2)</sup>	23,643	41,648	17,188	82,479
Total	\$ 327,274	\$ 1,122,789	\$ 159,563	\$ 1,609,626
Rate provisions:				
Amounts with fixed interest rates	\$ 19,532	\$ 989,921	\$ 46,450	\$ 1,055,903
Amounts with variable interest rates	307,742	132,868	113,113	553,723
Total	\$ 327,274	\$ 1,122,789	\$ 159,563	\$ 1,609,626

(1) Included in the "After One But Within Five Years" column are fixed rate PPP loans totaling \$844.7 million.

(2) Included in the "After Five Years" column are one-step construction loans that contain a preliminary construction period (interest only) that automatically converts to amortization at the end of the construction phase.



*Past Due, Non-accrual and Restructured Loans and Other Real Estate Owned*

The following table presents selected information about past due, non-accrual, and restructured loans and other real estate owned:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Loans 90 days or more past due and still accruing	\$ —	\$ 343	\$ 308	\$ 1,834	\$ 1,027
Non-accrual loans excluding restructured loans	11,816	3,964	2,675	6,950	909
Restructured loans - non-accrual	346	405	133	5	332
Restructured loans - performing	22,187	26,340	16,913	16,727	2,417
Other real estate owned, net	—	—	175	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 34,349</u>	<u>\$ 31,052</u>	<u>\$ 20,204</u>	<u>\$ 25,516</u>	<u>\$ 4,685</u>

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Gross interest income that has not been paid or recorded during the year under original terms:					
Non-accrual loans	\$ 167	\$ 47	\$ 36	\$ 110	\$ 17
Restructured loans	—	—	—	—	1
Gross interest income recorded during the year:					
Non-accrual loans	\$ 93	\$ 48	\$ 39	\$ 282	\$ 1
Restructured loans	948	1,212	716	619	123
Commitments for additional funds	—	—	—	—	—

*Securities*

Securities decreased \$245.4 million to \$559.4 million at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019, including restricted securities totaling \$23.4 million at December 31, 2020 and \$32.9 million at December 31, 2019. The available for sale portfolio decreased \$187.9 million to \$450.4 million at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019. Securities classified as available for sale may be sold in response to, or in anticipation of, changes in interest rates and resulting prepayment risk, or other factors. During 2020, we sold \$149.5 million of securities available for sale compared to \$46.2 million in 2019. The decrease in securities available for sale is primarily the result of a \$149.0 million decrease in residential collateral mortgage obligations, a \$50.8 million decrease in U.S. Treasury securities and a \$41.8 million decrease in commercial collateralized mortgage obligations, partially offset by a \$28.5 million increase in residential mortgage-backed, \$11.1 million increase in commercial mortgage-backed, and \$11.3 million increase in Corporate bonds. Securities held to maturity decreased \$47.9 million to \$85.7 million at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019. The decrease in securities held to maturity is primarily the result of a \$21.4 million decrease in residential collateralized mortgage obligations and a \$17.3 million decrease in state and municipal obligations. Fixed rate securities represented 82.4% of total available for sale and held to maturity securities at December 31, 2020 compared to 88.2% at December 31, 2019.

The following table presents the fair values, amortized costs, contractual maturities and approximate weighted average yields of the available for sale and held to maturity securities portfolios at December 31, 2020. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. Yields on tax-exempt obligations have been computed on a tax equivalent basis based on the U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 21%.

	December 31, 2020														
	Within One Year			After One But Within Five Years			After Five But Within Ten Years			After Ten Years			Total		
	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Yield	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Yield	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Yield	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Yield	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>															
Available for sale:															
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ —	\$ —	—%	\$ —	\$ —	—%	\$ —	\$ —	—%	\$ —	\$ —	—%	\$ —	\$ —	
U.S. GSE securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
State and municipal obligations	678	676	2.75	18,562	17,696	2.50	16,914	16,153	2.69	5,934	5,923	1.88	42,088	40,448	
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	113,235	111,398	1.72	113,235	111,398	
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	128,804	127,369	1.01	128,804	127,369	
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	3,438	3,455	3.04	9,042	8,912	2.42	770	762	2.51	11,557	11,791	1.43	24,807	24,920	
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62,336	61,102	1.83	62,336	61,102	
Other asset backed securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23,950	24,250	1.61	23,950	24,250	
Corporate bonds	—	—	—	31,257	32,000	1.38	20,913	21,500	2.02	2,970	3,000	5.98	55,140	56,500	
Total available for sale	\$ 4,116	\$ 4,131	2.99%	\$ 58,861	\$ 58,608	1.88%	\$ 38,597	\$ 38,415	2.31%	\$ 348,786	\$ 344,833	1.50%	\$ 450,360	\$ 445,987	
Held to maturity:															
State and municipal obligations	\$ 1,902	\$ 1,885	2.97%	\$ 18,065	\$ 17,058	2.80%	\$ 5,154	\$ 4,772	3.05%	\$ —	\$ —	—%	\$ 25,121	\$ 23,715	
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,412	4,244	1.54	2,087	2,028	2.22	6,499	6,272	
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	—	—	—	98	95	3.69	2,578	2,519	1.80	16,315	15,897	2.17	18,991	18,511	
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	—	—	—	6,080	5,778	2.35	—	—	—	7,614	7,291	3.16	13,694	13,069	
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	—	—	—	209	209	1.42	—	—	—	24,811	23,924	2.59	25,020	24,133	
Total held to maturity	1,902	1,885	2.97	24,452	23,140	2.68	12,144	11,535	2.22	50,827	49,140	2.52	89,325	85,700	
Total securities	\$ 6,018	\$ 6,016	2.99%	\$ 83,313	\$ 81,748	2.10%	\$ 50,741	\$ 49,950	2.29%	\$ 399,613	\$ 393,973	1.63%	\$ 539,685	\$ 531,687	

### Deposits and Borrowings

Borrowings, consisting of repurchase agreements, FHLB advances and subordinated debentures, decreased \$219.6 million year-over-year to \$295.3 million at December 31, 2020. Total deposits increased \$1.7 billion to \$5.5 billion at December 31, 2020 compared to December 31, 2019. Individual, partnership and corporate (“IPC deposits”) account balances increased \$1.3 billion and public funds and brokered deposits increased \$378.6 million. The increase in deposits is attributable to an increase in savings, NOW and money market deposits of \$740.4 million, or 37.2%, to \$2.7 billion at December 31, 2020, and an increase in demand deposits of \$953.8 million, or 62.8%, to \$2.5 billion at December 31, 2020,

partially offset by a decrease in certificates of deposit of \$19.5 million, or 6.3%, to \$288.4 million at December 31, 2020. Certificates of deposit of \$100,000 or more increased \$1.9 million, or 0.9%, from December 31, 2019 and other time deposits decreased \$21.5 million, or 22.9%, compared to December 31, 2019.

The following table presents the remaining maturities of the Bank's time deposits at December 31, 2020:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	<b>Less than \$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000 or Greater</b>	<b>Total</b>
3 months or less	\$ 10,986	\$ 24,244	\$ 35,230
Over 3 through 6 months	36,522	63,698	100,220
Over 6 through 12 months	12,552	90,115	102,667
Over 12 months through 24 months	5,831	20,871	26,702
Over 24 months through 36 months	3,414	10,844	14,258
Over 36 months through 48 months	1,925	2,972	4,897
Over 48 months through 60 months	1,198	3,067	4,265
Over 60 months	—	206	206
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 72,428</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 216,017</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 288,445</u></b>

## Liquidity

Our liquidity management objectives are to ensure the sufficiency of funds available to respond to the needs of depositors and borrowers, and to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities for our growth or earnings enhancement. Liquidity management addresses our ability to meet financial obligations that arise in the normal course of business. Liquidity is primarily needed to meet customer borrowing commitments and deposit withdrawals, either on demand or on contractual maturity, to repay borrowings as they mature, to fund current and planned expenditures and to make new loans and investments as opportunities arise.

The Holding Company's principal sources of liquidity included cash and cash equivalents of \$0.3 million as of December 31, 2020, and dividend capabilities from the Bank. Cash available for distribution of dividends to our shareholders is primarily derived from dividends paid by the Bank to the Company. During 2020, the Bank paid \$26.5 million in cash dividends to the Holding Company. Prior regulatory approval is required if the total of all dividends declared by the Bank in any calendar year exceeds the total of the Bank's net income for that year combined with its retained net income of the preceding two years. As of January 1, 2021, the Bank had \$49.8 million of retained net income available for dividends to the Holding Company. In the event that the Holding Company subsequently expands its current operations, in addition to dividends from the Bank, it will need to rely on its own earnings, additional capital raised and other borrowings to meet liquidity needs. The Holding Company did not make any capital contributions to the Bank during the year ended December 31, 2020.

The Bank's most liquid assets are cash and cash equivalents, securities available for sale and securities held to maturity due within one year. The levels of these assets are dependent on the Bank's operating, financing, lending and investing activities during any given period. Other sources of liquidity include loan and investment securities principal repayments and maturities, lines of credit with other financial institutions including the FHLB and FRB, growth in core deposits and sources of wholesale funding such as brokered deposits. While scheduled loan amortization, maturing securities and short-term investments are a relatively predictable source of funds, deposit flows and loan and mortgage-backed securities prepayments are greatly influenced by general interest rates, economic conditions and competition. The Bank adjusts its liquidity levels as appropriate to meet funding needs such as seasonal deposit flows, loans, and asset and liability management objectives. Historically, the Bank has relied on its deposit base, drawn through its full-service branches that serve its market area and local municipal deposits, as its principal source of funding. The Bank seeks to retain existing deposits and loans and maintain customer relationships by offering quality service and competitive interest rates to its customers, while managing the overall cost of funds needed to finance its strategies.

The Bank's Asset/Liability and Funds Management Policy allows for wholesale borrowings of up to 25% of total assets. At December 31, 2020, the Bank had aggregate lines of credit of \$418.0 million with unaffiliated correspondent banks to provide short-term credit for liquidity requirements. Of these aggregate lines of credit, \$398.0 million is available on an unsecured basis. As of December 31, 2020, the Bank had no overnight borrowings outstanding under these lines. As of December 31, 2019, the Bank had no overnight borrowings outstanding under these lines. The Bank also has the ability, as a member of the FHLB system, to borrow against unencumbered residential and commercial mortgages owned by the

Bank. The Bank also has a master repurchase agreement with the FHLB, which increases its borrowing capacity. As of December 31, 2020, the Bank had no FHLB overnight borrowings outstanding and \$215.0 million outstanding in FHLB term borrowings. As of December 31, 2019, the Bank had \$195.0 million outstanding in FHLB overnight borrowings and \$240.0 million outstanding in FHLB term borrowings. As of December 31, 2020, the Bank had securities sold under agreements to repurchase of \$1.2 million outstanding with customers and nothing outstanding with brokers. As of December 31, 2019, the Bank had securities sold under agreements to repurchase of \$1.0 million outstanding with customers and nothing outstanding with brokers. In addition, the Bank has approved broker relationships for the purpose of issuing brokered deposits. As of December 31, 2020, the Bank had \$64.1 million outstanding in brokered certificates of deposit and \$50.2 million outstanding in brokered money market accounts. As of December 31, 2019, the Bank had \$77.3 million outstanding in brokered certificates of deposits and \$85.1 million outstanding in brokered money market accounts.

Liquidity policies are established by senior management and reviewed and approved by the full Board of Directors at least annually. Management continually monitors the liquidity position and believes that sufficient liquidity exists to meet all of the Company's operating requirements. The Bank's liquidity levels are affected by the use of short-term and wholesale borrowings and the amount of public funds in the deposit mix. Excess short-term liquidity is invested in overnight federal funds sold or in an interest-earning account at the FRB.

### Contractual Obligations

In the ordinary course of operations, we enter into certain contractual obligations.

The following table presents contractual obligations outstanding at December 31, 2020:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Less than One Year</b>	<b>One to Three Years</b>	<b>Four to Five Years</b>	<b>Over Five Years</b>
Operating leases	\$ 52,319	\$ 7,387	\$ 13,809	\$ 12,474	\$ 18,649
FHLB advances and repurchase agreements	216,223	216,223	—	—	—
Subordinated debentures	80,000	—	—	40,000	40,000
Time deposits	288,445	238,117	40,960	9,162	206
<b>Total contractual obligations outstanding</b>	<b>\$ 636,987</b>	<b>\$ 461,727</b>	<b>\$ 54,769</b>	<b>\$ 61,636</b>	<b>\$ 58,855</b>

### Commitments, Contingent Liabilities, and Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Some financial instruments, such as loan commitments, credit lines, letters of credit, and overdraft protection, are issued to meet customer financing needs. These are agreements to provide credit or to support the credit of others, as long as conditions established in the contract are met, and usually have expiration dates. Commitments may expire without being used. Off-balance sheet risk to credit loss exists up to the face amount of these instruments, although material losses are not anticipated. The same credit policies are used to make such commitments as are used for loans, often including obtaining collateral at exercise of the commitment. At December 31, 2020, we had \$150.5 million in outstanding loan commitments and \$808.3 million in outstanding commitments for various lines of credit including unused overdraft lines. We also had \$25.5 million of standby letters of credit as of December 31, 2020. See Note 17 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on loan commitments and standby letters of credit.

### Capital Resources

Stockholders' equity increased \$20.7 million year-over-year to \$517.8 million at December 31, 2020 primarily as a result of net income, partially offset by dividends declared and purchases of treasury stock. We adopted the CECL Standard on January 1, 2020, which resulted in a charge to retained earnings and reduction to stockholders' equity of \$1.5 million. The

ratio of average stockholders' equity to average total assets was 8.67% for the year ended December 31, 2020 compared to 10.11% for the year ended December 31, 2019.

The Company's capital strength is paralleled by the solid capital position of the Bank, as reflected in the excess of its regulatory capital ratios over the risk-based capital adequacy ratio levels required for classification as a "well capitalized" institution by the FDIC (see Note 18 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements).

We utilize cash dividends and stock repurchases to manage our capital levels. In 2020, the Company declared four quarterly cash dividends totaling \$19.2 million compared to four quarterly cash dividends of \$18.4 million in 2019. The dividend payout ratios for 2020 and 2019 were 45.66% and 35.63%, respectively. In February 2019, we announced the approval of a stock repurchase plan for up to 1,000,000 shares of common stock. There is no expiration date for the stock repurchase plan. During the year ended December 31, 2020, we purchased 179,620 shares of our common stock under the repurchase plan at a cost of \$4.6 million.

Our return on average equity decreased to 8.26% for the year ended December 31, 2020 from 10.84% for the year ended December 31, 2019. Our return on average assets decreased to 0.72% in 2020 compared to 1.10% in 2019. The year-over-year decreases in return on average equity and return on average assets were due to lower net income in 2020 compared to 2019.

#### **Impact of Inflation and Changing Prices**

The consolidated financial statements and notes presented herein have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, which require the measurement of financial position and operating results in terms of historical dollars without considering changes in the relative purchasing power of money over time due to inflation. The primary effect of inflation on our operations is reflected in increased operating costs. Unlike most industrial companies, virtually all of the assets and liabilities of a financial institution are monetary in nature. As a result, changes in interest rates have a more significant effect on the performance of a financial institution than do the effects of changes in the general rate of inflation and changes in prices. Changes in interest rates could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Interest rates do not necessarily move in the same direction, or in the same magnitude, as the prices of goods and services. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, which are beyond our control, including the influence of domestic and foreign economic conditions and the monetary and fiscal policies of the United States government and federal agencies, particularly the FRB.

#### **Impact of Prospective Accounting Standards**

For a discussion regarding the impact of new accounting standards, refer to Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

## **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

### ***Asset/Liability Management***

Management considers interest rate risk to be our most significant market risk. Market risk is the risk of loss from adverse changes in market prices and rates. Interest rate risk is the exposure to adverse changes in our net income as a result of changes in interest rates.

Our primary earnings source is net interest income, which is affected by changes in the level of interest rates, the relationship between rates, the impact of interest rate fluctuations on asset prepayments, the level and composition of deposits and liabilities, and the credit quality of earning assets. Our asset and liability management objectives are to maintain a strong, stable net interest margin, to utilize its capital effectively without taking undue risks, to maintain adequate liquidity, and to reduce vulnerability of our operations to changes in interest rates.

Our Asset and Liability Committee evaluates periodically, but at least four times a year, the impact of changes in market interest rates on assets and liabilities, net interest margin, capital and liquidity. Risk assessments are governed by policies and limits established by senior management, which are reviewed and approved by the full Board of Directors at least annually. The economic environment continually presents uncertainties as to future interest rate trends. The Asset and Liability Committee regularly utilizes a model that projects net interest income based on increasing or decreasing interest rates, in order to be better able to respond to changes in interest rates.

At December 31, 2020, \$441.8 million, or 82.4%, of our available for sale and held to maturity securities had fixed interest rates. At December 31, 2020, \$3.0 billion, or 64.5%, of our loan portfolio had adjustable or floating interest rates. Changes in interest rates affect the value of our interest-earning assets and, in particular, our securities portfolio. Generally, the value of securities fluctuates inversely with changes in interest rates. Increases in interest rates could result in decreases in the market value of interest-earning assets, which could adversely affect our stockholders' equity and results of operations if sold. We are also subject to reinvestment risk associated with changes in interest rates. Changes in market interest rates also could affect the type (fixed-rate or adjustable-rate) and amount of loans we originate and the average life of loans and securities, which can impact the yields earned on our loans and securities. In periods of decreasing interest rates, the average life of loans and securities we hold may be shortened to the extent increased prepayment activity occurs during such periods which, in turn, may result in the investment of funds from such prepayments in lower yielding assets. Under these circumstances, we are subject to reinvestment risk to the extent that we are unable to reinvest the cash received from such prepayments at rates that are comparable to the rates on existing loans and securities. Additionally, increases in interest rates may result in decreasing loan prepayments with respect to fixed rate loans (and, therefore, an increase in the average life of such loans), may result in a decrease in loan demand, and may make it more difficult for borrowers to repay adjustable rate loans.

We utilize the results of a detailed and dynamic simulation model to quantify the estimated exposure of net interest income to sustained interest rate changes. Management routinely monitors simulated net interest income sensitivity over a rolling two-year horizon. The simulation model captures the impact of changing interest rates on the interest income received and the interest expense paid on all assets and liabilities reflected on our consolidated balance sheet. This sensitivity analysis is compared to the asset and liability policy limits that specify a maximum tolerance level for net interest income exposure over a one-year horizon given 100 and 200-basis point upward shifts in interest rates and a 100-basis point downward shift in interest rates. A parallel and pro-rata shift in rates over a twelve-month period is assumed.

In addition to the above scenarios, we consider other, non-parallel rate shifts that would also exert pressure on earnings. The current low interest rate environment presents the possibility for a flattening of the yield curve, which presents a challenge to a bank, like us, that derives most of its revenue from net interest margin. During the year ended December 31, 2020, the yield on U.S. Treasury 5-year notes decreased 133 basis points from 1.69% to 0.36%, while the yield on 3-month Treasury bills decreased 146 basis points from 1.55% to 0.09%. While the 3-month/5-year Treasury spread increased from 14 basis points at December 31, 2019 to 27 basis points at December 31, 2020, the yield curve continues to be considerably flat compared to the 3-month/5-year Treasury spread of 81 basis points at December 31, 2017. A continued flat or inverted yield curve in 2021 may adversely affect net interest income as borrowers tend to refinance higher-rate fixed rate loans at lower rates and we may not be able to reinvest those prepayments in assets earning interest rates as high as the rates on those prepaid assets.

The following reflects our net interest income sensitivity analysis at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

Change in Interest Rates in Basis Points (Dollars in thousands)	December 31, 2020			
	Potential Change in Future Net Interest Income			
	Year 1		Year 2	
	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
200	\$ 8,640	5.72 %	\$ 28,562	18.90 %
100	4,387	2.90	12,345	8.17
Static	—	—	—	—
-100	1,659	1.10	(2,340)	(1.55)

  

Change in Interest Rates in Basis Points (Dollars in thousands)	December 31, 2019			
	Potential Change in Future Net Interest Income			
	Year 1		Year 2	
	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
200	\$ 1,028	0.70 %	\$ 12,075	8.21 %
100	520	0.35	6,787	4.62
Static	—	—	—	—
-100	(574)	(0.39)	(3,586)	(2.44)

As noted in the table above, a 200-basis point increase in interest rates is projected to increase net interest income by 5.72% in year 1 and increase net interest income by 18.90% in year 2. Our balance sheet sensitivity to such a move in interest rates at December 31, 2020 increased as compared to December 31, 2019 (which was an increase of 0.70% in net interest income over a twelve-month period). This increase is the result of a higher portion of our loans repricing to market rates in addition to the increase in our floating rate portfolio over the last year. We also continue to show the ability to hold the costs of interest-bearing deposits to below market rates. Overall, our strategy has been to proactively take advantage of the falling rate cycle in aggressively lowering deposit costs, ultimately dampening the effect of variable and adjustable rate loan repricing and additional fix rate loan refinancing. Over the intervening year, the effective duration (a measure of price sensitivity to interest rates) of the bond portfolio increased from 2.35 years at December 31, 2019 to 2.56 years at December 31, 2020.

The preceding sensitivity analysis does not represent a Company forecast and should not be relied on as being indicative of expected operating results. These hypothetical estimates are based on numerous assumptions including, but not limited to, the nature and timing of interest rate levels and yield curve shapes, prepayments on loans and securities, deposit decay rates, pricing decisions on loans and deposits, and reinvestment and replacement of asset and liability cash flows. While assumptions are developed based on perceived current economic and local market conditions, we cannot make any assurances as to the predictive nature of these assumptions including how customer preferences or competitor influences may change. Also, as market conditions vary from those assumed in the sensitivity analysis, actual results will also differ due to prepayment and refinancing levels likely deviating from those assumed, the varying impact of interest rate change caps or floors on adjustable rate assets, the potential effect of changing debt service levels on customers with adjustable rate loans, depositor early withdrawals, prepayment penalties and product preference changes and other internal and external variables. Furthermore, the sensitivity analysis does not reflect actions that management might take in responding to, or anticipating, changes in interest rates and market conditions.

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS***(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)*

	<u>December 31, 2020</u>	<u>December 31, 2019</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 107,729	\$ 77,693
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	769,099	39,501
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>876,828</u>	<u>117,194</u>
Securities available for sale, at fair value	450,360	638,291
Securities held to maturity (fair value of \$89,325 and \$135,027, respectively)	85,700	133,638
Total securities	<u>536,060</u>	<u>771,929</u>
Securities, restricted	23,362	32,879
Loans held for sale	52,785	12,643
Loans held for investment	4,597,403	3,680,285
Allowance for credit losses	(44,200)	(32,786)
Loans, net	<u>4,553,203</u>	<u>3,647,499</u>
Premises and equipment, net	34,872	34,062
Operating lease right-of-use assets	44,007	43,450
Accrued interest receivable	16,566	10,908
Goodwill	105,950	105,950
Other intangible assets	3,378	3,677
Prepaid pension	10,313	10,988
Bank owned life insurance	93,900	91,942
Other assets	83,072	38,399
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>\$ 6,434,296</u>	<u>\$ 4,921,520</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Demand deposits	\$ 2,472,727	\$ 1,518,958
Savings, NOW and money market deposits	2,728,081	1,987,712
Certificates of deposit of \$100,000 or more	216,017	214,093
Other time deposits	72,428	93,884
Total deposits	<u>5,489,253</u>	<u>3,814,647</u>
Repurchase agreements	1,223	999
Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") advances	215,000	435,000
Subordinated debentures, net	79,059	78,920
Operating lease liabilities	46,713	45,977
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	85,217	48,823
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>5,916,465</u>	<u>4,424,366</u>
<b>Commitments and contingencies</b>		
	—	—
<b>Stockholders' equity</b>		
Preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share (2,000,000 shares authorized; none issued)	—	—
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share (40,000,000 shares authorized; 19,951,955 and 19,898,022 shares issued, respectively; and 19,743,710 and 19,836,797 shares outstanding, respectively)	199	199
Surplus	360,741	356,436
Retained earnings	172,075	150,703
Treasury stock at cost, 208,245 and 61,225 shares, respectively	(5,056)	(1,843)
	<u>527,959</u>	<u>505,495</u>
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of income taxes	(10,128)	(8,341)
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<u>517,831</u>	<u>497,154</u>
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<u>\$ 6,434,296</u>	<u>\$ 4,921,520</u>

*See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.*



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
<b>Interest income:</b>			
Loans (including fee income)	\$ 169,411	\$ 158,228	\$ 144,380
Mortgage-backed securities, CMOs and other asset-backed securities	9,329	16,182	16,591
U.S. GSE securities	365	465	837
State and municipal obligations	1,843	2,234	2,812
Corporate bonds	1,070	1,200	1,422
Deposits with banks	673	1,697	1,076
Other interest and dividend income	1,541	1,535	1,866
Total interest income	<u>184,232</u>	<u>181,541</u>	<u>168,984</u>
<b>Interest expense:</b>			
Savings, NOW and money market deposits	10,435	23,687	15,928
Certificates of deposit of \$100,000 or more	3,346	4,270	3,007
Other time deposits	1,198	1,502	1,801
Federal funds purchased and repurchase agreements	79	767	1,200
FHLB advances	3,992	4,573	5,729
Subordinated debentures	4,401	4,539	4,539
Total interest expense	<u>23,451</u>	<u>39,338</u>	<u>32,204</u>
Net interest income	160,781	142,203	136,780
Provision for credit losses	11,500	5,700	1,800
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	<u>149,281</u>	<u>136,503</u>	<u>134,980</u>
<b>Non-interest income:</b>			
Service charges and other fees	8,955	10,059	9,853
Net securities gains (losses)	3,525	201	(7,921)
Loss on termination of swaps	(3,403)	—	—
Change in fair value of loans held for sale	(2,877)	—	—
Title fees	2,337	1,720	1,797
Gain on sale of Small Business Administration ("SBA") loans	3,940	1,984	2,078
Bank owned life insurance	2,186	2,230	2,219
Loan swap fees	3,742	7,460	716
Other	1,298	1,733	2,826
Total non-interest income	<u>19,703</u>	<u>25,387</u>	<u>11,568</u>
<b>Non-interest expense:</b>			
Salaries and employee benefits	67,159	56,244	50,458
Occupancy and equipment	14,287	14,372	13,245
Technology and communications	9,712	7,905	6,465
Marketing and advertising	3,287	4,740	4,597
Professional services	4,988	3,797	4,004
FDIC assessments	1,950	608	1,665
Merger expenses	4,452	—	—
Net fraud loss	—	—	8,900
Office relocation costs	—	—	750
Amortization of other intangible assets	656	787	917
Other	6,766	7,686	7,179
Total non-interest expense	<u>113,257</u>	<u>96,139</u>	<u>98,180</u>
Income before income taxes	55,727	65,751	48,368
Income tax expense	13,685	14,060	9,141
Net income	<u>\$ 42,042</u>	<u>\$ 51,691</u>	<u>\$ 39,227</u>
Basic earnings per share	<u>\$ 2.11</u>	<u>\$ 2.59</u>	<u>\$ 1.97</u>
Diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 2.11</u>	<u>\$ 2.59</u>	<u>\$ 1.97</u>

See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME***(In thousands)*

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Net income	\$ 42,042	\$ 51,691	\$ 39,227
Other comprehensive (loss) income:			
Change in unrealized net gains (losses) on securities available for sale, net of reclassifications and deferred income taxes	3,916	10,856	(348)
Adjustment to pension liability, net of reclassifications and deferred income taxes	(1,865)	(410)	(832)
Unrealized (losses) gains on cash flow hedges, net of reclassifications and deferred income taxes	(3,838)	(3,675)	1,007
Total other comprehensive (loss) income	(1,787)	6,771	(173)
Comprehensive income	\$ 40,255	\$ 58,462	\$ 39,054

*See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.*

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	Common Stock	Surplus	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total
Balance at January 1, 2018	\$ 197	\$ 347,691	\$ 96,547	\$ (296)	\$ (14,939)	\$ 429,200
Net income			39,227			39,227
Shares issued under the dividend reinvestment plan ("DRP") (25,154 shares)		954				954
Shares issued under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), net of offering costs (3,758 shares)		63				63
Stock awards granted and distributed (84,910 shares)	1	(539)		538		—
Stock awards forfeited (15,225 shares)		437		(437)		—
Repurchase of surrendered stock from vesting of stock plans (17,073 shares)				(586)		(586)
Share based compensation expense		3,487				3,487
Cash dividend declared, \$0.92 per share			(18,342)			(18,342)
Other comprehensive loss, net of deferred income taxes					(173)	(173)
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$ 198	\$ 352,093	\$ 117,432	\$ (781)	\$ (15,112)	\$ 453,830
Net income			51,691			51,691
Shares issued under the DRP (24,529 shares)		867				867
Shares issued under the ESPP (7,888 shares)		235				235
Purchase of treasury stock (22,600 shares)				(625)		(625)
Stock awards granted and distributed (82,210 shares)	1	(988)		987		—
Stock awards forfeited (19,531 shares)		555		(555)		—
Repurchase of surrendered stock from vesting of stock plans (26,583 shares)		(18)		(869)		(887)
Share based compensation expense		3,692				3,692
Cash dividend declared, \$0.92 per share			(18,420)			(18,420)
Other comprehensive income, net of deferred income taxes					6,771	6,771
Balance at December 31, 2019	\$ 199	\$ 356,436	\$ 150,703	\$ (1,843)	\$ (8,341)	\$ 495,154
Cumulative change in accounting principle (Note 1)			(1,473)			(1,473)
Balance at January 1, 2020 (as adjusted for change in accounting principle)	199	356,436	149,230	(1,843)	(8,341)	495,681
Net income			42,042			42,042
Shares issued under the DRP (39,600 shares)		1,012				1,012
Shares issued under the ESPP (11,413 shares)		255				255
Purchase of treasury stock (179,620 shares)				(4,633)		(4,633)
Stock awards granted and distributed (136,662 shares)		(4,167)		4,167		—
Stock awards forfeited (6,593 shares)		222		(222)		—
Repurchase of surrendered stock from vesting of stock plans (95,892 shares)		(656)		(2,525)		(3,181)
Share based compensation expense		7,639				7,639
Cash dividend declared, \$0.96 per share			(19,197)			(19,197)
Other comprehensive loss, net of deferred income taxes					(1,787)	(1,787)
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$ 199	\$ 360,741	\$ 172,075	\$ (5,056)	\$ (10,128)	\$ 517,831

See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 42,042	\$ 51,691	\$ 39,227
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Provision for credit losses	11,500	5,700	1,800
Depreciation and amortization of premises and equipment	4,319	4,253	3,822
Net (accretion) and other amortization	(940)	(1,375)	(2,093)
Net amortization on securities	3,585	4,365	4,009
Increase in cash surrender value of bank owned life insurance	(2,186)	(2,230)	(2,219)
Amortization of other intangible assets	656	787	917
Share based compensation expense	7,639	3,692	3,487
Net securities (gains) losses	(3,525)	(201)	7,921
Loss on termination of swaps	3,403	—	—
Change in fair value of loans held for sale	2,877	—	—
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable	(5,658)	328	416
SBA loans originated for sale	(47,741)	(27,419)	(28,340)
Proceeds from sale of the guaranteed portion of SBA loans	52,643	29,922	30,898
Gain on sale of the guaranteed portion of SBA loans	(3,940)	(1,984)	(2,078)
Gain on sale of loans	—	—	(441)
(Increase) decrease in other assets	(11,916)	3,942	(2,373)
(Decrease) increase in accrued expenses and other liabilities	(5,371)	(1,509)	3,430
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>47,387</b>	<b>69,962</b>	<b>58,383</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Purchases of securities available for sale	(363,224)	(141,297)	(255,746)
Purchases of securities, restricted	(52,988)	(97,206)	(505,272)
Purchases of securities held to maturity	—	—	(1,000)
Proceeds from sales of securities available for sale	152,980	46,478	230,372
Redemption of securities, restricted	62,505	88,355	516,593
Maturities, calls and principal payments of securities available for sale	404,093	149,456	92,818
Maturities, calls and principal payments of securities held to maturity	47,505	25,642	20,851
Net increase in loans	(962,582)	(421,024)	(213,973)
Proceeds from loan sale	—	—	40,133
Proceeds from sales of other real estate owned ("OREO"), net	—	297	—
Purchase of premises and equipment	(5,129)	(3,307)	(5,325)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(716,840)</b>	<b>(352,606)</b>	<b>(80,549)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Net increase (decrease) in deposits	1,674,607	(71,728)	551,891
Net decrease in federal funds purchased	—	—	(50,000)
Net (decrease) increase in FHLB advances	(220,000)	194,568	(260,855)
Net increase (decrease) in repurchase agreements	224	460	(338)
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	1,267	1,102	1,017
Purchase of treasury stock	(4,633)	(625)	—
Repurchase of surrendered stock from vesting of stock plans	(3,181)	(887)	(586)
Cash dividends paid	(19,197)	(18,420)	(18,342)
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>1,429,087</b>	<b>104,470</b>	<b>222,787</b>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	759,634	(178,174)	200,621
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	117,194	295,368	94,747
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 876,828</b>	<b>\$ 117,194</b>	<b>\$ 295,368</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b>			
Cash paid for:			
Interest	\$ 24,037	\$ 39,395	\$ 32,254
Income taxes	\$ 12,457	\$ 9,158	\$ 2,474
<b>Non-cash investing and financing activities:</b>			
Transfers from portfolio loans to loans held for sale	\$ 43,019	\$ 12,643	\$ —
Transfers from portfolio loans to other real estate owned	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 175

See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Nature of Operations and Principles of Consolidation

On February 1, 2021, Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., (“Legacy Dime”) merged with and into Bridge Bancorp, Inc., (“Legacy Bridge”) (the “Merger”), with Legacy Bridge as the surviving corporation under the name “Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.” (the “Holding Company”). The consolidated financial statements include the Holding Company, which was known as “Bridge Bancorp, Inc.” prior to the Merger, a bank holding company incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, engaged in commercial banking and financial services through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Dime Community Bank, (the “Bank”), which was known as “BNB Bank” prior to the Merger, together referred to as the “Company.” The Bank’s operations include its real estate investment trust subsidiary, Bridgehampton Community, Inc.; a financial title insurance subsidiary, Bridge Abstract LLC (“Bridge Abstract”); and an investment services subsidiary, Bridge Financial Services, Inc. (“Bridge Financial Services”). Intercompany transactions and balances are eliminated in consolidation. The Company’s consolidated financial statements, including notes thereto, and accounting policies and practices are as of December 31, 2020, and do not include the operations of Legacy Dime.

The Company provides financial services through its branches in its primary market areas of Suffolk and Nassau Counties on Long Island and the New York City boroughs. The Bank’s primary deposit products are time, savings and demand deposits from the consumers, businesses and local municipalities in its market area. Its primary lending products are commercial real estate, multi-family, commercial and industrial, and residential mortgage loans. There are no significant concentrations of loans to any one industry or customer. However, the customers’ ability to repay their loans is dependent on the real estate and general economic conditions in the area.

The audited consolidated financial statements presented in this Annual Report on Form 10-K include the collective results of the Holding Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Bank, which are collectively herein referred to as “we”, “us”, “our” and the “Company.”

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and general practices within the financial institution industry. The following is a description of the significant accounting policies that the Company follows in preparing its consolidated financial statements.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with U.S. GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions based on available information. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and the disclosures provided, and actual future results could differ.

#### COVID-19 Risks

In December 2019, a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was reported in China, and, in March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. On March 12, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States a national emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic dislocation in the United States as many state and local governments, including New York, ordered non-essential businesses to close and residents to shelter in place at home. This has resulted in an unprecedented slow-down in economic activity and a related increase in unemployment.

The Company’s audited consolidated financial statements reflect the impact of COVID-19 on the assumptions and estimates used. Given the ongoing and dynamic nature of the circumstances, it is difficult to predict the full impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the Company’s business. The extent of such impact will depend on future developments, which are highly uncertain, including when COVID-19 can be controlled and abated and when and how the economy may be reopened. As the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related adverse local and national economic consequences,

the Company is subject to the following risks, any of which could have a material, adverse effect on its business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations:

- demand for the Company's products and services may decline, making it difficult to grow assets and income;
- if the economy is unable to substantially reopen or remain open, and high levels of unemployment continue, for an extended period of time, loan delinquencies, problem assets, and foreclosures may increase, resulting in increased charges and reduced income;
- collateral for loans, especially real estate, may decline in value, which could cause loan losses to increase;
- the Company's allowance for credit losses ("ACL") may have to be increased if borrowers experience financial difficulties beyond forbearance periods, which will adversely affect the Company's net income;
- the Company may recognize impairment of its goodwill;
- the net worth and liquidity of loan guarantors may decline, impairing their ability to honor commitments to the Company;
- as the result of the decline in the Federal Reserve Board's target federal funds rate to near 0%, the yield on the Company's assets may decline to a greater extent than the decline in its cost of interest-bearing liabilities, reducing net interest margin and spread and reducing net income;
- a material decrease in net income or a net loss over several quarters could result in a decrease in the rate of the Company's quarterly cash dividend;
- the Company's cyber security risks are increased as the result of an increase in the number of employees working remotely; and
- the Company relies on third party vendors for certain services and the unavailability of a critical service due to the COVID-19 outbreak could have an adverse effect on the Company.

#### Cash Flows

For purposes of reporting cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, amounts due from banks, interest-earning deposits with banks, and federal funds sold, which mature overnight. Net cash flows are reported for customer loan and deposit transactions, federal funds purchased, FHLB advances, and repurchase agreements.

#### Securities

Debt securities are classified as held to maturity and carried at amortized cost when management has the positive intent and ability to hold them to maturity. Debt securities are classified as available for sale when they might be sold before maturity. Securities available for sale are carried at fair value, with unrealized holding gains and losses reported in other comprehensive income, net of tax. Equity securities are carried at fair value, with changes in fair value reported in net income. Equity securities without readily determinable fair values are carried at cost, minus impairment, if any, plus or minus changes resulting in observable price changes in orderly transactions for the identical or a similar investment.

Interest income includes amortization of purchase premium or discount. Premiums and discounts on securities are amortized on the level-yield method without anticipating prepayments, except for mortgage-backed securities where prepayments are anticipated. The Company has made a policy election to exclude accrued interest from the amortized cost basis of debt securities and report accrued interest separately in accrued interest receivable in the consolidated balance sheet. A debt security is placed on non-accrual status at the time any principal or interest payments become more than 90 days delinquent or if full collection of interest or principal becomes uncertain. Accrued interest for a security placed on non-accrual is reversed against interest income. There were no non-accrual debt securities at December 31, 2020 and there was no accrued interest related to debt securities reversed against interest income for the year ended December 31, 2020. Gains and losses on sales are recorded on the trade date and determined using the specific identification method.

On January 1, 2020, the Company adopted the CECL Standard, which requires that debt securities held to maturity be accounted for under the current expected credit losses model, including historical loss experience and impact of current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts, with an associated allowance for credit losses. In addition, while

credit losses on debt securities available for sale should be measured in accordance with the other-than-temporary impairment (“OTTI”) framework under current GAAP, the amendments in the CECL Standard require that these credit losses be presented as an allowance for credit losses. For AFS debt securities, a decline in fair value due to credit loss results in recording an allowance for credit losses to the extent the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis.

Held to maturity debt securities and the allowance for credit losses

To the extent that debt securities in the held-to-maturity portfolio share common risk characteristics, estimated expected credit losses are calculated in a manner like that used for loans held for investment. That is, for pools of such debt securities with common risk characteristics, the historical lifetime probability of default and severity of loss in the event of default is derived or obtained from external sources and adjusted for the expected effects of reasonable and supportable forecasts over the expected lives of the securities.

Expected credit loss on each debt security in the held-to-maturity portfolio that do not share common risk characteristics with any of the pools of debt securities is individually measured based on net realizable value, or the difference between the discounted value of the expected future cash flows, based on the original effective interest rate, and the recorded amortized cost basis of the security.

With respect to certain classes of debt securities, primarily U.S. Treasuries and securities issued by Government Sponsored Entities, the Company considers the history of credit losses, current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts, which may indicate that the expectation that nonpayment of the amortized cost basis is or continues to be zero, even if the U.S. government were to technically default. Therefore, for those securities, the Company does not record expected credit losses.

Accrued interest receivable is excluded from the estimate of credit losses.

Available for sale debt securities and the allowance for credit losses

Management evaluates available for sale debt securities for OTTI on at least a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such evaluation. For securities in an unrealized loss position, management considers the extent and duration of the unrealized loss, and the near-term prospects of the issuer. Impairment may result from credit deterioration of the issuer or collateral underlying the security. In performing an assessment of whether any decline in fair value is due to a credit loss, all relevant information is considered at the individual security level. For asset-backed securities performance indicators considered related to the underlying assets include default rates, delinquency rates, percentage of non-performing assets, debt-to-collateral ratios, third party guarantees, current levels of subordination, vintage, geographic concentration, analyst reports and forecasts, credit ratings and other market data. In assessing whether a credit loss exists, we compare the present value of cash flows expected to be collected from the security with the amortized cost basis of the security.

If the present value of cash flows expected to be collected is less than the amortized cost basis for the security, a credit loss exists and an allowance for credit losses is recorded, limited to the amount the fair value is less than amortized cost basis. Declines in fair value that have not been recorded through an allowance for credit losses, such as declines due to changes in market interest rates, are excluded from earnings and reported, net of tax, in other comprehensive income (“OCI”). Management also assesses whether it intends to sell or is more likely than not that it will be required to sell a security in an unrealized loss position before recovery of its amortized cost basis. If either of the criteria regarding intent or requirement to sell is met, the entire difference between amortized cost and fair value is recognized as impairment through earnings.

Accrued interest receivable is excluded from the estimate of credit losses.

Securities, Restricted

Securities, restricted represents FHLB, Federal Reserve Bank (“FRB”) and bankers’ banks stock, which are reported at cost. The Bank is a member of the FHLB system. Members are required to own a particular amount of stock based on the

level of borrowings and other factors, and may invest in additional amounts. FHLB stock is periodically evaluated for impairment based on ultimate recovery of par value. Both cash and stock dividends are reported as income.

#### Loans Held for Sale

Loans held for sale are carried at the lower of aggregate cost or estimated fair value. Any subsequent declines in fair value below the initial carrying value are recorded as a valuation allowance, which is established through a charge to earnings.

#### Loans

Loans that management has the intent and ability to hold for the foreseeable future or until maturity or payoff are reported at the principal amount outstanding, net of partial charge-offs, deferred origination costs and fees and purchase premiums and discounts. Loan origination and commitment fees and certain direct and indirect costs incurred in connection with loan originations are deferred and amortized to income over the life of the related loans as an adjustment to yield. When a loan prepays, the remaining unamortized net deferred origination fees or costs are recognized in the current year. Interest on loans is credited to income based on the principal outstanding during the period. The Company has made a policy election to exclude accrued interest from the amortized cost basis of loans and report accrued interest separately from the related loan balance in accrued interest receivable on consolidated balance sheets. Past due status is based on the contractual terms of the loan. Loans that are 90 days past due are automatically placed on non-accrual and previously accrued interest is reversed and charged against interest income. However, if the loan is in the process of collection and the Bank has reasonable assurance that the loan will be fully collectable based upon an individual loan evaluation assessing such factors as collateral and collectability, accrued interest will be recognized as earned. If a payment is received when a loan is non-accrual or a troubled debt restructuring (“TDR”) loan is non-accrual, the payment is applied to the principal balance. A TDR loan performing in accordance with its modified terms is maintained on accrual status. Loans are returned to accrual status when all the principal and interest amounts contractually due are brought current and future payments are reasonably assured.

Loans that were acquired through the acquisition of Community National Bank on June 19, 2015 and First National Bank of New York on February 14, 2014 were initially recorded at fair value with no carryover of the related allowance for loan losses. After acquisition, losses are recognized through the allowance for loan losses. Determining fair value of the loans involves estimating the amount and timing of expected principal and interest cash flows to be collected on the loans and discounting those cash flows at a market interest rate. Some of the loans at the time of acquisition showed evidence of credit deterioration since origination. These loans were considered purchased credit impaired (“PCI”) loans. As of December 31, 2019, the remaining balance of PCI loans was immaterial to the Company’s financial condition and results of operations.

Unless otherwise noted, the above policy is applied consistently to all loan segments.

#### Allowance for Credit Losses

On January 1, 2020, we adopted the CECL Standard, which requires that loans held for investment be accounted for under the current expected credit losses model. Although the CARES Act provided the option to delay the adoption of the current expected credit loss model until the earlier of December 31, 2020 or the termination of the current national emergency declaration related to the COVID-19 outbreak, we implemented the CECL Standard in the first quarter of 2020 as previously planned. The allowance for credit losses is established and maintained through a provision for credit losses based on expected losses inherent in our loan portfolio. Management evaluates the adequacy of the allowance on a quarterly basis. Management monitors its entire loan portfolio regularly, with consideration given to detailed analysis of classified loans, repayment patterns, past loss experience, various types of concentrations of credit, current economic conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts. Additions to the allowance are charged to expense and realized losses, net of recoveries, are charged against the allowance.

The credit loss estimation process involves procedures to appropriately consider the unique characteristics of our loan portfolio segments. These segments are further disaggregated into loan risk ratings, the level at which credit risk is monitored. When computing allowance levels, credit loss assumptions are estimated using a model that categorizes loan pools based on expected loss history, delinquency status and other credit trends and risk characteristics, including current



conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts about the future. Determining the appropriateness of the allowance is complex and requires judgment by management about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. In future periods, evaluations of the overall loan portfolio, in light of the factors and forecasts then prevailing, may result in significant changes in the allowance and provision for credit losses in those future periods.

Credit quality is assessed and monitored by evaluating various attributes and the results of those evaluations are utilized in our process for estimation of expected credit losses. The allowance level is influenced by loan volumes, loan risk rating migration, historic loss experience and other conditions influencing loss expectations, such as reasonable and supportable forecasts of economic conditions. The methodology for estimating the amount of expected credit losses reported in the allowance for credit losses has two basic components: (1) an asset-specific component involving individual loans that do not share risk characteristics with other loans and the measurement of expected credit losses for such individual loans; and (2) a pooled component for estimated expected credit losses for pools of loans that share similar risk characteristics.

#### Loans that do not share similar credit risk characteristics

For a loan that does not share risk characteristics with other loans, expected credit loss is measured based on net realizable value, that is, the difference between the discounted value of the expected future cash flows, based on the original effective interest rate, and the amortized cost basis of the loan. For these loans, the Company recognizes expected credit loss equal to the amount by which the net realizable value of the loan is less than the amortized cost basis of the loan (which is net of previous charge-offs), except when the loan is collateral dependent, that is, when the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty and repayment is expected to be provided substantially through the operation or sale of the collateral. In these cases, expected credit loss is measured as the difference between the amortized cost basis of the loan and the fair value of the collateral. The fair value of the collateral is adjusted for the estimated costs to sell the loan if repayment or satisfaction of a loan is dependent on the sale (rather than only on the operation) of the collateral.

The fair value of real estate collateral is determined based on recent appraised values. Appraisals are performed by certified general appraisers (for commercial properties) or certified residential appraisers (for residential properties) whose qualifications and licenses have been reviewed and verified by the Company. All appraisals undergo a second review process to ensure that the methodology employed and the values derived are reasonable. Generally, collateral values for real estate loans for which measurement of expected losses is dependent on collateral values are updated every twelve months. Non-real estate collateral may be valued using an appraisal, net book value per the borrower's financial statements, or aging reports, adjusted or discounted based on management's historical knowledge, changes in market conditions from the time of the valuation and management's expertise and knowledge of the borrower and its business. Once the expected credit loss amount is determined, an allowance is provided for equal to the calculated expected credit loss and included in the allowance for credit losses. Pursuant to the Company's policy, credit losses must be charged-off in the period the loans, or portions thereof, are deemed uncollectable.

#### Loans that share similar credit risk characteristics

In estimating the component of the allowance for credit losses for loans that share similar risk characteristics with other loans, such loans are segmented into loan types. Loans are designated into loan pools with similar risk characteristics based on product type in conjunction with other homogeneous characteristics. Loan types include commercial real estate mortgages, owner and non-owner occupied; multi-family mortgage loans; residential real estate mortgages and home equity loans; commercial, industrial and agricultural loans, real estate construction and land loans; and consumer loans.

In determining the allowance for credit losses, the Company derives an estimated credit loss assumption from a model that categorizes loan pools based on loan type and further segmented by risk rating. This model is known as Probability of Default/Loss Given Default, utilizing a Transition Matrix approach. This model calculates an expected loss percentage for each loan pool by considering the probability of default, based upon the historical transition or migration of loans from performing (various pass ratings) to criticized, and classified risk ratings to default by risk rating buckets using life-of-loan analysis runout periods for all loan segments, and the historical severity of loss, based on the aggregate net lifetime losses (loss given default) per loan pool. The default trigger, which is defined as the earlier of ninety days past-due or non-accrual status, and severity factors used to calculate the allowance for credit losses for loans in pools that share similar risk characteristics with other loans, are adjusted for differences between the historical period used to calculate historical default and loss severity rates and expected conditions over the remaining lives of the loans in the portfolio. These factors

include: (1) lending policies and procedures; (2) international, national, regional and local economic business conditions and developments that affect the collectability of the portfolio, including the condition of various markets; (3) the nature and volume of the loan portfolio including the terms of the loans; (4) the experience, ability, and depth of the lending management and other relevant staff; (5) the volume and severity of past due and adversely classified or graded loans and the volume of non-accrual loans; (6) the quality of our loan review system; (7) the value of underlying collateral for collateralized loans; (8) the existence and effect of any concentrations of credit, and changes in the level of such concentrations; and (9) the effect of external factors such as competition and legal and regulatory requirements on the level of estimated credit losses in the existing portfolio. Such factors are used to adjust the historical probabilities of default and severity of loss for current conditions that are not reflective of the model results. In addition, the economic factor includes management's expectation of future conditions based on a reasonable and supportable forecast of the economy. To the extent the lives of the loans in the portfolio extend beyond the period for which a reasonable and supportable forecast can be made (currently two years), the Bank reverts immediately back to the historical rates of default and severity of loss. Management believes that this transition approach to the Probability of Default/Loss Given Default is a relevant calculation of expected credit losses as there is sufficient volume as well as movement in the risk ratings due to the initial grading system as well as timely updates to risk ratings when necessary. Credit risk ratings are based on management's evaluation of a credit's cash flow, collateral, guarantor support, financial disclosures, industry trends and strength of borrowers' management.

Future additions or reductions to the allowance may be necessary based on changes in economic, market or other conditions. Changes in estimates could result in a material change in the allowance. In addition, various regulatory agencies, as an integral part of the examination process, periodically review the allowance for credit losses. Such agencies may require the Bank to recognize adjustments to the allowance based on their judgments of the information available to them at the time of their examination.

A loan is considered a potential charge-off when it is in default of either principal or interest for a period of 90, 120 or 180 days, depending upon the loan type, as of the end of the prior month. In addition to delinquency criteria, other triggering events may include, but are not limited to, notice of bankruptcy by the borrower or guarantor, death of the borrower, and deficiency balance from the sale of collateral.

Unless otherwise noted, the above policy is applied consistently to all loan portfolio segments.

#### Loan Commitments and Related Financial Instruments

Financial instruments include off-balance sheet credit instruments, such as unused lines of credit, commitments to make loans and commercial letters of credit, issued to meet customer financing needs. The face amount for these items represents the exposure to loss, before considering customer collateral or ability to repay. Such financial instruments are recorded on the balance sheet when they are funded. In accordance with the CECL Standard, the Company maintains a separate reserve for off-balance sheet credit instruments, which is included in other liabilities on the consolidated statements of financial condition. Management estimates the amount of expected losses by calculating a commitment usage factor over the contractual period for exposures that are not unconditionally cancellable by the Company and applying the loss factors, current conditions and forecasting adjustments used in the allowance for credit loss methodology to the results of the usage calculation to estimate the liability for credit losses related to unfunded commitments for each loan type. No credit loss estimate is reported for off-balance sheet credit exposures that are unconditionally cancellable by the Company. At December 31, 2020, the reserve for off-balance sheet credit exposures was immaterial to the Company's consolidated statements of financial condition and results of operations.

#### Premises and Equipment

Premises and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation. Buildings and related components are depreciated using the straight-line method with a useful life of fifty years for buildings and a range of two to ten years for equipment, computer hardware and software, and furniture and fixtures. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the lives of the respective leases or the service lives of the improvements, whichever is shorter. Land is carried at cost.

Improvements and major repairs are capitalized, while the cost of ordinary maintenance, repairs and minor improvements are charged to expense.

### Bank-Owned Life Insurance

The Bank is the owner and beneficiary of life insurance policies on certain employees. Bank-owned life insurance is recorded at the amount that can be realized under the insurance contract at the balance sheet date, which is the cash surrender value adjusted for other charges or other amounts due that are probable at settlement.

### Other Real Estate Owned

Real estate properties acquired through, or in lieu of, foreclosure are initially recorded at fair value less costs to sell when acquired, establishing a new cost basis. These assets are subsequently accounted for at the lower of cost or fair value less estimated costs to sell. If fair value declines subsequent to foreclosure, a valuation allowance is recorded through expense. Operating costs after acquisition are expensed.

### Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill resulting from business combinations is generally determined as the excess of the fair value of the consideration transferred over the fair value of the net assets acquired and liabilities assumed as of the acquisition date. Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets are not amortized, but tested for impairment at least annually, or more frequently if events and circumstances exist that indicate the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired. The Company has selected November 30 as the date to perform the annual impairment test. Goodwill and the *BNB Bank* trademark are intangible assets with indefinite lives on the Company's balance sheet.

Other intangible assets with definite useful lives are amortized over their estimated useful lives to their estimated residual values. Core deposit intangible assets are amortized on an accelerated method over their estimated useful lives of ten years.

Other intangible assets also include servicing rights, which result from the sale of SBA loans with servicing rights retained. Servicing rights are initially recorded at fair value with the income statement effect recorded in gains on sales of loans. Fair value is based on market prices for comparable servicing contracts, when available or alternatively, is based on a valuation model that calculates the present value of estimated future net servicing income. Servicing assets are subsequently measured using the amortization method, which requires servicing rights to be amortized into non-interest income in proportion to, and over the period of, the estimated future net servicing income of the underlying loans.

### Derivatives

The Company records cash flow hedges at the inception of the derivative contract based on the Company's intentions and belief as to likely effectiveness as a hedge. Cash flow hedges represent a hedge of a forecasted transaction or the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability. For a cash flow hedge, the gain or loss on the derivative is reported in other comprehensive income ("OCI") and is reclassified into earnings in the same periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. The changes in the fair value of derivatives that are not highly effective in hedging the changes in fair value or expected cash flows of the hedged item are recognized immediately in current earnings. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are reported currently in earnings, as non-interest income.

Net cash settlements on derivatives that qualify for hedge accounting are recorded in interest income or interest expense, based on the item being hedged. Net cash settlements on derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are reported in non-interest income. Cash flows on hedges are classified in the cash flow statement the same as the cash flows of the items being hedged.

The Company formally documents the relationship between derivatives and hedged items, as well as the risk-management objective and the strategy for undertaking hedge transactions at the inception of the hedging relationship. This documentation includes linking cash flow hedges to specific assets and liabilities on the balance sheet or to specific firm commitments or forecasted transactions. The Company also formally assesses, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivative instruments that are used are highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of the hedged items. The Company discontinues hedge accounting when it determines that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedged item, the derivative is settled or

terminates, a hedged forecasted transaction is no longer probable, a hedged firm commitment is no longer firm, or treatment of the derivative as a hedge is no longer appropriate or intended.

When hedge accounting is discontinued, subsequent changes in fair value of the derivative are recorded as non-interest income. When a cash flow hedge is discontinued but the hedged cash flows or forecasted transactions are still expected to occur, gains or losses that were accumulated in other comprehensive income are amortized into earnings over the same periods in which the hedged transactions will affect earnings.

#### Income Taxes

Income tax expense is the total of the current year income tax due or refundable and the change in deferred tax assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are the expected future tax amounts for temporary differences between carrying amounts and tax bases of assets and liabilities, computed using enacted tax rates. A valuation allowance, if needed, reduces deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized. It is management's position, as currently supported by the facts and circumstances, that no valuation allowance is necessary against any of the Company's deferred tax assets at December 31, 2020.

A tax position is recognized as a benefit only if it is "more likely than not" that the tax position would be sustained in a tax examination, with a tax examination being presumed to occur. The amount recognized is the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized on examination. For tax positions not meeting the "more likely than not" test, no tax benefit is recorded. There are no such tax positions in the Company's financial statements at December 31, 2020 and 2019.

The Company recognizes interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. The Company did not have any amounts accrued for interest and penalties at December 31, 2020 and 2019.

#### Treasury Stock

Repurchases of common stock are recorded as treasury stock at cost. Treasury stock is reissued using the first in, first out method.

#### Earnings Per Share ("EPS")

Basic EPS is net income attributable to common shareholders divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. All outstanding unvested share-based payment awards that contain rights to nonforfeitable dividends are considered participating securities for this calculation. Diluted EPS includes the dilutive effect of additional potential common shares issuable under stock options.

#### Dividend Restriction

Cash available for distribution of dividends to stockholders of the Company is primarily derived from cash and cash equivalents of the Company and dividends paid by the Bank to the Company. Prior regulatory approval is required if the total of all dividends declared by the Bank in any calendar year exceeds the total of the Bank's net income of that year combined with its retained net income of the preceding two years. Dividends from the Bank to the Company at January 1, 2021 are limited to \$49.8 million, which represents the Bank's net retained earnings from the previous two years. During 2020, the Bank paid \$26.5 million in cash dividends to the Company.

#### Segment Reporting

While management monitors the revenue streams of the various products and services, the identifiable segments are not material and operations are managed and financial performance is evaluated on a Company-wide basis. Accordingly, all of the financial service operations are considered by management to be aggregated in one reportable operating segment.

### Stock-Based Compensation

Compensation cost is recognized for stock options, restricted stock awards (“RSAs”), and restricted stock units (“RSUs”) issued to employees and independent directors, based on the fair value of these awards at the date of the grant. A Black-Scholes model is utilized to estimate the fair value of stock options, while the market price of the Company’s common stock at the date of grant is used to estimate the fair value for RSAs and RSUs.

Compensation cost is recognized as expense over the required service period, generally defined as the vesting period. For awards with graded vesting, compensation cost is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for the entire award. The Company’s accounting policy is to recognize forfeitures as they occur.

### Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income consists of net income and other comprehensive income. Other comprehensive income includes unrealized gains and losses on available for sale securities, unrealized gains and losses on cash flow hedges, and changes in the funded status of the pension plan, which are also recognized as separate components of equity.

### Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior year amounts to conform to the current year presentation.

### Standards Effective in 2020

#### *ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326)*

Effective for periods after December 31, 2019, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326), which replaced the long-standing incurred loss model used in calculating the allowance for loan and lease losses with a more forward-looking, current expected credit loss model (“CECL” or the “CECL Standard”). Furthermore, the CECL Standard requires financial institutions to measure all expected credit losses for in-scope financial assets held at amortized cost at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts, including estimates of prepayments. It also applies to off-balance sheet credit exposures not accounted for as insurance (loan commitments, standby letters of credit, financial guarantees, and other similar instruments) and net investments in leases recognized by a lessor in accordance with Topic 842 on leases. Accordingly, financial institutions will now leverage forward-looking information to better inform their credit loss estimates. For the Company, this standard applies to loans held for investment, unfunded commitments, and securities held to maturity. In addition, the CECL Standard made changes to the accounting for available for sale debt securities. Credit losses on available for sale debt securities under the CECL Standard should be measured in a manner similar to legacy GAAP. However, the amendments in the CECL Standard require that credit losses be presented as an allowance for credit losses rather than as a write-down. The CECL Standard approach is an improvement because an entity is able to record reversals of credit losses (in situations in which the estimate of credit losses declines) in current period net income, which in turn should align the income statement recognition of credit losses with the reporting period in which changes occur. Although the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES” Act) provided the option to delay the adoption of the CECL Standard until the earlier of December 31, 2020 or the termination of the current national emergency declaration related to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Company adopted the CECL Standard in the first quarter of 2020 as previously planned using the modified retrospective method for all financial assets measured at amortized cost and off-balance sheet credit exposures. The adoption of the CECL Standard resulted in an initial increase of \$1.6 million to the allowance for credit losses and \$0.5 million to the reserve for unfunded commitments. The after-tax cumulative-effect adjustment of \$1.5 million was recorded in retained earnings as of January 1, 2020. Based on the credit quality of the Company’s securities portfolio, there was no initial adjustment to retained earnings for credit losses associated with debt securities held to maturity.

Results for reporting periods beginning after January 1, 2020 are presented under the CECL Standard while prior period amounts will continue to be reported in accordance with previously applicable GAAP.

*ASU 2017-04, Intangibles – Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment*

In January 2017, the FASB amended existing guidance to simplify the subsequent measurement of goodwill by eliminating Step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. The amendments require an entity to perform its annual, or interim, goodwill impairment test by comparing the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount and recognizing an impairment charge for the amount by which the carrying amount of the reporting unit exceeds its fair value, not to exceed the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. Additionally, an entity should consider income tax effects from any tax-deductible goodwill on the carrying amount of the reporting unit when measuring the goodwill impairment loss, if applicable. The amendments also eliminate the requirement for any reporting unit with a zero or negative carrying amount to perform a qualitative assessment and, if it fails that qualitative test, to perform Step 2 of the goodwill impairment test. The amendments are effective for public business entities that are an SEC filer, like the Company, for annual or interim goodwill impairment tests in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019. The amendments should be applied prospectively. An entity is required to disclose the nature of and reason for the change in accounting principle upon transition in the first annual period when the entity initially adopts the amendments. The adoption of ASU 2017-04 did not have an effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

*ASU 2018-15, Intangibles – Goodwill and Other – Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Customer's Accounting for Implementation Costs Incurred in a Cloud Computing Arrangement That is a Service Contract*

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-15 to align the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred in a hosting arrangement that is a service contract with the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred to develop or obtain internal-use software (and hosting arrangements that include an internal-use software license). The amendments in this ASU are effective for public business entities, like the Company, for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption of the amendments in this ASU is permitted, including adoption in any interim period. The amendments in this ASU should be applied either retrospectively or prospectively to all implementation costs incurred after the date of adoption. The adoption of ASU 2018-15 did not have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

## 2. SECURITIES

The following table summarizes the amortized cost and estimated fair value of the available for sale and held to maturity investment securities portfolio at December 31, 2020 and the corresponding amounts of gross unrealized gains and losses recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and gross unrecognized gains and losses, respectively:

	December 31, 2020			
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Available for sale:				
State and municipal obligations	\$ 40,448	\$ 1,650	\$ (10)	\$ 42,088
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	111,398	1,843	(6)	113,235
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	127,369	1,661	(226)	128,804
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	24,920	140	(253)	24,807
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	61,102	1,286	(52)	62,336
Other asset backed securities	24,250	—	(300)	23,950
Corporate bonds	56,500	195	(1,555)	55,140
Total available for sale	<u>445,987</u>	<u>6,775</u>	<u>(2,402)</u>	<u>450,360</u>
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Held to maturity:				
State and municipal obligations	23,715	1,406	—	25,121
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	6,272	227	—	6,499
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	18,511	489	(9)	18,991
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	13,069	625	—	13,694
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	24,133	887	—	25,020
Total held to maturity	<u>85,700</u>	<u>3,634</u>	<u>(9)</u>	<u>89,325</u>
Total securities	<u>\$ 531,687</u>	<u>\$ 10,409</u>	<u>\$ (2,411)</u>	<u>\$ 539,685</u>

As of December 31, 2020, none of the Company's available for sale debt securities were in an unrealized loss position due to credit and therefore no allowance for credit losses on available for sale debt securities was required. Additionally, the calculated allowance for credit losses on held to maturity securities was inconsequential given the high quality composition of the Company's held to maturity portfolio and therefore no allowance for credit losses was recorded. Accrued interest receivable on securities totaling \$1.4 million at December 31, 2020 was included in accrued interest receivable in the consolidated balance sheet and excluded from the amortized cost and estimated fair value totals in the table above.

The following table summarizes the amortized cost and estimated fair value of the available for sale and held to maturity investment securities portfolio at December 31, 2019 and the corresponding amounts of gross unrealized gains and losses therein:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019			
	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
<b>Available for sale:</b>				
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 50,833	\$ —	\$ (11)	\$ 50,822
U.S. GSE securities	5,000	—	(5)	4,995
State and municipal obligations	34,303	704	(43)	34,964
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	84,550	609	(468)	84,691
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	278,149	1,166	(1,464)	277,851
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	13,656	23	(70)	13,609
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	102,722	1,723	(289)	104,156
Other asset-backed securities	24,250	—	(849)	23,401
Corporate bonds	46,000	—	(2,198)	43,802
<b>Total available for sale</b>	<b>639,463</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>(5,397)</b>	<b>638,291</b>
<b>Held to maturity:</b>				
State and municipal obligations	41,008	809	—	41,817
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	8,142	5	(54)	8,093
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	39,936	624	(62)	40,498
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	17,215	102	(82)	17,235
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	27,337	191	(144)	27,384
<b>Total held to maturity</b>	<b>133,638</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>(342)</b>	<b>135,027</b>
<b>Total securities</b>	<b>\$ 773,101</b>	<b>\$ 5,956</b>	<b>\$ (5,739)</b>	<b>\$ 773,318</b>

The following table summarizes available for sale debt securities with gross unrealized losses for which an allowance for credit losses has not been recorded at December 31, 2020, aggregated by category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2020			
	Less than 12 months		Greater than 12 months	
	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
<b>Available for sale:</b>				
State and municipal obligations	\$ 5,310	\$ (10)	\$ —	\$ —
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	—	—	152	(6)
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	55,832	(226)	—	—
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	14,994	(253)	—	—
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	11,755	(52)	—	—
Other asset backed securities	—	—	3,450	(300)
Corporate bonds	7,927	(73)	29,518	(1,482)
<b>Total available for sale</b>	<b>\$ 95,818</b>	<b>\$ (614)</b>	<b>\$ 33,120</b>	<b>\$ (1,788)</b>

The following table summarizes securities with gross unrealized losses at December 31, 2019, aggregated by category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019			
	Less than 12 months		Greater than 12 months	
	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
Available for sale:				
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 50,822	\$ (11)	\$ —	\$ —
U.S. GSE securities	—	—	4,995	(5)
State and municipal obligations	4,982	(42)	76	(1)
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	2,935	(30)	39,617	(438)
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	81,377	(480)	93,403	(984)
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	6,648	(70)	—	—
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	28,710	(145)	9,614	(144)
Other asset-backed securities	—	—	23,401	(849)
Corporate bonds	—	—	43,802	(2,198)
Total available for sale	<u>\$ 175,474</u>	<u>\$ (778)</u>	<u>\$ 214,908</u>	<u>\$ (4,619)</u>
Held to maturity:				
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	—	—	7,268	(54)
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	6,750	(17)	6,105	(45)
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	—	—	5,034	(82)
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	13,038	(57)	4,300	(87)
Total held to maturity	<u>\$ 19,788</u>	<u>\$ (74)</u>	<u>\$ 22,707</u>	<u>\$ (268)</u>

#### Other-Than-Temporary Impairment

Management evaluates available for sale debt securities in unrealized loss positions to determine whether the impairment is due to credit-related factors or noncredit-related factors. Consideration is given to (1) the extent to which the fair value is less than cost, (2) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, and (3) the intent and ability of the Company to retain its investment in the security for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value.

At December 31, 2020, substantially all of the securities in an unrealized loss position had a variable interest rate and the cause of the temporary impairment was directly related to changes in interest rates. The Company generally views changes in fair value caused by changes in interest rates as temporary, which is consistent with its experience. Other asset backed securities are comprised of student loan backed bonds, which are guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Education for 97% to 100% of principal. Additionally, the bonds have credit support of 3% to 5% and have maintained their Aa3 Moody's rating during the time the Bank has owned them. The corporate bonds within the portfolio have all maintained an investment grade rating by either Moody's or Standard and Poor's. None of the unrealized losses is related to credit losses. The Company does not have the intent to sell these securities and it is more likely than not that it will not be required to sell the securities before their anticipated recovery. The issuers continue to make timely principal and interest payments on the debt. The fair value is expected to recover as the securities approach maturity. Therefore, the Company does not consider these securities to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2020.

#### Sales and Calls of Securities

There were \$153.0 million of proceeds on sales of available for sale securities with gross gains of approximately \$4.3 million and gross losses of approximately \$0.8 million realized in 2020. There were \$46.5 million of proceeds on sales of available for sale securities with gross gains of approximately \$0.2 million realized in 2019. There were \$230.4 million of proceeds on sales of available for sale securities with gross losses of approximately \$7.9 million realized in 2018. There were \$14.9 million, \$20.3 million and \$3.3 million of proceeds from calls of securities in 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.



### Pledged Securities

Securities having a fair value of \$402.8 million and \$402.2 million at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, were pledged to secure public deposits and FHLB and FRB overnight borrowings.

### Trading Securities

The Company did not hold any trading securities during the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019.

### Restricted Securities

The Bank is a member of the FHLB of New York. Members are required to own a particular amount of stock based on the level of borrowings and other factors, and may invest in additional amounts. The Bank is a member of the Atlantic Central Banker's Bank ("ACBB") and is required to own ACBB stock. The Bank is also a member of the FRB system and required to own FRB stock. FHLB, ACBB and FRB stock is carried at cost and periodically evaluated for impairment based on ultimate recovery of par value. Both cash and stock dividends are reported as income. The Bank owned \$23.4 million and \$32.9 million in FHLB, ACBB and FRB stock at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. These amounts were reported as restricted securities in the consolidated balance sheets.

As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, there was no issuer, other than the U.S. Government and its sponsored entities, where the Bank had invested holdings that exceeded 10% of consolidated stockholders' equity.

The following table summarizes the amortized cost and estimated fair value by contractual maturity of the available for sale and held to maturity investment securities portfolio at December 31, 2020. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2020	
	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
Maturity		
Available for sale:		
Within one year	\$ 4,131	\$ 4,116
One to five years	58,608	58,861
Five to ten years	38,415	38,597
Beyond ten years	344,833	348,786
Total	<u>\$ 445,987</u>	<u>\$ 450,360</u>
Held to maturity:		
Within one year	\$ 1,885	\$ 1,902
One to five years	23,140	24,452
Five to ten years	11,535	12,144
Beyond ten years	49,140	50,827
Total	<u>\$ 85,700</u>	<u>\$ 89,325</u>

### 3. FAIR VALUE

The Company adopted ASU 2016-01, *Financial Instruments – Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*, during the first quarter of 2018.

FASB ASC 820-10 defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. FASB ASC 820-10 also establishes a fair value hierarchy, which requires an entity

to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair values:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the entity has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect a reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

The following tables summarize assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

	December 31, 2020			
	Carrying Value	Fair Value Measurements Using:		
		Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
<b>Financial assets:</b>				
Available for sale securities:				
State and municipal obligations	\$ 42,088		\$ 42,088	
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	113,235		113,235	
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	128,804		128,804	
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	24,807		24,807	
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	62,336		62,336	
Other asset-backed securities	23,950		23,950	
Corporate bonds	55,140		55,140	
Total available for sale securities	<u>\$ 450,360</u>		<u>\$ 450,360</u>	
Derivatives	<u>\$ 49,662</u>		<u>\$ 49,662</u>	
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>				
Derivatives	<u>\$ 56,417</u>		<u>\$ 56,417</u>	
December 31, 2019				
	Fair Value Measurements Using:			
	Carrying Value	Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
<b>Financial assets:</b>				
Available for sale securities:				
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 50,822		\$ 50,822	
U.S. GSE securities	4,995		4,995	
State and municipal obligations	34,964		34,964	
U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities	84,691		84,691	
U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations	277,851		277,851	
U.S. GSE commercial mortgage-backed securities	13,609		13,609	
U.S. GSE commercial collateralized mortgage obligations	104,156		104,156	
Other asset-backed securities	23,401		23,401	
Corporate bonds	43,802		43,802	
Total available for sale securities	<u>\$ 638,291</u>		<u>\$ 638,291</u>	
Derivatives	<u>\$ 15,437</u>		<u>\$ 15,437</u>	
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>				
Derivatives	<u>\$ 16,645</u>		<u>\$ 16,645</u>	

The following tables summarize assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis:

		December 31, 2020			
		Fair Value Measurements Using:			
		Carrying Value	Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<i>(In thousands)</i>					
Loans held for sale	\$	52,785	\$ 42,785		\$ 10,000
Individually evaluated loans	\$	2,940			\$ 2,940

  

		December 31, 2019			
		Fair Value Measurements Using:			
		Carrying Value	Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<i>(In thousands)</i>					
Loans held for sale	\$	12,643			\$ 12,643
Impaired loans	\$	6,981			\$ 6,981

Loans held for sale at December 31, 2020 had a carrying amount of \$52.8 million which is net of a \$2.9 million valuation allowance. Loans held for sale at December 31, 2019 had a carrying amount of \$12.6 million with no valuation allowance recorded.

Individually evaluated commercial and industrial loans with an allowance for credit losses at December 31, 2020 had a carrying amount of \$2.9 million, which is made up of the outstanding balance of \$9.6 million, net of a valuation allowance of \$6.7 million. This resulted in an additional provision for credit losses of \$2.6 million that is included in the amount reported on the consolidated statements of income for the year ended December 31, 2020. Impaired loans (prior to the adoption of the CECL standard) with an allocated allowance for loan losses at December 31, 2019 had a carrying amount of \$7.0 million, which is made up of the outstanding balance of \$11.7 million, net of a valuation allowance of \$4.7 million.

There was no other real estate owned at December 31, 2020 and 2019. Accordingly, there was no additional provision for credit losses included in the amount reported on the consolidated statements of income.

The Company used the following methods and assumptions in estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

*Securities Available for Sale and Held to Maturity:* If available, the estimated fair values are based on independent dealer quotations on nationally recognized securities exchanges and are classified as Level 1. For securities where quoted prices are not available, fair value is based on matrix pricing, which is a mathematical technique widely used in the industry to value debt securities without relying exclusively on quoted prices for the specific securities but rather by relying on the securities' relationship to other benchmark quoted securities resulting in a Level 2 classification.

*Derivatives:* Represents interest rate swaps for which the estimated fair values are based on valuation models using observable market data as of the measurement date resulting in a Level 2 classification.

*Loans Held for Sale:* Loans held for sale are carried at the lower of cost or fair value. The fair value of loans held for sale is initially determined using the price we expect to receive for the loans based on commitments received from third-party investors. Thereafter, loans held for sale are re-evaluated quarterly to determine if a valuation allowance is required to adjust for a decline in fair value below the carrying amount. Subsequent fair value determinations are based on commitments received from third party investors and/or through appraisals using a single valuation approach or a combination of approaches including comparable sales and the income approach. Appraisals may be discounted for changes in market conditions. These valuation methods result in a Level 3 classification.

At December 31, 2020 the leveraged lending portfolio was reclassified to held for sale and sold in January 2021. The estimated fair values at December 31, 2020 were based on the observable market prices for the loans, resulting in a Level 1 classification.

*Individually Evaluated Loans with an ACL (Impaired Loans with an ACL prior to the adoption of the CECL Standard) and Other Real Estate Owned:* For collateral dependent loans where the Company has determined that foreclosure of the collateral is probable, or where the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty and the Company expects repayment of the loan to be provided substantially through the operation or sale of the collateral, the ACL is measured based on the difference between the fair value of the collateral and the amortized cost basis of the loan as of the measurement date. The fair value of real estate collateral is determined based on recent appraised values. The fair value of other real estate owned is also determined based on recent appraised values less the estimated cost to sell. These appraisals may utilize a single valuation approach or a combination of approaches including comparable sales and the income approach. Adjustments are routinely made in the appraisal process by the independent appraisers to adjust for differences between the comparable sales and income data available. Adjustments may relate to location, square footage, condition, amenities, market rate of leases as well as timing of comparable sales. All appraisals undergo a second review process to ensure that the methodology employed and the values derived are reasonable. Non-real estate collateral, which includes inventory and taxi medallions, may be valued using an appraisal, net book value per the borrower's financial statements, aging reports, or by reference to market activity, adjusted or discounted based on management's historical knowledge, changes in market conditions from the time of the valuation and management's expertise and knowledge of the borrower and its business. These valuation methods result in a Level 3 classification.

Appraisals for collateral-dependent loans are performed by certified general appraisers (for commercial properties) or certified residential appraisers (for residential properties) whose qualifications and licenses have been reviewed and verified by the Company. Once received, the Appraisal and Credit Departments review the assumptions and approaches utilized in the appraisal as well as the overall resulting fair value in comparison with independent data sources such as recent market data or industry-wide statistics. Management also considers the appraisal values for commercial properties associated with current loan origination activity. Collectively, this information is reviewed to help assess current trends in commercial property values. For each collateral dependent loan, management considers information that relates to the type of property to determine if such properties may have appreciated or depreciated in value since the date of the most recent appraisal. Adjustments to fair value are made only when the analysis indicates a probable decline in collateral values. Adjustments made in the appraisal process are not deemed material to the overall consolidated financial statements given the level of collateral dependent loans measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis.

The following tables summarize the estimated fair values and recorded carrying amounts of the Company's financial instruments at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2020				
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value Measurements Using:			Total Fair Value
		Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
<b>Financial assets:</b>					
Cash and due from banks	\$ 107,729	\$ 107,729	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 107,729
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	769,099	769,099	—	—	769,099
Securities available for sale	450,360	—	450,360	—	450,360
Securities restricted	23,362	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Securities held to maturity	85,700	—	89,325	—	89,325
Loans held for sale	52,785	42,785	—	10,000	52,785
Loans, net	4,553,203	—	—	4,554,333	4,554,333
Derivatives	49,662	—	49,662	—	49,662
Accrued interest receivable	16,566	—	1,421	15,145	16,566
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>					
Certificates of deposit	288,445	—	290,971	—	290,971
Demand and other deposits	5,200,808	5,200,808	—	—	5,200,808
FHLB advances	215,000	—	221,665	—	221,665
Repurchase agreements	1,223	—	1,223	—	1,223
Subordinated debentures	79,059	—	86,704	—	86,704
Derivatives	56,417	—	56,417	—	56,417
Accrued interest payable	881	—	881	—	881

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019				
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value Measurements Using:			Total Fair Value
		Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
<b>Financial assets:</b>					
Cash and due from banks	\$ 77,693	\$ 77,693	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 77,693
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	39,501	39,501	—	—	39,501
Securities available for sale	638,291	—	638,291	—	638,291
Securities restricted	32,879	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Securities held to maturity	133,638	—	135,027	—	135,027
Loans held for sale	12,643	—	—	12,643	12,643
Loans, net	3,647,499	—	—	3,685,770	3,685,770
Derivatives	15,437	—	15,437	—	15,437
Accrued interest receivable	10,908	—	2,181	8,727	10,908
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>					
Certificates of deposit	307,977	—	308,660	—	308,660
Demand and other deposits	3,506,670	3,506,670	—	—	3,506,670
FHLB advances	435,000	195,000	239,622	—	434,622
Repurchase agreements	999	—	999	—	999
Subordinated debentures	78,920	—	81,010	—	81,010
Derivatives	16,645	—	16,645	—	16,645
Accrued interest payable	1,467	—	1,467	—	1,467

#### 4. LOANS

The following table sets forth the major classifications of loans:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	<b>December 31, 2020</b>	December 31, 2019
Commercial real estate mortgage loans:		
Owner occupied	\$ 557,076	\$ 531,088
Non-owner occupied	1,081,443	1,034,599
Multi-family mortgage loans	899,730	812,174
Residential real estate mortgage loans	434,689	493,144
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans	1,527,147	679,444
Real estate construction and land loans	82,479	97,311
Installment/consumer loans	23,019	24,836
Total loans	4,605,583	3,672,596
Net deferred loan (fees) costs	(8,180)	7,689
Total loans held for investment	4,597,403	3,680,285
Allowance for credit losses	(44,200)	(32,786)
Loans, net	\$ 4,553,203	\$ 3,647,499

Included in commercial, industrial and agricultural loans at December 31, 2020 was \$844.7 million of Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) loans. These loans are expected to be fully guaranteed by the SBA and have a nominal allowance for credit losses allocated to them based on the nature of the guarantee. The shift from net deferred loan costs at December 31, 2019 to net deferred loan fees at December 31, 2020 was the result of the net deferred loan fees associated with the PPP loans.

Accrued interest receivable on loans totaling \$15.1 million at December 31, 2020 and \$8.7 million at December 31, 2019 was included in accrued interest receivable in the consolidated balance sheet and excluded from the table above. The increase in accrued interest receivable from December 31, 2019 relates primarily to accrued interest on PPP loans.

Loans held for sale, which are not included in the table above, totaled \$52.8 million at December 31, 2020 and \$12.6 million at December 31, 2019. In December 2020, the Company made a decision to dispose of its \$43.0 million leveraged lending portfolio which was previously included in commercial, industrial and agricultural loans. As of December 31, 2020, the leveraged lending portfolio was reclassified from loans held for investment to loans held for sale and written down by \$234 thousand to the estimated fair value of the loans in this portfolio of \$42.8 million through a valuation allowance which was charged against non-interest income in the consolidated statements of income. As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, one commercial real estate (“CRE”) mortgage loan totaling \$10.0 million and \$12.6 million, respectively, was classified as held for sale. The loan was reclassified from loans held for investment to loans held for sale and written down from \$16.3 million to the loan’s estimated fair value of \$12.6 million as of June 30, 2019, through a \$3.7 million charge-off during the 2019 second quarter. During the 2020 second quarter, an additional write-down was recognized for the decrease in the estimated fair value of the loan by \$2.6 million to \$10.0 million through a valuation allowance which was charged against non-interest income in the consolidated statements of income.

#### Lending Risk

The principal business of the Bank is lending in CRE mortgage loans, multi-family mortgage loans, residential real estate mortgage loans, construction loans, home equity loans, commercial, industrial and agricultural loans, land loans and consumer loans. The Bank considers its primary lending area to be Nassau and Suffolk Counties located on Long Island and the New York City boroughs. A substantial portion of the Bank’s loans is secured by real estate in these areas. Accordingly, the ultimate collectability of the loan portfolio is susceptible to changes in market and economic conditions in this region.

#### *Commercial Real Estate Mortgages*

Loans in this classification include income producing investment properties and owner-occupied real estate used for business purposes. The underlying properties are located largely in the Bank’s primary market area. The cash flows of the income producing investment properties are adversely impacted by a downturn in the economy as evidenced by increased vacancy rates, which in turn, will have an effect on credit quality. Generally, management seeks to obtain annual financial

information for borrowers with loans in excess of \$1.0 million in this category. In the case of owner-occupied real estate used for business purposes, a weakened economy and resultant decreased consumer and/or business spending will have an adverse effect on credit quality.

#### *Multi-Family Mortgages*

Loans in this classification include income producing residential investment properties of five or more families. Loans are made to established owners with a proven and demonstrable record of strong performance. Loans are secured by a first mortgage lien on the subject property with a loan to value ratio generally not exceeding 75%. Repayment is derived generally from the rental income generated from the property and may be supplemented by the owners' personal cash flow. Credit risk arises with an increase in vacancy rates, property mismanagement and the predominance of non-recourse loans that are customary in the industry.

#### *Residential Real Estate Mortgages and Home Equity Loans*

Loans in these classifications are generally secured by owner-occupied residential real estate and repayment is dependent on the credit quality of the individual borrower. The overall health of the economy, including unemployment rates and housing prices, can have an effect on the credit quality in this loan class. The Bank generally does not originate loans with a loan-to-value ratio greater than 80% and does not grant subprime loans.

#### *Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Loans*

Loans in this classification are made to businesses and include term loans, lines of credit, senior secured loans to corporations, equipment financing and taxi medallion loans. Generally, these loans are secured by assets of the business and repayment is expected from the cash flows of the business. A weakened economy, and resultant decreased consumer and/or business spending, will have an effect on the credit quality in this loan class.

#### *Real Estate Construction and Land Loans*

Loans in this classification primarily include land loans to local individuals, contractors and developers for developing the land for sale or for the purpose of making improvements thereon. Repayment is derived primarily from sale of the lots/units including any pre-sold units. Credit risk is affected by market conditions, time to sell at an adequate price and cost overruns. To a lesser extent, this class includes commercial development projects that the Company finances, which in most cases require interest only during construction, and then convert to permanent financing. Construction delays, cost overruns, market conditions and the availability of permanent financing, to the extent such permanent financing is not being provided by the Bank, all affect the credit risk in this loan class.

#### *Installment and Consumer Loans*

Loans in this classification may be either secured or unsecured. Repayment is dependent on the credit quality of the individual borrower and, if applicable, sale of the collateral securing the loan, such as automobiles. Therefore, the overall health of the economy, including unemployment rates and housing prices, will have an effect on the credit quality in this loan class.

#### *Credit Quality Indicators*

The Company categorizes loans into risk categories of pass, watch, special mention, substandard and doubtful based on relevant information about the ability of borrowers to service their debt including repayment patterns, past loss experience, current economic conditions, and various types of concentrations of credit. Assigned risk rating grades are continuously updated as new information is obtained. Loans risk rated special mention, substandard and doubtful are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The Company uses the following definitions for risk rating grades:

*Pass:* Loans classified as pass include current loans performing in accordance with contractual terms, pools of homogenous residential real estate and installment/consumer loans that are not individually risk rated and loans which do not exhibit certain risk factors that require greater than usual monitoring by management.

*Watch:* Loans classified as watch are considered pass rated loans. These loans carry additional risk factors above those of pass loans but do not have all the risk characteristics of loans classified as special mention. Such risk factors require monitoring and if left uncorrected, could lead these loans to be downgraded.

*Special mention:* Loans classified as special mention, while generally not delinquent, have potential weaknesses that deserve management's close attention. If left uncorrected, these potential weaknesses may result in deterioration of the repayment prospects for the loan or in the Bank's credit position at some future date.

*Substandard:* Loans classified as substandard have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the liquidation of the debt. There is a distinct possibility that the Bank will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected.

*Doubtful:* Loans classified as doubtful have all the weaknesses inherent in a substandard loan, may also be in delinquency status and have defined weaknesses based on currently existing facts, conditions and values making collection or liquidation in full highly questionable and improbable.



The following tables represent loans categorized by internally assigned risk grades as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019. In the December 31, 2020 table, the years noted represent the year of origination for non-revolving loans.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2020								Total
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015 and Prior	Revolving	Revolving-Term	
<b>Commercial real estate owner occupied:</b>									
Pass	\$ 92,053	\$ 96,679	\$ 47,224	\$ 66,320	\$ 25,852	\$ 153,766	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 481,894
Watch	727	1,373	8,038	10,737	3,425	23,919	—	—	48,219
Special mention	1,843	—	3,875	10,857	823	4,600	—	—	21,998
Substandard	469	553	—	—	2,426	1,517	—	—	4,965
<b>Total commercial real estate owner occupied</b>	<b>95,092</b>	<b>98,605</b>	<b>59,137</b>	<b>87,914</b>	<b>32,526</b>	<b>183,802</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>557,076</b>
<b>Commercial real estate non-owner occupied:</b>									
Pass	181,811	249,782	108,086	180,235	54,252	214,620	—	—	988,786
Watch	7,314	7,700	12,845	12,117	12,209	24,089	—	—	76,274
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	290	—	—	290
Substandard	—	—	—	9,006	6,038	1,049	—	—	16,093
<b>Total commercial real estate non-owner occupied</b>	<b>189,125</b>	<b>257,482</b>	<b>120,931</b>	<b>201,358</b>	<b>72,499</b>	<b>240,048</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,081,443</b>
<b>Multi-family:</b>									
Pass	159,301	293,752	40,840	86,169	118,846	106,044	—	—	804,952
Watch	15,436	2,724	—	19,331	35,976	12,825	—	—	86,292
Special mention	—	—	—	8,098	—	388	—	—	8,486
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total multi-family</b>	<b>174,737</b>	<b>296,476</b>	<b>40,840</b>	<b>113,598</b>	<b>154,822</b>	<b>119,257</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>899,730</b>
<b>Residential real estate:</b>									
Pass	20,033	32,564	71,903	95,712	23,589	106,518	53,217	7,012	410,548
Watch	—	—	406	321	541	1,740	—	1,145	4,153
Special mention	—	1,103	758	—	—	6,879	818	633	10,191
Substandard	—	466	569	937	—	6,967	—	858	9,797
<b>Total residential real estate</b>	<b>20,033</b>	<b>34,133</b>	<b>73,636</b>	<b>96,970</b>	<b>24,130</b>	<b>122,104</b>	<b>54,035</b>	<b>9,648</b>	<b>434,689</b>
<b>Commercial, industrial and agricultural:</b>									
Pass	949,257	62,410	30,736	17,646	12,685	26,606	304,781	5,086	1,409,207
Watch	8,062	6,140	8,265	1,574	1,188	3,048	40,448	1,527	70,252
Special mention	2,914	838	572	1,507	545	1,323	18,984	2,073	28,756
Substandard	—	905	1,233	3,514	470	9,660	200	2,950	18,932
<b>Total commercial, industrial and agricultural</b>	<b>960,233</b>	<b>70,293</b>	<b>40,806</b>	<b>24,241</b>	<b>14,888</b>	<b>40,637</b>	<b>364,413</b>	<b>11,636</b>	<b>1,527,147</b>
<b>Real estate construction and land loans:</b>									
Pass	37,684	20,948	8,229	11,308	—	1,701	—	—	79,870
Watch	—	—	—	1,150	—	270	—	—	1,420
Special mention	—	—	1,078	—	—	—	—	—	1,078
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	111	—	—	111
<b>Total real estate construction and land loans</b>	<b>37,684</b>	<b>20,948</b>	<b>9,307</b>	<b>12,458</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>82,479</b>
<b>Installment/consumer loans</b>									
Pass	1,656	215	166	93	—	710	17,382	1,257	21,479
Watch	—	—	—	—	—	—	496	40	536
Special mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	46
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	908	958
<b>Total installment/consumer loans</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>17,928</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>23,019</b>
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>\$ 1,478,560</b>	<b>\$ 778,152</b>	<b>\$ 344,823</b>	<b>\$ 536,632</b>	<b>\$ 298,865</b>	<b>\$ 708,640</b>	<b>\$ 436,376</b>	<b>\$ 23,535</b>	<b>\$ 4,605,583</b>

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019				
	Pass	Special Mention	Substandard	Doubtful	Total
<b>Commercial real estate:</b>					
Owner occupied	\$ 511,444	\$ 18,426	\$ 1,218	\$ —	\$ 531,088
Non-owner occupied	1,022,208	—	12,391	—	1,034,599
Multi-family	811,770	404	—	—	812,174
Residential real estate	475,949	12,400	4,795	—	493,144
Commercial, industrial and agricultural	643,413	15,670	20,361	—	679,444
Real estate construction and land loans	95,530	—	1,781	—	97,311
Installment/consumer loans	23,976	103	757	—	24,836
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 3,584,290</b>	<b>\$ 47,003</b>	<b>\$ 41,303</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 3,672,596</b>

### Past Due and Non-accrual Loans

The following tables represent the aging of past due loans as of December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2020						
	30-59 Days Past Due	60-89 Days Past Due	90+ Days Past Due And Accruing	Non-accrual Including 90 Days or More Past Due	Total Past Due and Non-accrual	Current	Total Loans
Commercial real estate:							
Owner occupied	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 636	\$ 636	\$ 556,440	\$ 557,076
Non-owner occupied	—	—	—	6,771	6,771	1,074,672	1,081,443
Multi-family	—	—	—	—	—	899,730	899,730
Residential real estate	3,567	949	—	2,897	7,413	427,276	434,689
Commercial, industrial and agricultural	2,711	4,072	—	1,597	8,380	1,518,767	1,527,147
Real estate construction and land loans	210	—	—	111	321	82,158	82,479
Installment/consumer loans	100	4	—	150	254	22,765	23,019
Total loans	<u>\$ 6,588</u>	<u>\$ 5,025</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 12,162</u>	<u>\$ 23,775</u>	<u>\$ 4,581,808</u>	<u>\$ 4,605,583</u>

In the absence of other intervening factors, loans granted payment deferrals related to COVID-19 are not reported as past due or placed on non-accrual status provided the borrowers have met the criteria in the CARES Act or otherwise have met the criteria included in an interagency statement issued by bank regulatory agencies.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, there was \$93 thousand in interest earned on non-accrual loans and \$406 thousand in accrued interest on non-accrual loans was reversed through interest income.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019						
	30-59 Days Past Due	60-89 Days Past Due	90+ Days Past Due And Accruing	Non-accrual Including 90 Days or More Past Due	Total Past Due and Non-accrual	Current	Total Loans
Commercial real estate:							
Owner occupied	\$ 917	\$ 433	\$ —	\$ 225	\$ 1,575	\$ 529,513	\$ 531,088
Non-owner occupied	98	—	—	512	610	1,033,989	1,034,599
Multi-family	—	—	—	—	—	812,174	812,174
Residential real estate	3,053	747	343	2,743	6,886	486,258	493,144
Commercial, industrial and agricultural	273	721	—	736	1,730	677,714	679,444
Real estate construction and land loans	—	—	—	123	123	97,188	97,311
Installment/consumer loans	124	—	—	30	154	24,682	24,836
Total loans	<u>\$ 4,465</u>	<u>\$ 1,901</u>	<u>\$ 343</u>	<u>\$ 4,369</u>	<u>\$ 11,078</u>	<u>\$ 3,661,518</u>	<u>\$ 3,672,596</u>

There was no other real estate owned at December 31, 2020 and 2019.

### Troubled Debt Restructurings

The terms of certain loans were modified and are considered TDRs. The modification of the terms of such loans generally includes one or a combination of the following: a reduction of the stated interest rate of the loan; an extension of the maturity date at a stated rate of interest lower than the current market rate for new debt with similar risk; or a permanent reduction of the recorded investment in the loan. The modification of these loans involved loans to borrowers who were experiencing financial difficulties.

In order to determine whether a borrower is experiencing financial difficulty, an evaluation is performed to determine if that borrower is currently in payment default under any of its obligations or whether there is a probability that the borrower will be in payment default on any of its debt in the foreseeable future without the modification.

The following table presents loans modified as troubled debt restructurings during the years indicated:

	Modifications During the Year Ended December 31,								
	2020			2019			2018		
	Number of Loans	Pre- Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post- Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Number of Loans	Pre- Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post- Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Number of Loans	Pre- Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post- Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>									
Commercial real estate:									
Owner occupied	—	\$ —	\$ —	3	\$ 8,582	\$ 8,582	—	\$ —	\$ —
Non-owner occupied	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	926	926
Residential real estate	—	—	—	1	338	338	1	644	644
Commercial, industrial and agricultural	3	1,138	1,138	15	12,828	12,828	10	7,649	7,649
Installment/consumer loans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$ 1,138</b>	<b>\$ 1,138</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$ 21,748</b>	<b>\$ 21,748</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$ 9,219</b>	<b>\$ 9,219</b>

There were \$1.7 million, \$0.1 million and \$0.4 million of charge-offs related to TDRs during the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2020 there was one loan modified as a TDR for which there was a payment default within twelve months following the modification. There were two loans modified as TDRs during 2019 and one loan modified as a TDR during 2018 for which there was a payment default within twelve months following the modification. A loan is considered to be in payment default once it is 30 days contractually past due under the modified terms.

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Company had \$346 thousand and \$405 thousand, respectively, of non-accrual TDRs and \$22.2 million and \$26.3 million, respectively, of performing TDRs. The decrease in performing TDRs is primarily due to one TDR relationship which became non-accrual during the 2020 second quarter and totaled \$2.7 million at June 30, 2020. In the 2020 third quarter, a settlement agreement was entered into resulting in \$1.4 million in payments and a charge-off totaling \$1.3 million. At December 31, 2020, three non-accrual TDRs totaling \$130 thousand were unsecured and one non-accrual TDR totaling \$216 thousand was secured and at December 31, 2019, the non-accrual TDRs were unsecured. The Bank has no commitment to lend additional funds to these debtors.

The terms of certain other loans were modified during the year ended December 31, 2020 that did not meet the definition of a TDR. These loans have a total recorded investment at December 31, 2020 of \$191.1 million. These loans were to borrowers who were not experiencing financial difficulties.

In connection with the COVID-19 relief provided by the CARES Act and interagency guidance issued in March 2020, the Company is supporting its customers who may experience financial difficulty due to COVID-19 through loan moratoriums and forbearance programs. The Company began offering 90-day payment modifications on a case-by-case basis to those customers whose income was adversely impacted by COVID-19. The loan modifications in this program primarily consist of three-month deferrals of interest and principal payments. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis. As of December 31, 2020, approximately 500 loans totaling \$635 million were granted payment moratoriums during 2020. These deferrals are not considered TDRs based on the CARES Act and/or the interagency guidance. As of January 21, 2021, \$76.1 million in moratoriums were outstanding.

#### Collateral Dependent Loans

At December 31, 2020, the Company had collateral dependent loans which were individually evaluated to determine expected credit losses. Collateral dependent commercial, industrial and agricultural loans totaled \$9.6 million and had a related allowance for credit losses totaling \$6.7 million. The loans were secured by taxi medallions. Collateral dependent commercial real estate loans totaled \$10.8 million and had no related allowance for credit losses.

#### Impaired Loans (prior to the adoption of the CECL Standard)

At December 31, 2019 the Company had individually impaired loans as defined by FASB ASC 310, "Receivables" of \$27.0 million. For a loan to be considered impaired, management determines after review whether it is probable that the Bank will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Management applies its normal loan review procedures in making these judgments. Impaired loans include individually classified non-

accrual loans and TDRs. At December 31, 2019 impaired loans included \$1.1 million in other impaired performing loans related to borrowers with other performing TDRs. For impaired loans, the Bank evaluates the impairment of the loan in accordance with FASB ASC 310-10-35-22. Impairment is determined based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate. For loans that are collateral dependent, the fair value of the collateral is used to determine the fair value of the loan. The fair value of the collateral is determined based on recent appraised values. The fair value of the collateral or present value of expected cash flows is compared to the carrying value to determine if any write-down or specific loan loss allowance allocation is required.

The following tables set forth the recorded investment, unpaid principal balance and related allowance for individually impaired loans at December 31, 2019 and 2018. The tables also set forth the average recorded investment of individually impaired loans and interest income recognized while the loans were impaired during the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019			Year Ended December 31, 2019	
	Recorded Investment	Unpaid Principal Balance	Related Allocated Allowance	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized
<i>With no related allowance recorded:</i>					
Commercial real estate:					
Owner occupied	\$ 3,379	\$ 3,401	\$ —	\$ 1,286	\$ 41
Non-owner occupied	2,296	2,296	—	2,149	99
Residential real estate:					
Residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity	294	300	—	74	—
Commercial, industrial and agricultural:					
Secured	494	494	—	287	18
Unsecured	8,863	8,863	—	6,601	411
<b>Total with no related allowance recorded</b>	<b>15,326</b>	<b>15,354</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10,397</b>	<b>569</b>
<i>With an allowance recorded:</i>					
Commercial real estate:					
Owner occupied	—	—	—	—	—
Non-owner occupied	—	—	—	—	—
Residential real estate:					
Residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial, industrial and agricultural:					
Secured	9,612	9,612	3,435	6,189	223
Unsecured	2,045	2,051	1,241	1,838	86
<b>Total with an allowance recorded</b>	<b>11,657</b>	<b>11,663</b>	<b>4,676</b>	<b>8,027</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>Total:</b>					
Commercial real estate:					
Owner occupied	3,379	3,401	—	1,286	41
Non-owner occupied	2,296	2,296	—	2,149	99
Residential real estate:					
Residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity	294	300	—	74	—
Commercial, industrial and agricultural:					
Secured	10,106	10,106	3,435	6,476	241
Unsecured	10,908	10,914	1,241	8,439	497
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,983</b>	<b>\$ 27,017</b>	<b>\$ 4,676</b>	<b>\$ 18,424</b>	<b>\$ 878</b>

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2018			Year Ended December 31, 2018	
	Recorded Investment	Unpaid Principal Balance	Related Allocated Allowance	Average Recorded Investment	Interest Income Recognized
<b>With no related allowance recorded:</b>					
Commercial real estate:					
Owner occupied	\$ 268	\$ 278	\$ —	\$ 177	\$ —
Non-owner occupied	2,816	2,816	—	1,583	88
Residential real estate:					
Residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial, industrial and agricultural:					
Secured	8,234	8,234	—	5,644	196
Unsecured	5,316	5,316	—	5,127	284
<b>Total with no related allowance recorded</b>	<b>16,634</b>	<b>16,644</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,531</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>With an allowance recorded:</b>					
Commercial real estate:					
Owner occupied	—	—	—	—	—
Non-owner occupied	—	—	—	—	—
Residential real estate:					
Residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial, industrial and agricultural:					
Secured	2,721	2,721	189	2,757	91
Unsecured	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total with an allowance recorded</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Total:</b>					
Commercial real estate:					
Owner occupied	268	278	—	177	—
Non-owner occupied	2,816	2,816	—	1,583	88
Residential real estate:					
Residential mortgages	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial, industrial and agricultural:					
Secured	10,955	10,955	189	8,401	287
Unsecured	5,316	5,316	—	5,127	284
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 19,355</b>	<b>\$ 19,365</b>	<b>\$ 189</b>	<b>\$ 15,288</b>	<b>\$ 659</b>

The recorded investment in loans excludes accrued interest receivable and loan origination fees, net due to immateriality. For purposes of this disclosure, the unpaid principal balance is not reduced for partial charge-offs.

#### Related Party Loans

Certain directors, executive officers, and their related parties, including their immediate families and companies in which they are principal owners, were loan customers of the Bank during 2020 and 2019.

The following table sets forth selected information about related party loans for the year ended December 31, 2020:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31, 2020
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 12,349
New loans	724
Repayments	(1,575)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 11,498</u>

The following tables represent the changes in the allowance for credit losses for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31, 2020						Total
	Commercial Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Multi-family Loans	Residential Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Loans	Real Estate Construction and Land Loans	Installment/Consumer Loans	
Allowance for credit losses:							
Beginning balance, prior to adoption of CECL	\$ 12,150	\$ 4,829	\$ 1,882	\$ 12,583	\$ 1,066	\$ 276	\$ 32,786
Impact of adopting CECL	(7,712)	(3,589)	2,182	8,699	1,274	771	1,625
Charge-offs	(1)	—	—	(2,004)	—	(7)	(2,012)
Recoveries	—	—	3	298	—	—	301
Provision (credit) for credit losses	4,097	496	(1,005)	7,787	(165)	290	11,500
Ending balance	\$ 8,534	\$ 1,736	\$ 3,062	\$ 27,363	\$ 2,175	\$ 1,330	\$ 44,200

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31, 2019						Total
	Commercial Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Multi-family Loans	Residential Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Loans	Real Estate Construction and Land Loans	Installment/Consumer Loans	
Allowance for credit losses:							
Beginning balance	\$ 10,792	\$ 2,566	\$ 3,935	\$ 12,722	\$ 1,297	\$ 106	\$ 31,418
Charge-offs	(3,670)	—	—	(799)	—	(13)	(4,482)
Recoveries	1	—	112	25	—	12	150
Provision (credit) for credit losses	5,027	2,263	(2,165)	635	(231)	171	5,700
Ending balance	\$ 12,150	\$ 4,829	\$ 1,882	\$ 12,583	\$ 1,066	\$ 276	\$ 32,786

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31, 2018						Total
	Commercial Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Multi-family Loans	Residential Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Loans	Real Estate Construction and Land Loans	Installment/Consumer Loans	
Allowance for credit losses:							
Beginning balance	\$ 11,048	\$ 4,521	\$ 2,438	\$ 12,838	\$ 740	\$ 122	\$ 31,707
Charge-offs	—	—	(24)	(2,806)	—	(11)	(2,841)
Recoveries	—	—	3	747	—	2	752
(Credit) provision for credit losses	(256)	(1,955)	1,518	1,943	557	(7)	1,800
Ending balance	\$ 10,792	\$ 2,566	\$ 3,935	\$ 12,722	\$ 1,297	\$ 106	\$ 31,418

The increase in allowance for credit losses in the first half of 2020 was primarily related to the reasonable and supportable forecast component of the newly adopted CECL Standard which includes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a profound impact on economic activity. While there have been some signs of economic improvement during the latter half of 2020, significant uncertainty remains. Management still believes that the economic recovery will continue during 2021 and 2022, however, based on the aforementioned uncertainty and negative impact the virus has had to date, the decision was made to maintain the current risk level for the reasonable and supportable forecast component of the allowance for credit losses as of December 31, 2020.

The following table represents the balance in the allowance for loan losses and the recorded investment in loans, as defined under FASB ASC 310-10 (prior to adoption of the CECL Standard), and based on impairment method as of December 31, 2019:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2019						
	Commercial Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Multi-family Loans	Residential Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Loans	Real Estate Construction and Land Loans	Installment/Consumer Loans	Total
<b>Allowance for loan losses:</b>							
Individually evaluated for impairment	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,676	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,676
Collectively evaluated for impairment	12,150	4,829	1,882	7,907	1,066	276	28,110
Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total allowance for loan losses</b>	<b>\$ 12,150</b>	<b>\$ 4,829</b>	<b>\$ 1,882</b>	<b>\$ 12,583</b>	<b>\$ 1,066</b>	<b>\$ 276</b>	<b>\$ 32,786</b>
<b>Loans:</b>							
Individually evaluated for impairment	\$ 5,675	\$ —	\$ 294	\$ 21,014	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 26,983
Collectively evaluated for impairment	1,560,012	812,174	492,507	658,430	97,311	24,836	3,645,270
Loans acquired with deteriorated credit quality	—	—	343	—	—	—	343
<b>Total loans</b>	<b>\$ 1,565,687</b>	<b>\$ 812,174</b>	<b>\$ 493,144</b>	<b>\$ 679,444</b>	<b>\$ 97,311</b>	<b>\$ 24,836</b>	<b>\$ 3,672,596</b>

The recorded investment in loans excludes accrued interest receivable and loan origination fees, net due to immateriality.

## 5. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT, NET

The following table details the components of premises and equipment:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Land	\$ 7,896	\$ 7,896
Building and improvements	17,391	17,271
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	28,682	25,288
Leasehold improvements	13,355	12,356
	67,324	62,811
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(32,452)	(28,749)
<b>Total premises and equipment, net</b>	<b>\$ 34,872</b>	<b>\$ 34,062</b>

Depreciation and amortization amounted to \$4.3 million, \$4.3 million and \$3.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

## 6. LEASES

The Company has operating leases for certain branch locations, corporate offices and equipment. Certain leases contain rent escalation clauses, which are reflected in the Company's operating lease liabilities. The Company's lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees, restrictions or covenants.

The components of lease cost were as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Lease cost		
Operating lease cost	\$ 7,643	\$ 7,038
Sublease income	(37)	(95)
Total lease cost	<u>\$ 7,606</u>	<u>\$ 6,943</u>

The Company reports lease cost in occupancy and equipment expense in the consolidated statements of income. The Company subleases a portion of its leased properties to commercial sublessees. Sublease income is included in other operating income in the consolidated statements of income.

Supplemental cash flow and balance sheet information related to operating leases were as follows:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities		
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$ 7,363	\$ 7,019
Operating right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for lease liabilities	\$ 7,843	\$ 48,101

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
Weighted-average remaining lease term-operating leases	7.6 years	7.8 years
Weighted-average discount rate-operating leases <sup>(1)</sup>	2.91 %	3.20 %

(1) The Company computes the present value of operating lease liabilities using its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Certain leases contain renewal options which are not reflected in the tables below. The exercise of renewal options, which extend the lease term from five to ten years, is at the Company's discretion.

The maturities of operating lease liabilities were as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31, 2020
2021	\$ 7,387
2022	7,260
2023	6,548
2024	6,297
2025	6,177
Thereafter	18,649
Total operating lease payments	\$ 52,318
Less: Interest	(5,605)
Present value of operating lease liabilities	<u>\$ 46,713</u>



## 7. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

FASB ASC 350, Intangibles — Goodwill and Other, requires a company to perform an impairment test on goodwill annually, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstance indicate that the asset might be impaired, by comparing the fair value of such goodwill to its recorded or carrying amount. If the carrying amount of goodwill exceeds the fair value, an impairment charge must be recorded in an amount equal to the excess. The FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, “Testing Goodwill for Impairment,” which permits an entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test described in Topic 350. The more-likely-than-not threshold is defined as having a likelihood of more than 50 percent.

### Goodwill

At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the carrying amount of the Company’s goodwill was \$106.0 million.

The Company tested goodwill for impairment during the fourth quarter of 2020. The Company has one reporting unit, Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., and evaluated goodwill at that reporting unit level. The Company elected to perform a qualitative assessment to determine if it was more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit exceeded its carrying value, including goodwill. The qualitative assessment indicated that it was more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit exceeded its carrying value and no further testing was required. The results of this assessment indicated that goodwill was not impaired.

### Other Intangible Assets

The Company’s other intangible assets consist of core deposit intangibles, a trademark, and servicing assets. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the carrying amount of the Company’s servicing assets was \$1.7 million and \$1.3 million, respectively.

### Acquired Intangible Assets

The following table reflects acquired intangible assets:

	December 31,			
	2020		2019	
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Intangible assets subject to amortization:				
Core deposit intangibles	\$ 7,211	\$ 5,769	\$ 7,211	\$ 5,113
Intangible assets not subject to amortization:				
Trademark	259	—	259	—
<b>Total intangible assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,470</b>	<b>\$ 5,769</b>	<b>\$ 7,470</b>	<b>\$ 5,113</b>

Aggregate amortization expense for intangible assets with finite lives for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, and 2018 was \$0.7 million, \$0.8 million, and \$0.9 million, respectively.

The Company acquired a trademark related to the Bank’s name change from “Bridgehampton National Bank” to “BNB Bank” during the year ended December 31, 2017. At December 31, 2020 and 2019, the carrying amount of the Company’s trademark was \$259 thousand.

The following table reflects estimated amortization expense for each of the next five years:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Total
2021	\$ 530
2022	413
2023	281
2024	164
2025	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,442</b>

## 8. DEPOSITS

### *Time Deposits*

The following table presents the remaining maturities of the Bank's time deposits at December 31, 2020:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	<b>Total</b>
2021	\$ 238,117
2022	26,702
2023	14,258
2024	4,897
2025	4,265
Thereafter	206
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 288,445</b>

The deposits that met or exceeded the FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000 at December 31, 2020 and 2019 were \$121.8 million and \$129.6 million, respectively. Deposits from principal officers, directors and their affiliates at December 31, 2020 and 2019 were approximately \$25.0 million and \$16.7 million, respectively.

## 9. SECURITIES SOLD UNDER AGREEMENTS TO REPURCHASE

Securities sold under agreements to repurchase totaled \$1.2 million at December 31, 2020 and \$1.0 million at December 31, 2019. The repurchase agreements were collateralized by investment securities, of which 34% were U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations and 66% were U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities with a carrying amount of \$2.2 million at December 31, 2020 and 17% were U.S. GSE residential collateralized mortgage obligations and 83% were U.S. GSE residential mortgage-backed securities with a carrying amount of \$2.1 million at December 31, 2019.

Securities sold under agreements to repurchase are financing arrangements with \$1.2 million maturing during the first quarter of 2021. At maturity, the securities underlying the agreements are returned to the Company. The primary risk associated with these secured borrowings is the requirement to pledge a market value-based balance of collateral in excess of the borrowed amount. The excess collateral pledged represents an unsecured exposure to the lending counterparty. As the market value of the collateral changes, both through changes in discount rates and spreads as well as related cash flows, additional collateral may need to be pledged. In accordance with the Company's policies, eligible counterparties are defined and monitored to minimize exposure.

The following table summarizes information concerning securities sold under agreements to repurchase:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Average daily balance during the year	\$ 1,529	\$ 849
Average interest rate during the year	0.05 %	0.05 %
Maximum month-end balance during the year	\$ 1,943	\$ 1,037
Weighted average interest rate at year-end	0.05 %	0.05 %

## 10. FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ADVANCES

The following table summarizes information concerning FHLB advances:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Average daily balance during the year	\$ 284,719	\$ 245,283
Average interest rate during the year	1.40 %	1.86 %
Maximum month-end balance during the year	\$ 340,000	\$ 435,000
Weighted average interest rate at year-end	0.35 %	1.82 %

The following tables present the contractual maturities and weighted average interest rates of FHLB advances for each of the next five years. There are no FHLB advances with contractual maturities after 2021.

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	<u>December 31, 2020</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Weighted Average Rate</u>
<b>Contractual Maturity</b>		
Overnight	\$ —	— %
2021	<u>215,000</u>	<u>0.35</u>
Total FHLB advances	<u>\$ 215,000</u>	<u>0.35 %</u>

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	<u>December 31, 2019</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Weighted Average Rate</u>
<b>Contractual Maturity</b>		
Overnight	\$ 195,000	1.81 %
2020	<u>240,000</u>	<u>1.84</u>
Total FHLB advances	<u>\$ 435,000</u>	<u>1.82 %</u>

Each advance is payable at its maturity date, with a prepayment penalty for fixed rate advances. The advances were collateralized by \$1.7 billion and \$1.4 billion of residential and commercial mortgage loans under a blanket lien arrangement at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. Based on this collateral and the Company's holdings of FHLB stock, the Company was eligible to borrow up to a total of \$1.9 billion at December 31, 2020.

## 11. SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES

In September 2015, the Company issued \$80.0 million in aggregate principal amount of fixed-to-floating rate subordinated debentures. \$40.0 million of the subordinated debentures are callable at par after five years, have a stated maturity of September 30, 2025 and bear interest at a fixed annual rate of 5.25% per year, from and including September 21, 2015 until but excluding September 30, 2020. From and including September 30, 2020 to the maturity date or early redemption date, the interest rate will reset quarterly to an annual interest rate equal to the then-current three-month LIBOR plus 360 basis points. The remaining \$40.0 million of the subordinated debentures are callable at par after ten years, have a stated maturity of September 30, 2030 and bear interest at a fixed annual rate of 5.75% per year, from and including September 21, 2015 until but excluding September 30, 2025. From and including September 30, 2025 to the maturity date or early redemption date, the interest rate will reset quarterly to an annual interest rate equal to the then-current three-month LIBOR plus 345 basis points. The subordinated debentures totaled \$79.1 million at December 31, 2020 and \$78.9 million at December 31, 2019.

The subordinated debentures are included in tier 2 capital (with certain limitations applicable) under current regulatory guidelines and interpretations.

## 12. DERIVATIVES

During the first quarter of 2019 the Company adopted ASU 2017-12, *Derivatives and Hedging: Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities*. The purpose of this updated guidance is to better align a company's financial reporting for hedging activities with the economic objectives of those activities. ASU 2017-12 is effective for public business entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption, including adoption in an interim period, permitted. ASU 2017-12 requires a modified retrospective transition method in which the Company will recognize the cumulative effect of the change on the opening balance of each affected component of equity in the statement of financial position as of the date of adoption. The Company has adopted the standard in 2019 with minimal impact to its financial position upon transition.

The Alternative Reference Rates Committee ("ARRC") has proposed that the Secured Overnight Funding Rate ("SOFR") replace USD-LIBOR. ARRC has proposed that the transition to SOFR from USD-LIBOR will take place by the end of 2021. The Company has material contracts that are indexed to USD-LIBOR. Industry organizations are currently working on the transition plan. The Company is currently monitoring this activity and evaluating the risks involved.

### Cash Flow Hedges of Interest Rate Risk

As part of its asset liability management, the Company utilizes interest rate swap agreements to help manage its interest rate risk position. The notional amount of the interest rate swap does not represent the amount exchanged by the parties. The amount exchanged is determined by reference to the notional amount and the other terms of the individual interest rate swap agreements.

Interest rate swaps with notional amounts totaling \$280.0 million and \$290.0 million as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, were designated as cash flow hedges of certain FHLB advances. The swaps were determined to be fully effective during the periods presented. The aggregate fair value of the swaps is recorded in other assets or other liabilities with changes in fair value recorded in other comprehensive income (loss). The amount included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) would be reclassified to current earnings should the hedges no longer be considered effective. The Company expects the hedges to remain fully effective during the remaining term of the swaps.

The following table summarizes information about the interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Notional amounts	\$ 280,000	\$ 290,000
Weighted average pay rates	1.33 %	1.84 %
Weighted average receive rates	0.23 %	1.94 %
Weighted average maturity	3.14 years	2.91 years

Four interest rate swaps, with notional amounts totaling \$125.0 million, were terminated resulting in \$3.4 million in loss on termination of swaps, which is reported as a component of non-interest income, for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Interest expense recorded on these swap transactions totaled \$1.7 million during the year ended December 31, 2020. Interest income recorded on these swap transactions totaled \$1.6 million and \$1.1 million during the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Amounts reported in accumulated other comprehensive income related to derivatives will be reclassified to interest income/expense as interest payments are made/received on the Company's variable-rate assets/liabilities. During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company had \$1.7 million of reclassifications as a reduction to interest expense. During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company accelerated the reclassification of \$3.4 million loss from other comprehensive income to earnings as a result of hedged forecasted transactions becoming probable not to occur. During the next twelve months, the Company estimates that \$2.1 million will be reclassified as an increase in interest expense.

The following table presents the net gains (losses) recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income and the consolidated statements of income relating to the cash flow derivative instruments for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Amount of (loss) gain recognized in OCI included component	Amount of (loss) gain recognized in OCI excluded component	Amount of gain (loss) reclassified from Accumulated OCI into income included component	Amount of gain reclassified from Accumulated OCI into income excluded component
Interest rate contracts				
Year ended December 31, 2020	\$ (10,455)	\$ —	\$ (5,016)	\$ —
Year ended December 31, 2019	(3,601)	—	1,588	—
Year ended December 31, 2018	2,493	—	1,068	—

The following table reflects the cash flow hedges included in the consolidated balance sheets at the dates indicated:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,					
	2020			2019		
	Notional Amount	Fair Value Asset	Fair Value Liability	Notional Amount	Fair Value Asset	Fair Value Liability
Included in other assets/(liabilities):						
Interest rate swaps related to FHLB advances	\$ 215,000	\$ —	\$ (6,651)	\$ 240,000	\$ 1,233	\$ (978)
Forward starting interest rate swaps related to FHLB advances	\$ 65,000	\$ 11	\$ (222)	\$ 50,000	\$ —	\$ (1,427)

#### Non-Designated Hedges

Derivatives not designated as hedges may be used to manage the Company's exposure to interest rate movements or to provide service to customers but do not meet the requirements for hedge accounting under U.S. GAAP. The Company executes interest rate swaps with commercial lending customers to facilitate their respective risk management strategies. These interest rate swaps with customers are simultaneously offset by interest rate swaps that the Company executes with a third party in order to minimize the net risk exposure resulting from such transactions. These interest-rate swap agreements do not qualify for hedge accounting treatment, and therefore changes in fair value are reported in current period earnings. The Company's existing credit derivatives result from participations in interest rate swaps provided by external lenders as part of loan participation arrangements, therefore, are not used to manage interest rate risk in the Company's assets or liabilities. Derivatives not designated as hedges are not speculative and result from a service the Company provides to certain lenders which participate in loans.

Interest rate swaps with notional amounts totaled \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2020. Of the \$1.1 billion notional amounts, \$548.5 million were from loan customers and \$548.5 million were from bank counterparties. Interest rate swaps with notional amounts totaled \$823.9 million at December 31, 2019. Of the \$823.9 million notional amounts, \$411.9 million were from loan customers and \$411.9 million were from bank counterparties.

The following table presents summary information about the interest rate swaps at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Notional amounts	\$ 1,097,100	\$ 823,894
Weighted average pay rates	2.94 %	3.75 %
Weighted average receive rates	2.94 %	3.75 %
Weighted average maturity	10.02 years	10.77 years
Fair value of combined interest rate swaps	\$ —	\$ —

Loan swap fees recorded on these swap transactions, which is reported as a component of non-interest income, totaled \$3.7 million, \$7.5 million, and \$716 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively.

#### Credit-Risk-Related Contingent Features

As of December 31, 2020, the termination value of derivatives in a net liability position, which includes accrued interest but excludes any adjustment for nonperformance risk, related to these agreements was \$57.1 million, while there were no derivatives in a net asset position. The Company has minimum collateral posting thresholds with certain of its derivative counterparties. If the termination value of derivatives is a net liability position, the Company is required to post collateral against its obligations under the agreements. However, if the termination value of derivatives is a net asset position, the counterparty is required to post collateral to the Company. At December 31, 2020, the Company posted collateral of \$57.9 million to its counterparties under the agreements in a net liability position and received no collateral from its counterparties under the agreements in a net asset position. If the Company had breached any of these provisions at December 31, 2020, it could have been required to settle its obligations under the agreements at the termination value.

### 13. INCOME TAXES

The following table details the components of income tax expense:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Current:			
Federal	\$ 16,262	\$ 12,665	\$ 5,270
State	1,457	639	1,023
Total current	17,719	13,304	6,293
Deferred:			
Federal	(3,782)	(419)	3,299
State	(252)	1,175	(451)
Total deferred	(4,034)	756	2,848
Total income tax expense	\$ 13,685	\$ 14,060	\$ 9,141

The following table is a reconciliation of the expected federal income tax expense at the statutory tax rate to the actual provision:

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,					
	2020		2019		2018	
	Amount	Percentage of Pre-tax Earnings	Amount	Percentage of Pre-tax Earnings	Amount	Percentage of Pre-tax Earnings
Federal income tax expense computed by applying the statutory rate to income before income taxes	\$ 11,703	21 %	\$ 13,808	21 %	\$ 10,157	21 %
Tax-exempt income	(851)	(1)	(920)	(1)	(1,002)	(2)
State taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	1,214	2	1,425	2	1,999	4
Other	1,619	3	(253)	(1)	(2,013)	(4)
Income tax expense	\$ 13,685	25 %	\$ 14,060	21 %	\$ 9,141	19 %

The following table summarizes the composition of deferred tax assets and liabilities:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for credit losses and off-balance sheet credit exposure	\$ 13,983	\$ 10,305
Net unrealized losses on securities	—	343
Compensation and related benefit obligations	1,674	2,368
Net deferred loan costs and fees	2,588	—
Purchase accounting fair value adjustments	3,574	4,735
Net change in pension and other post-retirement benefits plans	3,608	2,809
Net operating loss carryforward	786	3,229
Net loss on cash flow hedges	1,905	304
Operating lease liabilities	13,684	13,444
Other	1,234	200
Total deferred tax assets	43,036	37,737
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Pension and SERP expense	(5,366)	(4,904)
Net unrealized gains on securities	(1,285)	—
Depreciation	(546)	(956)
REIT undistributed net income	(3,178)	(2,403)
Net deferred loan costs and fees	—	(2,413)
State and local taxes	(1,345)	(1,227)
Operating lease right-of-use assets	(13,172)	(12,934)
Other	(970)	(835)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(25,862)	(25,672)
Net deferred tax asset	\$ 17,174	\$ 12,065

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal income tax as well as income tax of the State and City of New York and the State of New Jersey. The Company is no longer subject to examination by taxing authorities for years

before 2015. There are no unrecorded tax benefits, and the Company does not expect the total amount of unrecognized income tax benefits to significantly increase in the next twelve months.

In connection with the acquisition of FNB NY, the Company acquired a federal net operating loss (“NOL”) carryforward subject to Internal Revenue Code Section 382. The Company recorded a deferred tax asset that it expects to realize within the carryforward period. At December 31, 2020, the remaining federal NOL carryforward was \$2.9 million. At December 31, 2020, the Company had New York State NOL carryforward of \$2.1 million, and recorded a deferred tax asset that it expects to recover within the carryforward period. At December 31, 2020, the Company had New York City NOL carryforward of zero. The New York State and New York City NOLs at December 31, 2020 included NOLs acquired in connection with the CNB and FNB NY acquisitions.

#### 14. PENSION AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT PLANS

##### *Pension Plan and Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan*

The Bank maintains a noncontributory pension plan (the “Pension Plan”) covering all eligible employees. The Bank uses a December 31 measurement date for this plan in accordance with FASB ASC 715-30 “Compensation – Retirement Benefits – Defined Benefit Plans – Pension.” During 2012, the Company amended the Pension Plan by revising the formula for determining benefits effective January 1, 2013, except for certain grandfathered employees. Additionally, new employees hired on or after October 1, 2012 are not eligible for the Pension Plan.

During 2001, the Bank adopted the Bridgehampton National Bank Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (“SERP”). As recommended by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors and approved by the full Board of Directors, the SERP provides benefits to certain employees, whose benefits under the Pension Plan are limited by the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. The benefit under the SERP is equal to the additional amount the employee would be entitled to under the Pension Plan and the 401(k) Plan in the absence of such Internal Revenue Code limitations. The assets of the SERP are held in a rabbi trust to maintain the tax-deferred status of the plan and are subject to the general, unsecured creditors of the Company. As a result, the assets of the rabbi trust are reflected on the Company’s consolidated balance sheets.

The following table provides information about changes in obligations and plan assets of the defined benefit Pension Plan and the defined benefit plan component of the SERP:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Pension Benefits		SERP Benefits	
	Year Ended December 31,		Year Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Change in benefit obligation:</b>				
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 28,757	\$ 23,611	\$ 5,323	\$ 3,811
Service cost	940	952	371	261
Interest cost	794	908	149	147
Benefits paid and expected expenses	(609)	(475)	(112)	(112)
Assumption changes and other	3,865	3,761	238	1,216
Benefit obligation at end of year	<u>\$ 33,747</u>	<u>\$ 28,757</u>	<u>\$ 5,969</u>	<u>\$ 5,323</u>
<b>Change in plan assets:</b>				
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$ 39,745	\$ 33,874	\$ —	\$ —
Actual return on plan assets	3,764	6,346	—	—
Employer contribution	1,160	—	112	112
Benefits paid and actual expenses	(609)	(475)	(112)	(112)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>\$ 44,060</u>	<u>\$ 39,745</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
Funded status at end of year	<u>\$ 10,313</u>	<u>\$ 10,988</u>	<u>\$ (5,969)</u>	<u>\$ (5,323)</u>

The following table presents amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income at December 31:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Pension Benefits December 31,		SERP Benefits December 31,	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Net actuarial loss	\$ 10,572	\$ 7,997	\$ 2,083	\$ 2,071
Prior service cost	(408)	(484)	—	—
Net amount recognized	\$ 10,164	\$ 7,513	\$ 2,083	\$ 2,071

As of December 31, 2020, the accumulated benefit obligation was \$32.3 million for the Pension Plan and \$6.0 million for the SERP. As of December 31, 2019, the accumulated benefit obligation was \$27.4 million for the Pension Plan and \$3.6 million for the SERP.

The following table summarizes the components of net periodic benefit (credit) cost and other amounts recognized in other comprehensive income:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Pension Benefits Year Ended December 31,			SERP Benefits Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018
Components of net periodic benefit (credit) cost and other amounts recognized in other comprehensive income:						
Service cost	\$ 940	\$ 952	\$ 1,106	\$ 371	\$ 261	\$ 290
Interest cost	794	908	794	149	147	127
Expected return on plan assets	(2,905)	(2,445)	(2,547)	—	—	—
Amortization of net loss	431	494	335	227	70	121
Amortization of prior service credit	(77)	(77)	(77)	—	—	—
Amortization of transition obligation	—	—	—	—	—	5
Net periodic benefit (credit) cost	\$ (817)	\$ (168)	\$ (389)	\$ 747	\$ 478	\$ 543
Net loss (gain)	\$ 3,006	\$ (140)	\$ 1,980	\$ 239	\$ 1,216	\$ (413)
Amortization of net loss	(431)	(494)	(335)	(227)	(70)	(121)
Amortization of prior service credit	77	77	77	—	—	—
Amortization of transition obligation	—	—	—	—	—	(5)
Total recognized in other comprehensive income	\$ 2,652	\$ (557)	\$ 1,722	\$ 12	\$ 1,146	\$ (539)

The Company's service cost component is reported in the Company's income statement in salaries and employee benefits, which is the same line item as other compensation costs arising from services rendered by the pertinent employees during the period. All other components of net periodic benefit (credit) cost are reported in the other operating expenses income statement line.

The estimated net loss and prior service credit for the defined benefit Pension Plan that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$650 thousand and \$77 thousand, respectively. The estimated net loss for the SERP that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year is \$257 thousand.



### Expected Long-Term Rate of Return

The Company's expected long-term rate of return on Pension Plan assets is a long-term rate based on anticipated Pension Plan asset returns over an extended period of time, taking into account market conditions and broad asset mix considerations. The expected rate of return is a long-term assumption and generally does not change annually.

	Pension Benefits December 31,			SERP Benefits December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations:						
Discount rate	2.33 %	3.10 %	4.14 %	2.28 %	3.08 %	4.13 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.00	3.00	3.00	—	5.00	5.00
Weighted average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost:						
Discount rate	3.10 %	4.14 %	3.52 %	3.08 %	4.13 %	3.50 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.00	3.00	3.00	—	5.00	5.00
Expected long-term rate of return	7.25	7.25	7.25	—	—	—

### Pension Plan Assets

The Pension Plan seeks to provide retirement benefits to the employees of the Bank who are entitled to receive benefits under the Pension Plan. The Pension Plan assets are overseen by a committee comprised of management, who meet semi-annually, and sets the investment policy guidelines.

The Pension Plan's overall investment strategy is to achieve a mix of approximately 97% of investments for long-term growth and 3% for near-term benefit payments with a wide diversification of asset types, fund strategies, and fund managers. Cash equivalents consist primarily of short-term investment funds. Equity securities primarily include investments in common stock, mutual funds, depository receipts and exchange traded funds. Fixed income securities include corporate bonds, government issues, mortgage-backed securities, high yield securities and mutual funds.

The weighted average expected long-term rate of return is estimated based on current trends in Pension Plan assets, as well as projected future rates of return on those assets and reasonable actuarial assumptions based on the guidance provided by Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27 for the real and nominal rate of investment return for a specific mix of asset classes. The long-term rate of return considers historical returns for the S&P 500 index and corporate bonds representing cumulative returns of approximately 9.5% and 5.0%, respectively. These returns were considered along with the target allocations of asset categories.

The following table indicates the target allocations for Plan assets:

Asset Category	Target Allocation 2021	Percentage of Plan Assets At December 31,		Weighted-Average- Expected Long- term Rate of Return
		2020	2019	
Cash equivalents	0 - 5 %	5.6 %	3.6 %	— %
Equity securities	45 - 65	56.8	57.9	9.5
Fixed income securities	30 - 50	37.6	38.5	5.0
Total		<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	

Except for pooled vehicles and mutual funds, which are governed by the prospectus, and unless expressly authorized by management, the Pension Plan and its investment managers are prohibited from purchasing the following investments: letter stock, private placements, or direct payments; securities not readily marketable; Bridge Bancorp, Inc. stock; pledging or hypothecating securities, except for loans of securities that are fully collateralized; purchasing or selling derivative securities for speculation or leverage; and investments by the investment managers in their own securities, their affiliates or subsidiaries (excluding money market funds).

Fair value is defined under FASB ASC 820 as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value under ASC 820 must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The standard describes a fair



*Estimated Future Payments*

The following table summarizes benefits expected to be paid under the Pension Plan and the SERP as of December 31, 2020, which reflect expected future service:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pension and SERP Payments (in thousands)</u>
2021	\$ 1,093
2022	1,180
2023	1,315
2024	1,318
2025	1,395
2026-2030	10,228

*401(k) Plan*

The Company provides a 401(k) plan, which covers substantially all current employees. Newly hired employees are automatically enrolled in the plan on the 60<sup>th</sup> day of employment, unless they elect not to participate. Participants may contribute a portion of their pre-tax base salary, generally not to exceed \$19,500 for the calendar year ended December 31, 2020. Under the provisions of the 401(k) plan, employee contributions are partially matched by the Bank as follows: 100% of each employee's contributions up to 1% of each employee's compensation plus 50% of each employee's contributions over 1% but not in excess of 6% of each employee's compensation for a maximum contribution of 3.5% of a participating employee's compensation. Participants can invest their account balances into several investment alternatives. The 401(k) plan does not allow for investment in the Company's common stock. During the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 the Company made cash contributions of \$1.4 million, \$1.1 million, and \$1.0 million, respectively. The 401(k) plan also includes a discretionary profit-sharing component. During the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, the Company made discretionary profit-sharing contributions of \$546 thousand, \$583 thousand, and \$497 thousand, respectively.

## **15. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION PLANS**

In May 2019, the Company's shareholders approved the Bridge Bancorp, Inc. 2019 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2019 Equity Incentive Plan"), which provides for the grant of stock-based and other incentive awards to officers, employees and directors of the Company. The 2019 Equity Incentive Plan superseded the Bridge Bancorp, Inc. 2012 Stock-Based Incentive Plan (the "2012 Equity Incentive Plan"). The 2012 Equity Incentive Plan superseded the 2006 Stock-Based Incentive Plan. The maximum number of shares of stock, in the aggregate, that may be granted under the 2019 Equity Incentive Plan as stock options, restricted stock, or restricted stock units is 370,000 plus the number of shares of stock which have been reserved but not issued under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, and any awards that are forfeited under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan after the effective date of the 2019 Equity Incentive Plan. No further grants will be made under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan. Currently outstanding grants under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan will not be affected.

The number of shares of the Company's common stock available for stock-based awards under the 2019 Equity Incentive Plan is 370,000 plus 162,738 shares that were remaining under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan. At December 31, 2020, 436,953 shares remain available for issuance, including shares that may be granted in the form of stock options, RSAs, or RSUs.

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors determines awards under the 2019 Equity Incentive Plan. The Company accounts for the 2019 Equity Incentive Plan under FASB ASC 718.

### **Stock Options**

Stock options may be either incentive stock options, which bestow certain tax benefits on the optionee, or non-qualified stock options, not qualifying for such benefits. All options have an exercise price that is not less than the market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant.

The fair value of each option granted is estimated on the date of the grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The intrinsic value for stock options is calculated based on the exercise price of the underlying awards and the market price of the Company's common stock as of the exercise or reporting date.

During the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, in accordance with the Long Term Incentive Plan ("LTI Plan") for Named Executive Officers ("NEOs"), the Company granted 69,360, 63,267 and 47,393 stock options, respectively, with an exercise price set to equal a 10.0% premium over the grant date stock price. All of the stock options granted vest ratably over three years. The estimated weighted-average grant-date fair value of all stock options granted in the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 was \$4.10, \$5.05 and \$6.52 per stock option, respectively, using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with assumptions as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Dividend yield	3.03 %	2.86 %	2.80 %
Expected volatility	23.11	23.80	27.53
Risk-free interest rate	1.47	2.52	2.67
Expected option life	6.0 years	6.0 years	6.5 years

Compensation expense attributable to stock options was \$425 thousand, \$197 thousand and \$91 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. As of December 31, 2020, there was \$201 thousand of total unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested stock options. The cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 0.1 years.

The following table summarizes the status of the Company's stock options:

<i>(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)</i>	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding, January 1, 2020	110,660	\$ 35.71		
Granted	69,360	34.87		
Outstanding, December 31, 2020	<u>180,020</u>	35.39	8.2 years	\$ —
Vested and Exercisable, December 31, 2020	110,660	35.71	7.7 years	—

Number of Options	Exercise Price
69,360	\$ 34.87
63,267	35.35
47,393	36.19
<u>180,020</u>	

#### *Restricted Stock Awards*

The Company's RSAs are shares of the Company's common stock that are forfeitable and are subject to restrictions on transfer prior to the vesting date. RSAs are forfeited if the award holder departs the Company before vesting. RSAs carry dividend and voting rights from the date of grant. The vesting of time-vested RSAs depends upon the award holder continuing to render services to the Company. The Company's performance-based RSAs vest subject to the achievement of the Company's corporate goals.

The following table summarizes the unvested RSA activity for the year ended December 31, 2020:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Unvested, January 1, 2020	293,717	\$ 30.37
Granted	91,428	31.02
Vested	(289,509)	30.34
Forfeited	(6,593)	32.16
Unvested, December 31, 2020	<u>89,043</u>	31.00

During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company granted a total of 91,428 RSAs. Of the 91,428 RSAs granted, 57,850 time-vested RSAs vest ratably over five years and 33,578 time-vested RSAs vest ratably over three years. During the year ended December 31, 2019, the Company granted RSAs of 78,952 shares. Of the 78,952 shares granted, 49,925 shares vest over five years and 29,027 shares vest over three years. During the year ended December 31, 2018, the Company granted RSAs of 83,782 shares. Of the 83,782 shares granted, 44,750 shares vest over five years, 13,915 shares vest over three years and 25,117 performance-based RSAs vest ratably over two years, subject to the achievement of the Company's 2018 corporate goals. As of December 31, 2020, there were 89,043 unvested RSAs, all of which were time-vested RSAs and there were no performance-based RSAs.

Compensation expense attributable to RSAs was \$5.1 million, \$2.2 million and \$2.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The total fair value of shares vested during the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, was \$8.8 million, \$2.5 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2020, there was \$2.2 million of total unrecognized compensation costs related to non-vested RSAs. The cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 0.1 years.

## Restricted Stock Units

### *Long Term Incentive Plan*

RSUs represent an obligation to deliver shares to an employee at a future date if certain vesting conditions are met. RSUs are subject to a time-based vesting schedule, or the satisfaction of performance conditions, and are settled in shares of the Company's common stock. RSUs do not provide voting rights and RSUs may provide dividend equivalent rights from the date of grant.

The following table summarizes the unvested NEO RSU activity for the year ended December 31, 2020:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Unvested, January 1, 2020	85,342	\$ 29.59
Granted	26,556	32.13
Reinvested dividends	4,491	30.08
Added by performance factor	605	33.69
Forfeited	(6,623)	28.68
Vested	(72,096)	29.10
Unvested, December 31, 2020	38,275	32.57

During the year ended December 31, 2020 in accordance with the LTI plan for NEOs, the Company granted 26,556 RSUs. Of the 26,556 RSUs granted, 17,943 time-vested RSUs vest ratably over three years and 8,613 performance-based RSUs vest subject to the achievement of the Company's three-year corporate goal for the three-year period ending December 31, 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2019 in accordance with the LTI plan for NEOs, the Company granted 22,305 RSUs. Of the 22,305 RSUs granted, 13,255 time-vested RSUs vest ratably over five years and 9,050 performance-based RSUs vest subject to the achievement of the Company's three-year corporate goal for the three-year period ending December 31, 2021.

Compensation expense attributable to LTI plan RSUs was \$1.6 million, \$693 thousand and \$462 thousand in connection with these awards for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. As of December 31, 2020, there was \$0.6 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested RSUs. The cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 0.1 years.

### *Directors Plan*

In April 2009, the Company adopted a Directors Deferred Compensation Plan ("Directors Plan"). Under the Directors Plan, independent directors may elect to defer all or a portion of their annual retainer fee in the form of RSUs. In addition, directors receive a non-election retainer in the form of RSUs. These RSUs vest ratably over one year and have dividend rights but no voting rights. In connection with the Directors Plan, the Company recorded expense of \$553 thousand, \$570 thousand and \$560 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

### Employee Stock Purchase Plan

In May 2018, the Board of Directors adopted, and stockholders approved the Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"). A total of 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock have been initially authorized for issuance under the ESPP. Subject to any plan limitations, the ESPP allows eligible employees to contribute, normally through payroll deductions, up to \$25 thousand for the purchase of the Company's common stock at a discounted price per share for any calendar year.

Eligible employees purchased 11,413 shares, 7,888 shares and 3,758 shares of the Company's common stock under the ESPP during the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively. No expense was recorded related to ESPP for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018.

## 16. EARNINGS PER SHARE

FASB ASC 260-10-45 addresses whether instruments granted in share-based payment transactions are participating securities prior to vesting and, therefore, need to be included in the earnings allocation in computing EPS. The RSAs and certain RSUs granted by the Company contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends and therefore are considered participating securities. The two-class method for calculating basic EPS excludes dividends paid to participating securities and any undistributed earnings attributable to participating securities.

The following table presents the computation of EPS for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018:

<i>(In thousands, except per share data)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Net income	\$ 42,042	\$ 51,691	\$ 39,227
Dividends paid on and earnings allocated to participating securities	(872)	(1,096)	(853)
Income attributable to common stock	\$ 41,170	\$ 50,595	\$ 38,374
Weighted average common shares outstanding, including participating securities	19,903	19,952	19,875
Weighted average participating securities	(409)	(424)	(434)
Weighted average common shares outstanding	19,494	19,528	19,441
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.59	\$ 1.97
Income attributable to common stock	\$ 41,170	\$ 50,595	\$ 38,374
Weighted average common shares outstanding	19,494	19,528	19,441
Incremental shares from assumed conversions of options and restricted stock units	55	31	27
Weighted average common and equivalent shares outstanding	19,549	19,559	19,468
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.59	\$ 1.97

There were 180,020, 110,660 and 47,393 stock options outstanding at December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, respectively, that were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018 because the options' exercise prices were greater than the average market price of common stock and were, therefore, antidilutive.

There were 8,941 RSUs that were antidilutive for the year ended December 31, 2020. There were no RSUs that were antidilutive for the year ended December 31, 2019. There were 3,156 RSUs that were antidilutive for the year ended December 31, 2018.

## **17. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES AND OTHER MATTERS**

In the normal course of business, there are various outstanding commitments and contingent liabilities, such as claims and legal actions, guarantees and commitments to extend credit, which are not reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. No material losses are anticipated as a result of these commitments and contingencies.

### *Loan Commitments and Related Financial Instruments*

Some financial instruments, such as loan commitments, credit lines, letters of credit, and overdraft protection, are issued to meet customer-financing needs. These are agreements to provide credit or to support the credit of others, as long as conditions established in the contract are met, and usually have expiration dates. Commitments may expire without being used. Off-balance-sheet risk of credit loss exists up to the face amount of these instruments, although material losses are not anticipated. The same credit policies are used to make such commitments as are used for loans, often including obtaining collateral at exercise of the commitment.

The following represents commitments outstanding:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
Standby letters of credit	\$ 25,501	\$ 23,670
Loan commitments outstanding <sup>(1)</sup>	150,515	117,044
Unused lines of credit	808,296	674,194
Total commitments outstanding	<u>\$ 984,312</u>	<u>\$ 814,908</u>

- (1) Of the \$150.5 million of loan commitments outstanding at December 31, 2020, \$5.1 million are fixed rate commitments and \$145.4 million are variable rate commitments. Of the \$117.0 million of loan commitments outstanding at December 31, 2019, \$5.9 million are fixed rate commitments and \$111.1 million are variable rate commitments.

### *Litigation*

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject to certain pending and threatened legal actions that arise out of the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, the resolution of any such pending or threatened litigation is not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

### *Other*

Effective March 26, 2020, the FRB Board reduced the reserve requirement ratios to zero percent, which eliminated reserve requirements for all depository institutions.

During 2020, the Bank invested overnight with the FRB and the average balance maintained during 2020 was \$342.4 million.

During 2020, the Bank maintained an overnight line of credit with the FHLB. The Bank has the ability to borrow against its unencumbered residential and commercial mortgages and investment securities owned by the Bank. At December 31, 2020, the Bank had aggregate lines of credit of \$418.0 million with unaffiliated correspondent banks to provide short-term credit for liquidity requirements. Of these aggregate lines of credit, \$398.0 million is available on an unsecured basis. As of December 31, 2020, the Bank had no such borrowings outstanding.

In March 2001, the Bank entered into a Master Repurchase Agreement with the FHLB whereby the FHLB agrees to purchase securities from the Bank, upon the Bank's request, with the simultaneous agreement to sell the same or similar securities back to the Bank at a future date. Securities are limited, under the agreement, to government securities, securities issued, guaranteed or collateralized by any agency or instrumentality of the U.S. Government or any government sponsored enterprise, and non-agency AA and AAA rated mortgage-backed securities. At December 31, 2020, there was up to \$1.9 billion available for transactions under this agreement, assuming availability of required collateral.



## 18. REGULATORY CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

The Company and the Bank are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal banking agencies. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can result in certain mandatory and possibly additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company's and the Bank's financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Company and the Bank must meet specific capital requirements that involve quantitative measures of the Company's and Bank's assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance sheet items calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The Company's and Bank's capital amounts and classifications also are subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings, and other factors.

Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require the Company and the Bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios of total, tier 1, and common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets and of tier 1 capital to average assets. Tier 1 capital, risk-weighted assets and average assets are as defined by regulation. The required minimums for the Company and Bank are set forth in the tables that follow. The Company and the Bank met all capital adequacy requirements at December 31, 2020 and 2019.

Under the Basel III Capital Rules the Company and the Bank are subject to the following minimum capital to risk-weighted assets ratios: a) 4.5% based on common equity tier 1 capital ("CET1"); b) 6.0% based on tier 1 capital; and c) 8.0% based on total regulatory capital. A minimum leverage ratio (tier 1 capital as a percentage of total average assets) of 4.0% is also required under the Basel III Capital Rules. The Basel III Capital Rules additionally require institutions to retain a capital conservation buffer, composed of CET1, of 2.5% above these required minimum capital ratio levels. Including the capital conservation buffer, the Company and the Bank effectively have the following minimum capital to risk-weighted assets ratios: a) 7.0% based on CET1; b) 8.5% based on tier 1 capital; and c) 10.5% based on total regulatory capital.

The Company and the Bank made the one-time, permanent election to continue to exclude the effects of accumulated other comprehensive income or loss items included in stockholders' equity for the purposes of determining the regulatory capital ratios.

As of December 31, 2020, the most recent notification from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation categorized the Bank as "well capitalized" under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as "well capitalized," the Bank must maintain minimum total risk-based, tier 1 risk-based, common equity tier 1 risk-based, and tier 1 leverage ratios as set forth in the tables below. Since that notification, there are no conditions or events that management believes have changed the institution's category.

The following tables present actual capital levels and minimum required levels for the Company and the Bank under Basel III rules at December 31, 2020 and 2019:

	December 31, 2020							
	Actual Capital		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirement		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirement with Capital Conservation Buffer		Minimum To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>								
Common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets:								
Consolidated	\$ 424,652	10.3 %	\$ 185,479	4.5 %	\$ 288,523	7.0 %	n/a	n/a
Bank	503,524	12.2	185,465	4.5	288,502	7.0	\$ 267,895	6.5 %
Total capital to risk-weighted assets:								
Consolidated	537,664	13.0	329,740	8.0	432,784	10.5	n/a	n/a
Bank	544,536	13.2	329,716	8.0	432,753	10.5	412,145	10.0
Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets:								
Consolidated	424,652	10.3	247,305	6.0	350,349	8.5	n/a	n/a
Bank	503,524	12.2	247,287	6.0	350,324	8.5	329,716	8.0
Tier 1 capital to average assets:								
Consolidated	424,652	6.8	249,502	4.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bank	503,524	8.1	249,389	4.0	n/a	n/a	311,737	5.0

December 31, 2019

<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	Actual Capital		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirement		Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirement with Capital Conservation Buffer		Minimum To Be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
<b>Common equity tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets:</b>								
Consolidated	\$ 397,800	10.2 %	\$ 176,121	4.5 %	\$ 273,967	7.0 %	n/a	n/a
Bank	474,056	12.1	176,114	4.5	273,954	7.0	\$ 254,386	6.5 %
<b>Total capital to risk-weighted assets:</b>								
Consolidated	510,862	13.1	313,105	8.0	410,950	10.5	n/a	n/a
Bank	507,118	13.0	313,091	8.0	410,932	10.5	391,363	10.0
<b>Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets:</b>								
Consolidated	397,800	10.2	234,828	6.0	332,674	8.5	n/a	n/a
Bank	474,056	12.1	234,818	6.0	332,659	8.5	313,091	8.0
<b>Tier 1 capital to average assets:</b>								
Consolidated	397,800	8.5	187,386	4.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bank	474,056	10.1	187,377	4.0	n/a	n/a	234,222	5.0

## 19. PARENT COMPANY ONLY CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Condensed financial information of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (Parent Company only) follows:

### Condensed Balance Sheets

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2020	2019
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 280	\$ 3,663
Other assets	554	174
Investment in the Bank	596,703	573,410
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 597,537</b>	<b>\$ 577,247</b>
<b>Liabilities and stockholders' equity:</b>		
Subordinated debentures	\$ 79,059	\$ 78,920
Other liabilities	647	1,173
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>79,706</b>	<b>80,093</b>
Total stockholders' equity	517,831	497,154
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 597,537</b>	<b>\$ 577,247</b>

### Condensed Statements of Income

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Dividends from the Bank	\$ 26,500	\$ 24,500	\$ 15,000
Interest expense	4,401	4,539	4,539
Non-interest expense	252	104	135
Income before income taxes and equity in undistributed earnings of the Bank	21,847	19,857	10,326
Income tax benefit	(1,280)	(994)	(1,005)
Income before equity in undistributed earnings of the Bank	23,127	20,851	11,331
Equity in undistributed earnings of the Bank	18,915	30,840	27,896
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 42,042</b>	<b>\$ 51,691</b>	<b>\$ 39,227</b>

### Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 42,042	\$ 51,691	\$ 39,227
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Equity in undistributed earnings of the Bank	(18,915)	(30,840)	(27,896)
Amortization	139	139	140
(Increase) decrease in other assets	(379)	(73)	108
(Decrease) increase in other liabilities	(526)	39	11
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>22,361</b>	<b>20,956</b>	<b>11,590</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	1,267	1,102	1,017
Purchase of treasury stock	(4,633)	(625)	—
Repurchase of surrendered stock from vesting of stock plans	(3,181)	(887)	(586)
Cash dividends paid	(19,197)	(18,420)	(18,342)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(25,744)</b>	<b>(18,830)</b>	<b>(17,911)</b>
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(3,383)	2,126	(6,321)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,663	1,537	7,858
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 280</b>	<b>\$ 3,663</b>	<b>\$ 1,537</b>

## 20. ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

The following table summarizes the components of other comprehensive (loss) income and related income tax effects:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2020	2019	2018
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on available for sale securities	\$ 9,069	\$ 15,524	\$ (8,429)
Reclassification adjustments for (gains) losses realized in income	(3,525)	(201)	7,921
Income tax effect	(1,628)	(4,467)	160
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on available for sale securities	<u>3,916</u>	<u>10,856</u>	<u>(348)</u>
Unrealized net losses arising during the period	(3,245)	(1,076)	(1,567)
Reclassification adjustments for amortization realized in income	581	487	384
Income tax effect	799	179	351
Net change in post-retirement obligation	<u>(1,865)</u>	<u>(410)</u>	<u>(832)</u>
Change in fair value of derivatives used for cash flow hedges	(10,455)	(3,601)	2,493
Reclassification adjustments for losses (gains) realized in income	5,016	(1,588)	(1,068)
Income tax effect	1,601	1,514	(418)
Net change in unrealized (losses) gains on cash flow hedges	<u>(3,838)</u>	<u>(3,675)</u>	<u>1,007</u>
Other comprehensive (loss) income	<u>\$ (1,787)</u>	<u>\$ 6,771</u>	<u>\$ (173)</u>

The following is a summary of the accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income balances, net of income taxes, at the dates indicated:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,	Other	December 31,
	2019	Comprehensive Income (Loss)	2020
Unrealized (losses) gains on available for sale securities	\$ (829)	\$ 3,916	\$ 3,087
Unrealized losses on pension benefits	(6,775)	(1,865)	(8,640)
Unrealized losses on cash flow hedges	(737)	(3,838)	(4,575)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of income taxes	<u>\$ (8,341)</u>	<u>\$ (1,787)</u>	<u>\$ (10,128)</u>

The following represents the reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,			Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income
	2020	2019	2018	
Realized gains (losses) on sale of available for sale securities	\$ 3,525	\$ 201	\$ (7,921)	Net securities gains (losses)
Amortization of defined benefit pension plan and defined benefit plan component of the SERP:				
Prior service credit	77	77	77	Other operating expenses
Transition obligation	—	—	(5)	Other operating expenses
Actuarial losses	(658)	(564)	(456)	Other operating expenses
Realized (losses) gains on cash flow hedges	(1,651)	1,588	1,068	Interest expense
Realized loss on the termination of swaps	(3,365)	—	—	Loss on termination of swaps
Total reclassifications, before income tax	(2,072)	1,302	(7,237)	
Income tax benefit (expense)	606	(380)	2,105	Income tax expense
Total reclassifications, net of income tax	<u>\$ (1,466)</u>	<u>\$ 922</u>	<u>\$ (5,132)</u>	

## 21. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

Selected Consolidated Quarterly Financial Data follows:

<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>	2020 Quarter Ended			
	March 31,	June 30,	September 30,	December 31,
Interest income	\$ 44,602	\$ 45,850	\$ 46,296	\$ 47,484
Interest expense	7,952	5,418	5,589	4,492
Net interest income	36,650	40,432	40,707	42,992
Provision for credit losses	5,000	4,500	1,500	500
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	31,650	35,932	39,207	42,492
Non-interest income	5,217	2,252	6,790	5,444
Non-interest expense	24,843	24,399	28,937 <sup>(1)</sup>	35,078 <sup>(2)</sup>
Income before income taxes	12,024	13,785	17,060	12,858
Income tax expense	2,676	3,129	3,999	3,881
Net income	\$ 9,348	\$ 10,656	\$ 13,061	\$ 8,977
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.45
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.45

<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>	2019 Quarter Ended			
	March 31,	June 30,	September 30,	December 31,
Interest income	\$ 44,515	\$ 46,352	\$ 46,354	\$ 44,320
Interest expense	10,192	10,835	9,639	8,672
Net interest income	34,323	35,517	36,715	35,648
Provision for loan losses	600	3,500	1,000	600
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	33,723	32,017	35,715	35,048
Non-interest income	5,218	5,499	6,244	8,426
Non-interest expense	22,599	24,004	24,204	25,332
Income before income taxes	16,342	13,512	17,755	18,142
Income tax expense	3,415	2,859	3,852	3,934
Net income	\$ 12,927	\$ 10,653	\$ 13,903	\$ 14,208
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.71
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.71

(1) 2020 amount includes pre-tax merger expenses of \$2.4 million.

(2) 2020 amount includes pre-tax merger expenses of \$2.1 million.

## 22. NET FRAUD LOSS

The Company incurred a pre-tax charge of \$8.9 million in the year ended December 31, 2018 relating to the fraudulent conduct of a business customer through its deposit accounts at the Bank. The Company continues to work with the appropriate law enforcement authorities in connection with this matter. The customer has filed a petition pursuant to Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code.

In September 2020, the Company resolved its claim for the loss with its insurance carrier to the full extent of the available coverage.

### 23. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

#### Merger Agreement with Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.

On July 1, 2020, the Company entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”) with Legacy Dime. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, on February 1, 2021, Legacy Dime merged with and into Bridge, with Bridge as the surviving corporation under the name “Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.”

At the Effective Time, each outstanding share of Legacy Dime common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, was converted into the right to receive 0.6480 shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. The Company issued 21,232,920 shares of its common stock to Legacy Dime shareholders in connection with the Merger.

At the Effective Time, each outstanding share of Legacy Dime’s Series A preferred stock, par value \$0.01 (the “Dime Preferred Stock”) was converted into the right to receive one share of a newly created series of Company preferred stock having the same powers, preferences and rights as the Dime Preferred Stock. The Company issued 5,299,200 shares of its 5.50% Fixed-Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A to Dime Preferred Stock holders in connection with the Merger.

Immediately following the Merger, Dime Community Bank, a New York-chartered commercial bank and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Legacy Dime, merged with and into BNB Bank, a New York-chartered commercial bank and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, with BNB Bank as the surviving bank, under the name “Dime Community Bank.”

In connection with the Merger, the Company assumed \$115.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.50% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Debentures due 2027 of Legacy Dime.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Shareholders and the Audit Committee

Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.  
Hauppauge, New York

### ***Opinions on the Financial Statements and Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively referred to as “financial statements”). We also have audited the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework: (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework: (2013) issued by COSO.

### ***Change in Accounting Principle***

As discussed in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has changed its method of accounting for credit losses effective January 1, 2020, due to the adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification No. 326, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (ASC 326). The Company adopted the new credit loss standard using the modified retrospective method such that prior period amounts are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with previously applicable generally accepted accounting principles. The adoption of the new credit loss standard and its subsequent application is also communicated as a critical audit matter below.

### ***Basis for Opinions***

The Company’s management is responsible for these financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

### ***Definition and Limitations of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

### ***Critical Audit Matter***

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that: (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the consolidated financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of the critical audit matter does not alter in any way our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

*Allowance for Credit Losses – Loans: Qualitative Factors*

As described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update 2016-13, “Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments” (the “CECL Standard”) as of January 1, 2020. See change in accounting principle explanatory paragraph above. The adoption of the CECL Standard resulted in an after-tax cumulative-effect adjustment of \$1.5 million recorded in retained earnings as of January 1, 2020. As of December 31, 2020, the allowance for credit losses was \$44.2 million and the provision for credit losses was \$11.5 million for the year then ended; see Notes 1 and 4 to the consolidated financial statements. The methodology for estimating the amount of expected credit losses reported in the allowance for credit losses includes a pooled component for estimated expected credit losses for pools of loans that share similar risk characteristics. The Company employs a loss-rate model based on probability of default and loss given default estimates, utilizing a transition matrix approach. This model calculates an expected loss percentage for each loan pool by considering the probability of default, based upon the historical transition or migration of loans from performing (various pass loan risk ratings) to criticized, and classified loan risk ratings to default.

Loans are pooled by loan risk ratings based loan product type and other homogeneous characteristics. Credit loss assumptions are applied to the loan pools using life-of-loan analysis runout periods and the historical severity of loss, based on the aggregate net lifetime losses (loss given default) per loan pool. The Company adjusts for differences between the historical period used to calculate historical default and loss severity rates and expected conditions over the remaining lives of the loans in the portfolio. These adjustment factors (qualitative factors) include: (1) lending policies and procedures; (2) international, national, regional and local economic business conditions and developments that affect the collectability of the portfolio, including the condition of various markets; (3) the nature and volume of the loan portfolio including the terms of the loans; (4) the experience, ability, and depth of the lending management and other relevant staff; (5) the volume and severity of past due and adversely classified or graded loans and the volume of non-accrual loans; (6) the quality of the Company’s loan review system; (7) the value of underlying collateral for collateralized loans; (8) the existence and effect of any concentrations of credit, and changes in the level of such concentrations; and (9) the effect of external factors such as competition and legal and regulatory requirements on the level of estimated credit losses in the existing portfolio. The factors above include management’s expectation of future conditions based on a reasonable and supportable forecasts of the economic conditions.

We determined that auditing management’s implementation and subsequent application of the qualitative factors used to reflect current and forecasted conditions in the allowance for credit losses for loans to be a critical audit matter due to the extent of audit effort and degree of auditor judgment required to evaluate the qualitative factors, given the volume and nature of inputs and the significant management judgment required.

To address this critical audit matter, we tested the operating effectiveness of the Company’s controls related to the qualitative factors, including the following:

- Management’s implementation and subsequent application of significant judgments related to the qualitative factors and the resulting allocation to the allowance for credit losses
- Management’s review over the completeness and accuracy of the data used as the basis for the qualitative factors
- Management’s testing over the mathematical accuracy of the allowance for credit losses
- An internal committee’s review of the allowance for credit losses and provision for credit losses

Our substantive procedures related to the qualitative factors included the following:

- Performing analytical procedures over the current and forecast qualitative factors
- Evaluating the reasonableness of management’s initial selection and subsequent application of qualitative factors and the resulting allocation to the allowance for credit losses
- Testing the completeness and accuracy of certain data used in the qualitative factor calculations
- Testing the mathematical accuracy of the allowance for credit loss calculation

Crowe LLP

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Crowe LLP

We have served as the Company’s auditor since 2002.

New York, New York

March 15, 2021



## **Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

### **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

#### **Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

An evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) as of December 31, 2020. Based on that evaluation, the Company's Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by the annual report.

#### **Report by Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining an effective system of internal control over financial reporting. The Company's system of internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of human error and circumvention or overriding of controls. Accordingly, even an effective system of internal control over financial reporting can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risks that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020. This assessment was based on criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting described in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management believes that, as of December 31, 2020, the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting based on those criteria.

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm that audited the financial statements that are included in this annual report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The attestation report of Crowe LLP appears on the previous page.

#### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2020, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### **Item 9B. Other Information**

None.

### PART III

#### **Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

The information regarding Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance will be set forth in the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 27, 2021 and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

#### **Item 11. Executive Compensation**

The information regarding Executive Compensation will be set forth in the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 27, 2021 and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

#### **Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

The information regarding Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters will be set forth in the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 27, 2021 and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Set forth below is certain information as of December 31, 2020, regarding the Company's equity compensation plans that have been approved by stockholders. The Company does not have any equity compensation plans that have not been approved by stockholders.

<b>Equity compensation plan approved by stockholders</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and awards</b>	<b>Weighted average exercise price with respect to outstanding stock options</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for issuance under the plan</b>
2006 Stock-Based Incentive Plan	19,928	—	—
2012 Stock-Based Incentive Plan	203,789	\$ 35.71	—
2019 Equity Incentive Plan	150,827	34.87	436,953
Employee Stock Purchase Plan	—	—	976,941
Total	<u>374,544</u>	<u>\$ 35.39</u>	<u>1,413,894</u>

#### **Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

The information regarding Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence will be set forth in the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 27, 2021 and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

#### **Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

The information regarding the Company's independent registered public accounting firm's fees and services will be set forth in the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 27, 2021 and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

## PART IV

### **Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

(a) The following consolidated financial statements, including notes thereto, and financial schedules of the Company, required in response to this item are included in Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

	Page No.
1. Financial Statements	
<a href="#">Consolidated Balance Sheets</a>	46
<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Income</a>	47
<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</a>	48
<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity</a>	49
<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</a>	50
<a href="#">Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</a>	51
<a href="#">Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</a>	101
2. Financial Statement Schedules	

Financial Statement Schedules have been omitted because they are not applicable or the required information is shown in the Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes thereto in Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

3. Exhibits	
See Exhibit Index on page 106.	

### **Item 16. Form 10-K Summary**

Not applicable.

## **EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>
3.1	<a href="#">Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed February 2, 2021)</a>	*
3.2	<a href="#">Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed February 1, 2021)</a>	*
4.1	<a href="#">Description of the Registrant's Securities</a>	
4.2	<a href="#">Indenture, dated as of June 13, 2017, by and between Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., as Issuer, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.'s Form 8-K, filed on June 13, 2017)</a>	*
4.3	<a href="#">First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 13, 2017, by and between Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., as Issuer, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Trustee, including the form of the 4.50% fixed-to-floating rate subordinated debentures due 2027 attached as Exhibit A thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.'s Form 8-K, filed on June 13, 2017)</a>	*
4.4	<a href="#">Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 1, 2021, by and between the Registrant and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Form 8-K, filed February 1, 2021)</a>	*
10.1	<a href="#">Amended and Restated Employment Contract – Howard H. Nolan (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 8-K, File No. 001-34096, filed June 24, 2015)</a>	*
10.1(i)	<a href="#">First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Employment Contract – Howard H. Nolan (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 10-Q, File No. 0-18546, filed May 10, 2016)</a>	*
10.1(ii)	<a href="#">Second Amendment to the Amended and Restated Employment Contract – Howard H. Nolan (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 10-Q, File No. 0-18546, filed August 8, 2016)</a>	*
10.1(iii)	<a href="#">Third Amendment to the Amended and Restated Employment Contract – Howard H. Nolan (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 10-K, File No. 001-34096, filed March 9, 2018)</a>	*
10.2	<a href="#">Employment Agreement – Kevin M. O'Connor (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 8-K, File No. 0-18546, filed October 15, 2007)</a>	*
10.3	<a href="#">Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement, File No. 0-18546, filed March 24, 2006)</a>	*
10.4	<a href="#">Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (Revised for 409A) (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 10-K, File No. 0-18546, filed March 14, 2008)</a>	*
10.5	<a href="#">2012 Stock-Based Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement, File No. 001-34096, filed April 2, 2012)</a>	*
10.6	<a href="#">Bridge Bancorp, Inc. Amended and Restated Directors Deferred Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 10-K, File No. 001-34096, filed March 11, 2018)</a>	*
10.7	<a href="#">Form of Employment Agreement entered into with James J. Manseau, John M. McCaffery and Kevin L. Santacroce (incorporated by reference to Registrant's Form 10-K, File No. 001-34096, filed March 9, 2018)</a>	*
10.8	<a href="#">Bridge Bancorp, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement, File No. 001-34096, filed April 2, 2018)</a>	*
10.9	<a href="#">2019 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement, File No. 001-34096, filed April 1, 2019)</a>	*
10.10	<a href="#">Form of Amendment to Employment Agreement and Amended and Restated Employment Agreement entered into with Howard H. Nolan, James J. Manseau, John M. McCaffery and Kevin L. Santacroce (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K, File No. 001-34096, filed March 11, 2020)</a>	*

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit	Exhibit
21.1	<a href="#">Subsidiaries of Registrant</a>	
23.1	<a href="#">Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</a>	
31.1	<a href="#">Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)</a>	
31.2	<a href="#">Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)</a>	
32.1	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350</a>	
101	The following financial statements from Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2020, filed on March 15, 2021, formatted in Inline XBRL: (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2020, 2019 and 2018, and (vi) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.	
101.INS	Inline XBRL Instance Document	
101.SCH	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document	
101.CAL	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document	
101.LAB	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document	
101.PRE	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document	
101.DEF	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definitions Linkbase Document	
104	Cover page to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, formatted in Inline XBRL	

\* Denotes incorporated by reference.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

	<u>DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.</u> Registrant
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Kevin M. O'Connor</u> Kevin M. O'Connor Chief Executive Officer
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Avinash Reddy</u> Avinash Reddy Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Leslie Veluswamy</u> Leslie Veluswamy Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Kenneth J. Mahon</u> Kenneth J. Mahon	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Marcia Z. Hefter</u> Marcia Z. Hefter	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Rosemarie Chen</u> Rosemarie Chen	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Michael P. Devine</u> Michael P. Devine	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Matthew A. Lindenbaum</u> Matthew A. Lindenbaum	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Albert E. McCoy, Jr.</u> Albert E. McCoy, Jr.	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Raymond A. Nielsen</u> Raymond A. Nielsen	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Kevin M. O'Connor</u> Kevin M. O'Connor	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Vincent F. Palagiano</u> Vincent F. Palagiano	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Joseph J. Perry</u> Joseph J. Perry	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Kevin Stein</u> Kevin Stein	Director
March 15, 2021	<u>/s/ Dennis A. Suskind</u> Dennis A. Suskind	Director

## **Exhibit 4.1**

### **Description of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. Securities**

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to “Dime Community Bancshares,” the “Company,” “we,” “us,” “our” or similar references mean Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.

#### **Description of Common Stock**

We are authorized to issue 90,000,000 shares of capital stock, 80,000,000 of which are shares of common stock, par value of \$0.01 per share, and 10,000,000 of which are shares of preferred stock, par value of \$0.01 per share. Each share of common stock has the same relative rights as, and is identical in all respects to, each other share of common stock. All of our shares of common stock are duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable.

#### **Dividends**

The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive and share equally in such dividends, if any, declared by the Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefor. Under the New York Business Corporation Law, we may pay dividends on our outstanding shares except when the Company is insolvent or would be made insolvent by the dividend. In addition, we may pay dividends and other distributions either (1) out of surplus, so that our net assets remaining after such payment or distribution shall at least equal the amount of our stated capital, or (2) if we have no such surplus, out of our net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared and/or the preceding fiscal year; provided, that, if our capital is less than the aggregate amount of the stated capital represented by the issued and outstanding shares of all classes having a preference upon the distribution of assets, we may not pay dividends out of such net profits until the deficiency in the amount of stated capital represented by the issued and outstanding shares of all classes having a preference upon the distribution of assets shall have been repaired. Under the terms of the Company’s 5.50% Fixed-Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, unless full dividends for the most recently completed preferred stock dividend period on all outstanding shares of preferred stock have been declared and paid in full or declared or a sum sufficient for the payment thereof has been set aside, dividends may not be paid to the holders of our common stock (except for stock dividends and a dividend in connection with a stockholders’ rights plan).

#### **Voting Rights**

The holders of our common stock are generally entitled to one vote per share.

#### **Board of Directors**

Our bylaws provide that the Board of Directors must consist of not less than five nor more than 25 directors, the exact number to be determined by resolution of a majority of the full Board of Directors. The members of the Board of Directors are elected on an annual basis. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by shareholders present at the annual shareholders’ meeting, or if the annual meeting is not held, at a special meeting called for the purpose of the election of directors. Holders of our common stock are not entitled to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

#### **Liquidation**

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock would be entitled to receive, after payment or provision for payment of all our debts and liabilities and the holders of any preferred stock, all of our assets available for distribution.

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## **No Preemptive or Redemption Rights**

Holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights with respect to any shares that may be issued. The common stock is not subject to redemption.

## **Certain Provisions in Our Certificate of Incorporation, Our Bylaws, and Applicable Laws and Regulations**

Our certificate of incorporation, our bylaws, and applicable federal and New York laws and regulations contain a number of provisions relating to corporate governance and rights of shareholders that might have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of the Company. Such provisions are listed below.

### ***Provisions in our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws***

***Prohibition of Cumulative Voting.*** Our shareholders are not entitled to cumulative voting in the election of directors.

***Restrictions on Call of Special Meetings.*** Our bylaws provide that special meetings of stockholders can be called by the Board of Directors.

***Amendments to Certificate of Incorporation.*** Our certificate of incorporation provides that certain provisions may only be amended by the approval of 75% of the shares entitled to vote on such amendment, unless such amendment has been approved by an affirmative vote of 75% of directors then in office.

***Business Combinations Involving Interested Shareholders.*** Our certificate of incorporation provides that an “interested shareholder” (a person who owns or an affiliate or associate of the Company who has owned in the previous two-year period more than 5% of the Company’s common stock) may engage in a business combination with the Company (i) if approved by the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders or (ii) (a) if approved by 75% or more of the continuing directors and (b) the per share value of the consideration for the transaction is equal to the higher of the highest per share price paid by the interested shareholder in acquiring Company common stock in the preceding two years and the fair market value per share of common stock on the date on which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder.

***Evaluation of Offers.*** Our certificate of incorporation provides that the Board of Directors may, in the context of opposing a tender offer, take into account (i) the social and economic effects of the offer or transaction on the employees, depositors, loan and other customers, creditors, shareholders and other elements of the communities in which we operate or are located, (ii) the reputation and business practices of the offeror and its management and affiliates, and (iii) the business and financial condition and earnings prospects of the offer or, including the possible effect of such conditions on the other elements of the communities in which we operate or are located.

### ***Federal Laws and Regulations***

The Bank Holding Company Act generally would prohibit any company that is not engaged in financial activities and activities that are permissible for a bank holding company or a financial holding company from acquiring control of us. “Control” is generally defined as ownership of 25% or more of the voting stock or other exercise of a controlling influence. In addition, any existing bank holding company would need the prior approval of the Federal Reserve before acquiring 5% or more of our voting stock. The Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring control of a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve has been notified and has not objected to the transaction. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve, the acquisition of 10% or more of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, such as us, could constitute acquisition of control of the bank holding company.

### ***New York Business Corporation Law***

The business combination provisions of the New York Business Corporation Law could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeovers or change in control attempts with respect to the Company and, accordingly, may

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discourage attempts to acquire the Company. In general such provisions prohibit an “interested shareholder” (i.e., a person who owns 20% or more of our outstanding voting stock) from engaging in various business combination transactions with our company, unless (a) the business combination transaction, or the transaction in which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder, was approved by the Board of Directors prior to the interested shareholder's stock acquisition date, (b) the business combination transaction was approved by the disinterested shareholders at a meeting called no earlier than five years after the interested shareholder's stock acquisition date, or (c) if the business combination transaction takes place no earlier than five years after the interested stockholder's stock acquisition date, the price paid to all the stockholders under such transaction meets statutory criteria.

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**EXHIBIT 21.1**

**SUBSIDIARIES OF THE REGISTRANT**

Subsidiary of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Incorporation</b>	<b>Percent Owned</b>
Dime Community Bank	Federal	100%

Subsidiaries of Dime Community Bank:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Incorporation</b>	<b>Percent Owned</b>
195 Havemeyer Corp.	New York	100%
Boulevard Funding Corp.	New York	100%
Bridge Abstract LLC	New York	100%
Bridge Financial Services, Inc.	New York	100%
Bridgehampton Community, Inc.	New York	100%
Dime Insurance Agency Inc. ( <i>f/k/a</i> Havemeyer Investments, Inc.)	New York	100%
Dime Reinvestment Corporation	Delaware	100%
DSB Holdings NY, LLC	New York	100%
DSBW Preferred Funding Corp.	Delaware	100%
DSBW Residential Preferred Funding Corp.	Delaware	100%

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**EXHIBIT 23.1**

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statements on Form S-3 and S-8 (File Numbers: 333-136600, 333-199123, 333-187262, 333-225221, 333-230338, 333-233406 and 333-253391) of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. of our report dated March 15, 2021 with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which report appears in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Crowe LLP

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Crowe LLP

New York, New York  
March 15, 2021

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**EXHIBIT 31.1**

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-14(A)**

I, Kevin M. O'Connor, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.;
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;
- 5) The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 15, 2021

/s/ Kevin M. O'Connor  
Kevin M. O'Connor  
Chief Executive Officer

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**EXHIBIT 31.2**

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-14(A)**

I, Avinash Reddy, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.;
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;
- 5) The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 15, 2021

/s/ Avinash Reddy

Avinash Reddy

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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This certification is being furnished as required by Rule 13a-14(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. This certification shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as otherwise stated in such filing.

**EXHIBIT 32.1**

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-14(B) 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,**

**As adopted pursuant to**

**SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 15, 2021, (the "Report"), we, Kevin M. O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer of the Company and, Avinash Reddy, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 15, 2021

/s/ Kevin M. O'Connor

Kevin M. O'Connor  
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Avinash Reddy

Avinash Reddy  
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and will be retained by Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

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