

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION ANNOUNCES SECOND QUARTER 2020 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Walhalla, SC (August 7, 2020) – Community First Bancorporation, Inc. (OTC: CFOK), parent company for Community First Bank, Inc. (the “Bank”) and SeaTrust Mortgage Company (“STM”), announced its financial results for the second quarter of 2020. Highlights of the results include:

- Total consolidated earnings were \$110,000 for the second quarter. Earnings for the six-month period ended June 30, 2020 totaled \$465,000.
- Net interest income grew by 10.6% year over year for the first half of 2020.
- Noninterest income included results for STM and increased 76.4% over the level reported in the first half of 2019.
- Total assets at June 30, 2020 were \$494,509,000, an increase of \$46,853,000 or 10.5% compared to total assets of \$447,656,000 as of March 31, 2020, and an increase of 18.1% compared to total assets of \$418,564,000 as of December 31, 2019.
- Total net loans held for investment increased 9.6% during the quarter, and loans held for sale increased 122.0% to \$5,750,000 compared to \$2,590,000 as of March 31, 2020. Loans held for investment included \$19,003,000 of loans made under the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”).
- Deposits increased 11.1% during the quarter and on April 8, 2020 the Bank opened its second full-service North Carolina branch in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Total consolidated earnings of \$110,000 were recorded for the second quarter of 2020 compared to \$355,000 for the first quarter of 2020 and \$268,000 for the second quarter of 2019. Earnings per common share for the second quarter totaled \$0.01 compared to \$0.06 for the first

quarter of 2020 and \$0.05 for the second quarter of 2019. There were several drivers of the decline in earnings, including changes in the Company's business related to the pandemic, decreases in interest rates, and the opening of an additional branch location.

Net interest income grew by 10.6% year over year for the first half of 2020 driven primarily by solid loan growth experienced over the period. Loans held for investment grew \$52,680,000 or 16.4%, net, over the 6 months ended June 30, 2020. The growth included over \$19 million of PPP loans to small businesses in our communities generated by the Bank to help our customers and others impacted by the pandemic. However, yields on loans made under the PPP program negatively impacted overall yields on loans during the second quarter. In addition, the Company deferred recognition of a significant portion of the net fee income receivable from the SBA on the loans in the program until the PPP loans are forgiven or repaid. Net loan fees on PPP loans totaled approximately \$750,000. These net fees are being amortized over the life of the loan. A majority of the net deferred fee amount remained unamortized as of June 30, 2020. Declines in market interest rates resulting from the pandemic also negatively impacted overall earning asset yields by approximately 20 basis points for the first half of 2020 compared to the first half of 2019, impacting the net interest margin by almost the same magnitude. The Federal Reserve dropped its benchmark rate by 150 basis points in the first quarter of 2020 in response to the pandemic.

Noninterest income for the second quarter of 2020 totaled \$1,085,000 compared to noninterest income of \$1,039,000 for the first quarter of 2020 and \$608,000 for the second quarter of 2019. The increase was primarily due to loans originated and sold by STM, which began selling loans late in the first quarter of 2020.

Noninterest expense increased to \$8,518,000 for the six-month period ended June 30, 2020 compared to \$7,197,000 for the six-month ended June 30, 2019. Noninterest expenses were impacted in the second quarter by several factors. The opening of the Dallas, North Carolina location in the first quarter of 2020, the opening of a second North Carolina location in Charlotte in the second quarter and expenditures related to the pandemic all contributed to increases in noninterest expense. STM's operations also impacted noninterest expense in 2020. STM increased both its loan origination and processing capabilities during the quarter. STM began originating

loans in the first quarter with locations in Wilmington, Greensboro and Jacksonville, North Carolina, as well as Seneca, South Carolina. In the second quarter STM added loan officers in the Charlotte area and additional back-office personnel. To date STM has originated over \$22,000,000 in single family mortgage loans, primarily in North and South Carolina.

President and CEO Richard D. Burleson commented: “Community First Bank and its parent company have experienced significant challenges due to the pandemic affecting our nation. As we discussed in our first quarter release at the beginning of the pandemic, this crisis has offered both unprecedented challenges and unprecedented opportunities for us as community bankers to demonstrate what community banks accomplish for our customers and our communities every day. Our team successfully originated 401 loans totaling over \$19,003,000 of PPP loans to customers and non-customers. Non-customers were limited to North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia with maximum loan amounts of \$350,000. All PPP loans were underwritten to SBA standards prior to loan consummation based on the most recent SBA guidance available, proper maximum loan amount calculations and borrower attestations. Our goal was to ensure the highest percentage of our customers and eligible non-customers possible would receive the SBA guarantee and eventual loan forgiveness under the PPP program. The Bank chose to limit our loans to the maximum loan amount based on qualified payroll and to limit our geographical and non-customer exposure. However, when many community banks in the markets we serve turned their backs on small businesses, Community First Bank rose to the challenge, demonstrated that “We Know What Matters”, and assisted many of those small businesses that had nowhere to turn. The Bank has provided (and continues to provide) multiple lines of communication with PPP recipients to keep them abreast of the forgiveness application process, including additional educational information regarding the PPP loan program.”

Mr. Burleson also commented on the Bank’s effort to protect the well-being of its customers and employees: “We have made extraordinary efforts to protect our customers and associates by enhanced cleaning of our locations and offering drive-through access throughout the pandemic. We continue to offer exemplary customer service via multiple digital banking channels, as well as in our lobbies by appointment. We are continuously taking precautions to keep our customers and associates safe. The Bank was able to smoothly transition some

employees into work-from-home scenarios without any significant loss in efficiency because of previously enhanced technology solutions. By promoting social distancing among employees, we have been able to safely offer customers access to essential banking services while protecting our most important asset- our associates.”

At June 30, 2020, total gross loans held for investment were \$374,692,000, an increase of 16.4%, compared to total gross loans held for investment of \$322,012,000 at December 31, 2019. Total deposits at June 30, 2020 were \$414,933,000 compared to \$353,246,000 at December 31, 2019, an increase of \$61,687,000 or 17.5% over December 31, 2019 totals.

Mr. Burlison continued, “The impact of the pandemic on our customer base has been fairly moderate to date. The Bank has granted deferrals of a portion of payments on 126 loans with total outstanding balances of \$64,261,000 or 17.20% of total loans as of June 30, 2020. The majority of the deferrals were granted to clients who also received PPP loans. Deferrals have primarily entailed allowing borrowers to delay making the principal portion of payments due for a period of 90 days, but requiring interest payments to be made during the deferral period. We will continue to closely monitor credit quality over the coming months.”

The Bank continues to have high asset quality. Its nonperforming assets, comprising nonperforming loans and foreclosed assets, increased slightly to \$1,393,000 from \$1,142,000 at March 31, 2020, and \$1,382,000 at December 31, 2019. At June 30, 2020, we had three loans totaling approximately \$156,000 in our foreclosure pipeline and our past due percentages remained well below .40% on a monthly basis for the quarter. At June 30, 2020, our Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses (“ALLL”) totaled \$4,289,000 or 1.14% of loans held for investment, an increase of 14.7% over December 31, 2019 levels primarily due to an increase in outstanding loans. The Company provided \$343,000 to the ALLL in the second quarter of 2020. This increase in the ALLL was primarily due to organic growth in the loan portfolio. However, the Bank will continue monitoring borrowers’ financial situations in order to determine if additional provisions to the ALLL are warranted due to adverse changes in the economy resulting from the pandemic.

Mr. Burluson stated, “We are excited about the opportunities provided by our new branches in Dallas and Charlotte, North Carolina. We opened the locations just prior to or during the pandemic, but we have been able to serve customers via drive-thru lanes and digital banking channels. We expect to announce grand opening celebration plans for our Charlotte location once it is deemed safe to do so.”

Mr. Burluson closed his comments by noting: “Our highest priority, along with maintaining our well capitalized status and satisfactory liquidity levels, is serving our communities. We are committed to maintaining this priority during these unprecedented times. We have pledged to work with customers impacted by the pandemic. We expect this may affect the Company over the next several quarters, but management believes we have a duty to be a leader in the communities we serve. The Company’s Tier 1 Leverage Capital Ratio was 9.46% at June 30, 2020. Liquidity levels remain satisfactory.” The Bank’s Tier 1 leverage capital declined from 10.6% at December 31, 2019 to its present level primarily because of growth. The majority of PPP loans remain included in the Tier 1 Leverage capital computation as of June 30, 2020.

Community First Bank has ten full-service financial centers in North and South Carolina, with two each in Seneca and Anderson and single locations in Greenville, Williamston, Walhalla and Westminster, South Carolina, and in Dallas and Charlotte, North Carolina. The Company operates a loan production office in Concord, North Carolina. In addition, its SeaTrust Mortgage subsidiary operates offices in Wilmington, Greensboro, Jacksonville and Charlotte, North Carolina.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This News Release contains forward-looking statements, which can be identified by the use of words such as “estimate,” “project,” “believe,” “intend,” “anticipate,” “plan,” “seek,” “expect,” “will,” “may” and words of similar meaning. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to statements of our goals, intentions and expectations; statements regarding our business and strategic plans, prospects, growth and operating strategies; statements regarding the asset quality of our loan and investment portfolios; and estimates of our risks and future costs and benefits.

These forward-looking statements are based on our current beliefs and expectations and are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control. In addition, these forward-looking statements are subject to assumptions with respect to future business strategies and decisions that are subject to change. The Company is under no duty to and do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this News Release.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements:

- The ultimate impact of the current pandemic is unknown and has adversely impacted, and may continue to adversely impact, the Company in various areas including but not limited to credit risk, liquidity risk, and risk to earnings;
- We may not be able to implement aspects of our growth strategy;
- Future expansion involves risks;
- New bank office facilities and other facilities may not be profitable;
- Acquisition of assets and assumption of liabilities may expose us to intangible asset risk, which could impact our results of operations and financial condition;
- The success of our growth strategy depends on our ability to identify and retain individuals with experience and relationships in the markets in which we intend to expand;
- We may need additional access to capital, which we may be unable to obtain on attractive terms or at all;
- Our estimate for losses in our loan portfolio may be inadequate, which would cause our results of operations and financial condition to be adversely affected;
- Our commercial real estate loans generally carry greater credit risk than one-to-four family residential mortgage loans;
- Construction financing may expose us to a greater risk of loss and hurt our earnings and profitability;
- Repayment of our commercial business loans is primarily dependent on the cash flows of the borrowers, which may be unpredictable, and the collateral securing these loans may fluctuate in value;
- We continue to hold other real estate, which has led to operating expenses and vulnerability to additional declines in real property values;
- A significant portion of our loan portfolio is secured by real estate, and events that negatively impact the real estate market could hurt our business;
- Future changes in interest rates could reduce our profits;
- Strong competition within our market areas may limit our growth and profitability;
- Our stock-based incentive compensation plan will increase our costs, which will reduce our income;
- The implementation of our stock-based incentive compensation plan may dilute shareholder ownership interest;
- We are subject to extensive regulation and oversight, and, depending upon the findings and determinations of our regulatory authorities, we may be required to make adjustments to our business, operations or financial position and could become subject to formal or informal regulatory action;
- We are subject to stringent capital requirements, which may adversely impact our return on equity, require us to raise additional capital, or constrain us from paying dividends or repurchasing shares;
- We depend on our management team to implement our business strategy and execute successful operations and we could be harmed by the loss of their services;
- The value of our deferred tax asset could be impacted if corporate tax rates in the U.S. decline or as a result of other changes in the U.S. corporate tax system;
- We may not be able to utilize all of our deferred tax asset;
- The fair value of our investments could decline;
- Liquidity risk could impair our ability to fund operations and jeopardize our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows;
- Changes in accounting standards could affect reported earnings;
- A failure in or breach of our operational or security systems or infrastructure, or those of our third party vendors and other service providers or other third parties, including as a result of cyber-attacks, could disrupt our businesses, result in the disclosure or misuse of confidential or proprietary information, damage our reputation, increase our costs, and cause losses;
- Our stock price may be volatile, which could result in losses to our shareholders and litigation against us;
- The trading volume in our common stock is lower than that of other larger companies; future sales of our stock by our shareholders or the perception that those sales could occur may cause our stock price to decline;
- There may be future sales of additional common stock or preferred stock or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our common stock;

- We may issue additional debt and equity securities or securities convertible into equity securities, any of which may be senior to our common stock as to distributions and in the event of liquidation, which could negatively affect the value of our common stock;
- Negative public opinion surrounding our Company and the financial institutions industry generally could damage our reputation and adversely impact our earnings.

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COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(Unaudited)

(Amounts in thousands except share information)

<u>Income Statement</u>	<u>Three Months Ended June 30,</u>		<u>Change</u>
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	
Net interest income	\$ 3,726	\$ 3,439	8.4%
Provision for loan losses	343	-	100%
Other income	1,085	608	74.5%
Other expense	<u>4,338</u>	<u>3,658</u>	18.6%
Income before income taxes	130	389	(66.6%)
Benefit (provision) for income taxes	<u>(20)</u>	<u>121</u>	(83.5%)
Net income	<u>\$ 110</u>	<u>\$ 268</u>	(59.0%)
Dividends paid on preferred stock	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>	-
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 71</u>	<u>\$ 229</u>	(69.0%)
Net income per common share			
Basic	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.05	
Diluted	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.05	

<u>Income Statement</u>	<u>Six Months Ended June 30,</u>		<u>Change</u>
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	
Net interest income	\$ 7,505	\$ 6,783	10.6%
Provision for loan losses	539	-	100.0%
Other income	2,124	1,204	76.4%
Other expense	<u>8,518</u>	<u>7,197</u>	18.4%
Income before income taxes	572	790	(27.6%)
Benefit (provision) for income taxes	<u>(107)</u>	<u>(205)</u>	(47.8%)
Net income	<u>\$ 465</u>	<u>\$ 585</u>	(20.5%)
Dividends paid or on preferred stock	<u>79</u>	<u>79</u>	-
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 386</u>	<u>\$ 506</u>	(23.7%)
Net income per common share			
Basic	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.12	
Diluted	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.12	

<u>Balance Sheet</u>	<u>June 30,</u>	<u>June 30,</u>	<u>December 31,</u>
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Total assets	\$ 494,509	\$ 405,670	\$ 418,564
Gross loans	374,692	301,319	322,012
Allowance for loan losses	4,289	3,723	3,740
Loans held for investment, net	370,403	297,596	318,272
Loans held for sale	5,750	-	-
Securities	42,413	46,188	46,313
Total earning assets	468,186	387,141	399,206
Total deposits	414,933	345,583	353,246
Shareholders' equity	49,413	44,735	48,175
Book value per common share	8.42	8.12	8.19

	June 30, <u>2020</u> (Unaudited)	June 30, <u>2019</u> (Unaudited)	December 31, <u>2019</u> (Audited)
<u>Asset Quality Data</u>			
Nonperforming loans			
Non-accrual loans	\$ 660	\$ 515	\$ 591
Past due loans 90 days or more	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total nonperforming loans	660	515	591
Foreclosed Assets	<u>733</u>	<u>627</u>	<u>793</u>
Total nonperforming assets	<u>\$ 1,393</u>	<u>\$ 1,142</u>	<u>\$ 1,384</u>
Net charge-offs (recoveries) year to date	\$ (10)	(147)	\$ (124)
Nonperforming assets as a percentage of total loans and foreclosed assets	0.37%	0.38%	0.43%
Nonperforming assets to total assets	0.28%	0.28%	0.33%
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans	649.85%	722.91%	632.83%
Allowance for loan losses to total loans outstanding	1.14%	1.24%	1.16%
Net charge-offs (recoveries) to total loans outstanding	(0.00%)	(0.05%)	(0.04%)
	June 30, <u>2020</u> (Unaudited)	June 30, <u>2019</u> (Unaudited)	December 31, <u>2019</u> (Audited)
<u>Capital Ratios- Community First Bank</u>			
Tier 1 Capital (to average assets)	9.46%	10.3%	10.6%