



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Richard D. Burleson, President and CEO**  
**Jennifer M. Champagne, Executive Vice President and CFO**  
**864-886-0206**

### **Community First Bancorporation Reports Second Quarter Financial Results**

Walhalla, SC (August 1, 2019) – Community First Bancorporation, Inc. (OTC: CFOK), parent of company of Community First Bank, Inc., reported total consolidated earnings of \$268,000 for the second quarter of 2019, compared to earnings of \$454,000 for the second quarter of 2018. Earnings for the first six months of 2019 were \$585,000 compared to \$794,000 for the first six months of 2018. One of the primary differences between the 2019 periods and the 2018 periods is the recognition of income tax expense. In the second quarter the Company recognized income tax expense of \$121,000 compared to \$27,000 in the second quarter of 2018. In the first six months of 2019 the Company recognized income tax expense of \$205,000 compared to \$27,000 for the first six months of 2018. The change related to the reversal of the valuation allowance against the Company's deferred tax asset in late 2018.

Richard Burleson, President and Chief Executive Officer commented, "As companies grow and expand into new markets or lines of business, additional expenses often precede revenue growth. In our second quarter we had several one-time expenses associated with our new initiatives. Those included the opening of the Greenville Branch on April 15, 2018 and the costs associated with the formation of SeaTrust Mortgage Company. Additionally, the Company is poised for expansion with additional systems and personnel. The Company employed 115 full time equivalent employees on June 30, 2019 compared to 109 on June 30, 2018. Another consequence of our growth strategy is the need to deploy our capital to support our new initiatives. We took action to meet this need. During the quarter we completed a two-part private placement of common stock, increasing total capital by \$10,000,000. So, although we are disappointed with our net income growth in the second quarter of 2019, we believe the investments we are making today in our Company will provide us with the desired returns in the future".

Total assets at June 30, 2019 were \$405,670,000, an increase of 6.19% compared to \$382,019,000 as of December 31, 2018 and a 7.71% increase over total assets of \$376,638,000 as of June 30, 2018. At June 30, 2019 total gross loans were \$301,319,000, an increase of 8.05% from December 31, 2018 loans of \$278,881,000 and an increase of 8.66% when compared to total gross loans of \$277,294,000 as of June 2018. Total deposits at June 30, 2019 were \$345,583,000, an increase of 4.92% compared to December 31, 2018 of \$329,369,000 and 4.70% compared to June 30, 2018 total deposits of \$330,067,000. At June

30, 2019, our Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses totaled \$3,723,000 or 1.24% of total outstanding loans.

Mr. Burleson commented further, "Our non-performing assets (NPAs) continue to reduce nicely as demonstrated in our numbers. As of June 30, 2019 our NPAs were \$1,142,000 compared to \$1,894,000 as of June 30, 2018, a reduction of 39.70%. At June 30, 2019 we had no loans in foreclosure and our past due ratio remains outstanding and below .50%."

Burleson continued, "Our highest priority is to remain well capitalized while continuing to exercise our growth strategy. We remain very diligent in our approach to our high credit and asset quality standards and will continue to provide loan and deposit products that make sense and align with the best interests of our shareholders."

The Company's Tier 1 Leverage Capital Ratio was 10.78% as of June 30, 2019 compared to 9.50% as of December 31, 2018. Book value as of June 30, 2019 was \$8.12 per common share compared to \$6.99 as of June 30, 2018 and \$8.06 as of December 31, 2018.

Community First Bank operates eighth full service financial centers in South Carolina, with two each in Anderson and Seneca and single locations in Greenville, Williamston, Walhalla and Westminster. It also operates two Loan Production Offices in Concord and Charlotte North Carolina along with the recently announced SeaTrust Mortgage Company in Wilmington, 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:

- 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 reduce 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 adversely impact 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 interests;
- 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 as a result of changes in the U.S. corporate tax system or a decrease in income tax rates;
- 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, 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 AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS  
(UNAUDITED)

(All Amounts, Except Share Data, in Thousands)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED		<u>CHANGE</u>
	June 30,		
	<u>2019</u> (Unaudited)	<u>2018</u> (Unaudited)	
<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>			
Net interest income	\$ 3,439	\$ 3,335	3.12%
Provision for loan losses	0	40	100.00%
Other income	608	637	-4.55%
Other Expenses	3,658	3,451	6.00%
Income before income taxes	<u>389</u>	<u>481</u>	-19.13%
Provision for income taxes	121	27	348.15%
Net income	<u>\$ 268</u>	<u>\$ 454</u>	-40.97%
Dividends preferred stock	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>	0.00%
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 229</u>	<u>\$ 415</u>	-45.06%
Income per common share			
Basic	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.10	
Diluted	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.10	

	SIX MONTHS ENDED		<u>CHANGE</u>
	June 30,		
	<u>2019</u> (Unaudited)	<u>2018</u> (Unaudited)	
<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>			
Net interest income	\$ 6,783	\$ 6,426	5.56%
Provision for loan losses	0	40	100.00%
Other income	1,204	1,189	1.26%
Other Expenses	7,197	6,754	6.56%
Income before income taxes	<u>790</u>	<u>821</u>	-3.78%
Provision for income taxes	205	27	659.26%
Net income	<u>\$ 585</u>	<u>\$ 794</u>	-26.32%
Dividends on preferred stock	<u>79</u>	<u>79</u>	0.00%
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 506</u>	<u>\$ 715</u>	-29.23%
Income per common share			
Basic	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.17	
Diluted	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.17	

	June 30, <u>2019</u> (Unaudited)	June 30, <u>2018</u> (Unaudited)	December 31, <u>2018</u> (Audited)
BALANCE SHEET			
Total assets	\$ 405,670	\$ 376,638	\$ 382,019
Gross loans	301,319	277,294	278,881
Allowance for loan losses	3,723	3,411	3,576
Loans, net	297,596	273,883	275,305
Securities	46,188	50,788	48,277
Total earning assets	387,141	364,759	364,558
Total deposits	345,583	330,067	329,369
Shareholders' equity	44,735	32,188	36,614
Book value per common share	\$ 8.12	\$ 6.99	\$ 8.04

	June 30, <u>2019</u>	June 30, <u>2018</u>	December 31, <u>2018</u>
ASSET QUALITY DATA			
Nonperforming loans			
Non-accrual loans	\$ 515	\$ 1,083	\$ 562
Past due loans 90 days or more	0	0	0
Total nonperforming loans	515	1,083	562
Foreclosed Assets	627	811	646
Total nonperforming assets	<u>\$ 1,142</u>	<u>\$ 1,894</u>	<u>\$ 1,208</u>
Net charge-offs (recoveries)	\$ (147)	\$ (17)	\$ (74)
Nonperforming assets as a percentage of total loans and foreclosed assets	0.38%	0.68%	0.43%
Nonperforming assets to total assets	0.28%	0.50%	0.32%
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans	722.91%	314.96%	636.30%
Allowance for loans losses to total loans outstanding	1.24%	1.23%	1.28%
Net charge-offs to total loans outstanding	-0.05%	-0.01%	-0.03%

CAPITAL RATIOS			
Total Capital (to risk-weighted assets)	14.64%	13.14%	13.40%
Tier 1 Capital (to risk-weighted assets)	13.46%	11.95%	12.20%
Tier 1 Capital (to average assets)	10.78%	9.14%	9.50%