

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COMMUNITY FIRST BANCORPORATION ANNOUNCES SECOND QUARTER 2021 FINANCIAL RESULTS**

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**Walhalla, SC** (August 11, 2021) – 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 2021. Highlights of the results include:

- Total consolidated earnings were \$564,000 for the second quarter, an increase of 57.1% over the first quarter and an increase of 638.0% over the second quarter of 2020. Earnings for the six- month period ended June 30, 2021 totaled \$923,000, an increase of 98.5% over the first six months of 2020.
- Net interest income grew by 21.4% year over year for the first half of 2021.
- Noninterest income included results for STM for the entire six-month period in 2021 and increased 157.4% over the level reported in the first half of 2020.
- Total assets at June 30, 2021 were \$638,618,000, an increase of \$7,664,000, or 1.2%, compared to total assets of \$630,954,000 as of March 31, 2021, and an increase of 17.4% compared to total assets of \$543,988,000 as of December 31, 2020.
- Total net loans held for investment increased 1.8% to \$444,960,000 during the quarter, and loans held for sale increased 20.9% to \$15,301,000 compared to \$12,655,000 as of March 31, 2021.
- Deposits increased 1.4% during the quarter and 20.7% during the first six months of 2021. The Company completed its acquisition of Security Federal Bank in March 2021 adding two full-service offices in eastern Tennessee to its existing network of two offices in North Carolina and eight offices in South Carolina.

Total consolidated earnings of \$564,000 were recorded for the second quarter of 2021 compared to \$359,000 for the first quarter of 2021 and \$110,000 for the second quarter of 2020. Earnings per common share for the second quarter totaled \$.10 compared to \$.06 and \$.01, respectively, for the first and second quarter of 2020. Compared to the first quarter of 2021, in the second quarter the Company recorded higher net interest income, a slightly lower provision for loan losses, and a lower provision for income taxes.

Net interest income grew 11.6% in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2021 and 29.0% over the second quarter of 2020. Loans held for investment grew a net 1.8% during the second quarter.

The provision for loan losses was lower in the second quarter of 2021 in comparison to both the first quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2020. The Bank experienced a net recovery of previous charge-offs for the first six months of 2021.

Noninterest income was \$545,000 lower in the second quarter of 2021 than in the first quarter of 2021 due to declines in insufficient funds revenues, mortgage banking income, gains on the sale of SBA loans, and in swap revenue. The quarter-over-quarter decline was partially offset by a gain on a securities sale and increases in interchange income.

Noninterest expense increased 49.8% for the second quarter in comparison to the second quarter of 2020 but declined slightly (.9%) from the first quarter of 2021. Merger-related expenses totaled \$106,000 in the second quarter in comparison to \$489,000 in the first quarter of 2021. There were no merger-related expenses in the second quarter of 2020. Salaries and benefits expense declined slightly during the second quarter, even with the addition of Security Federal Bank personnel, due to a decline in benefit costs and commissions on mortgage banking activities. This decline in noninterest expense was partially offset during the second quarter by increases in marketing and in occupancy expenses related to the addition of the Tennessee branches.

Net interest income grew by 21.4% year over year for the first half of 2021 driven primarily by the increase in the loan portfolio resulting from the merger and loan growth

experienced over the period. Loans held for investment grew 20.1% year over year and \$47,440,000, or 11.9%, net, over the six months ended June 30, 2021.

The provision for loan losses declined 52.5% in the first half of 2021 in comparison to the first half of 2020. In the second quarter of 2020 the impact of COVID-19 was just beginning to be felt and uncertainty impacted the allowance for loan and lease losses (“ALLL”) through our qualitative and environmental factors analyses. In addition, the ALLL is typically impacted by the mix of loans in the portfolio across various loan types and various historical loss figures. In 2020 our Sales Finance division experienced significant growth. This growth impacted ratios used in the calculation of the ALLL. However, by the first part of 2021, vaccinations allowed many businesses to open and operate, decreasing uncertainty for many borrowers and growth in the Sales Finance division moderated somewhat. We have not experienced substantial pandemic-related losses, and an increased provision for loan losses was not warranted in the second quarter of 2021. However, unforeseen lingering risks associated with the ongoing pandemic could impact the ALLL estimates going forward.

Noninterest income increased 157.4% in the first six months of 2021 compared to the first six months of 2020. STM operated for the full first six months of 2021, closing approximately \$108,000,000 of loans. It began making mortgage loans at the end of February in 2020. Monthly volume increased throughout the year of 2020 as STM hired more loan officers.

Noninterest expense increased to \$13,054,000 for the six-month period ended June 30, 2021 compared to \$8,518,000 for the six-month ended June 30, 2020. Noninterest expense related to salaries and payroll increased by \$2,668,000 in the first six months of 2021 as compared to the comparable period of 2020. Total salaries and benefits were primarily impacted by additional commissions paid to mortgage lenders on the increased volume as well as additional operations personnel at STM and additional personnel added from the merger with Security Federal Bank. Occupancy-related expenses also increased in 2021 over the comparable 2020 period. The Bank’s Charlotte and Dallas, North Carolina offices opened during the first quarter of 2020. The first six months of 2021 include a full six months of costs for those locations, additional rents for STM locations opened after June 30, 2020, and costs of operating the Tennessee branches acquired in

the merger. Noninterest expense increases were also impacted by loan-related costs and data processing and software costs resulting from increases in STM volumes. Noninterest expense in 2021 also included merger-related expenses of \$594,000.

President and CEO Richard D. Burleson commented: “ In review of our second quarter numbers and the year to date results we are very encouraged by the significant progress we have made. Especially when considering the merger cost impact, it’s a significant change from years past.

However, we are also concerned with the slow down in the mortgage market over the last several months. During the highest part of the pandemic much of our mortgage volume came from the refinancing and new purchase money boom. We are beginning to see a slow-down in mortgage applications in the markets we serve. Several of our communities have experienced a lack of supply, pushing up prices. We will be closely monitoring the markets over the next several months.”

At June 30, 2021, total gross loans held for investment were \$450,040,000, an increase of \$47,440,000 or 11.8%, compared to total gross loans held for investment of \$402,600,000 at December 31, 2020. The acquisition of Security Federal Bank added \$39,319,000 to loans in March 2021. Total deposits at June 30, 2021 were \$534,523,000 compared to \$442,868,000 at December 31, 2020, an increase of \$91,655,000, or 20.7%, over December 31, 2020 totals. The acquisition of Security Federal Bank added \$45,616,000 to total deposits in March 2021.

Mr. Burleson continued, “the impact of the pandemic on our customer base was fairly moderate early in the pandemic. The majority of our small business customers have begun to rebound despite issues with staffing. The majority of the PPP loans made by the Bank during 2020 have been repaid via the SBA PPP forgiveness process, and there is only one remaining pandemic-related deferral in the loan portfolio. We will continue to closely monitor credit quality over the coming months.”

The Bank continues to have strong asset quality. During the second quarter nonperforming assets (comprising nonperforming loans and foreclosed assets) decreased slightly to \$1,379,000

from \$1,534,000 at March 31, 2021. Nonperforming assets were \$976,000 at December 31, 2020. At June 30, 2021, we had six loans totaling approximately \$331,000 in our foreclosure pipeline and our past due percentages for the period remained below .40% on a monthly basis. At June 30, 2021, our ALLL totaled \$5,080,000, or 1.13%, of loans held for investment, an increase of 6.5% over December 31, 2020 levels. This increase was primarily due to an increase in outstanding loans. The Company provided \$126,000 and \$343,000 to the ALLL in the second quarters of 2021 and 2020, respectively. The increase in the ALLL was primarily due to organic growth in the loan portfolio.

Mr. Burleson stated, “we are very pleased about the opportunities provided by our new branches in eastern Tennessee. Our new teammates are excited to offer our brand of community banking into their markets, and our legacy offices in the Carolinas are looking forward to expanded mortgage lending opportunities provided by the Freddie Mac seller/ servicer capabilities we acquired in the merger. Our data processing systems were successfully converted in July 2021, and these offices now proudly display our signage and branding.”

Mr. Burleson closed his comments by noting: “our highest priority, along with maintaining our well capitalized status, satisfactory liquidity levels, and our strong credit culture, is serving our communities. We are excited about the opportunities we see for the remainder of 2021.”

Community First Bank has twelve full-service financial centers in North and South Carolina and Tennessee, with two each in Seneca and Anderson and single locations in Greenville, Williamston, Walhalla and Westminster, South Carolina, locations in Dallas and Charlotte, North Carolina, and two locations in Elizabethton, Tennessee. The Company operates loan production offices in Concord and Waynesville, North Carolina and Kingsport, Tennessee. In addition, its SeaTrust Mortgage subsidiary operates offices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee.

#### *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)*

<b>Income Statement</b>	<u>Three Months Ended June 30,</u>		<u>Change</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	
Net interest income	\$ 4,807	\$ 3,726	29.0%
Provision for loan losses	126	343	-63.3%
Other income	2,461	1,085	126.8%
Other expense	<u>6,497</u>	<u>4,338</u>	49.8%
Income before income taxes	645	130	396.2%
Benefit (provision) for income taxes	<u>(81)</u>	<u>(20)</u>	305.0%
Net income	<u>\$ 564</u>	<u>\$ 110</u>	412.7%
Dividends paid on preferred stock	<u>40</u>	<u>39</u>	-%
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 524</u>	<u>\$ 71</u>	638.0%
Net income per common share			
Basic	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.01	
Diluted	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.01	

<b>Income Statement</b>	<u>Six Months Ended June 30,</u>		<u>Change</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	
Net interest income	\$ 9,113	\$ 7,505	21.4%
Provision for loan losses	256	539	-52.5%
Other income	5,467	2,124	157.4%
Other expense	<u>13,054</u>	<u>8,518</u>	53.3%
Income before income taxes	1,270	572	122.0%
Benefit (provision) for income taxes	<u>(347)</u>	<u>(107)</u>	224.3%
Net income	<u>\$ 923</u>	<u>\$ 465</u>	98.5%
Dividends paid or on preferred stock	<u>79</u>	<u>79</u>	-%
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 844</u>	<u>\$ 386</u>	118.7%
Net income per common share			
Basic	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.07	
Diluted	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.07	

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<u>June 30,</u>	<u>June 30,</u>	<u>December 31,</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	
Total assets	\$ 638,618	\$ 494,509	\$ 543,988
Gross loans	450,040	374,692	402,600
Allowance for loan losses	5,080	4,289	4,811
Loans held for investment, net	444,960	370,403	397,789
Loans held for sale	15,301	5,750	14,569
Fed funds sold	5,471	0	0
Securities	70,463	42,413	43,659
Total earning assets	613,284	468,186	523,161
Total deposits	534,523	414,933	442,868
Shareholders' equity	51,532	49,413	50,788
Book value per common share	8.80	8.42	8.67

	June 30, <u>2021</u> (Unaudited)	June 30, <u>2020</u> (Unaudited)	December 31, <u>2020</u> (Audited)
<b>Asset Quality Data</b>			
Nonperforming loans			
Non-accrual loans	\$ 700	\$ 660	\$ 487
Past due loans 90 days or more	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total nonperforming loans	700	660	487
Foreclosed Assets	<u>679</u>	<u>733</u>	<u>489</u>
Total nonperforming assets	<u>\$ 1,379</u>	<u>\$ 1,393</u>	<u>\$ 976</u>
Net charge-offs (recoveries) year to date	\$ (13)	\$ (10)	\$ 29
Nonperforming assets as a percentage of total loans and foreclosed assets	0.31%	0.37%	0.24%
Nonperforming assets to total assets	0.22%	0.28%	0.18%
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans	725.71%	649.85%	987.89%
Allowance for loan losses to total loans outstanding	1.13%	1.14%	1.19%
Net charge-offs (recoveries) to total loans outstanding	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	0.01%
<b>Capital Ratios- Community First Bank</b>			
Tier 1 Capital (to average assets)	June 30, <u>2021</u> (Unaudited) 8.8%	June 30, <u>2020</u> (Unaudited) 9.5%	December 31, <u>2020</u> (Audited) 8.8%