



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FDIC BOARD APPROVES STATEMENT ON PRESERVING MINORITY OWNERSHIP

The Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has approved a policy statement emphasizing the Division of Supervision's commitment to preserve minority ownership of depository institutions whenever possible and to encourage minority participation in the management of depository institutions. As part of this policy, the Division of Supervision (DOS) works with minority groups and institutions to avoid or correct problems and, in failing bank situations, to seek solutions that recognize unique minority characteristics.

"The Division of Supervision has long recognized the value of minority-owned institutions and the wisdom of encouraging minority group participation in the financial system. We are pleased to be able to issue this written statement on the kind of assistance that we can offer," said Paul G. Fritts, Division Director.

Section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act sets forth some of the particular goals that the DOS policy implements. The policy statement highlights four areas where DOS will actively consider issues of minority ownership:

- o applications for insurance and other matters received from financial institutions;
- o supervision of operating institutions in need of remedial or preventative action;
- o financial assistance to minority-owned institutions; and
- o resolution of minority-owned institutions in danger of failing.

(more)

Information on the procedures for obtaining technical or other assistance is available from the appropriate FDIC Regional Division of Supervision Office.

The policy statement on preservation of minority ownership of financial institutions is available from the FDIC's Office of Corporate Communications.

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