

Hancock Holding Company (NASDAQ: HBHC; Gulfport, MS) Announces Sale of Its Consumer Finance Company, Harrison Finance Company, to First Tower Finance Company, LLC (Private; Flowood, MS)

Deal Value: Not Disclosed

Sandler O'Neill served as exclusive financial advisor to Hancock Whitney in connection with this transaction.

Overall, this represents Sandler O'Neill's 202nd financial services transaction since January 1, 2015, more than any other investment bank during that time period.¹

Since January 1, 2015, Sandler O'Neill has advised on 78 financial services transactions in the Southeast and Southwest, more than any other investment bank during that time period.¹

About the Transaction:

GULFPORT, Miss. Feb. 22, 2018 -- Hancock Holding Company (Nasdaq: HBHC) today announced that its banking subsidiary, Whitney Bank ("Hancock Whitney"), has signed an agreement to sell its consumer finance company ("Harrison Finance") to First Tower Finance Company, LLC. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"Harrison Finance, which was started in 1984, had been a part of the company's business plan when Hancock operated under a different set of strategic goals", said John M. Hairston, President and CEO. "Today, as our company continues to grow and change, and as we execute on our updated strategic plans, the decision was made to sell the consumer finance company."

Harrison Finance operates 35 offices located across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The finance company had 137 employees and approximately \$95 million of loans at year-end 2017. The impact of this transaction is not included in the near or long-term guidance provided with Hancock's fourth quarter 2017 earnings.

The transaction is expected to close within 90 days, subject to receipt of regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of other customary closing conditions.

About Hancock Holding Company:

Hancock Holding Company is a financial services company with regional business headquarters and locations across the Gulf South. The company's banking subsidiary provides comprehensive financial products and services through Hancock Bank locations in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and Whitney Bank locations in Louisiana and Texas, including traditional, online, and mobile banking; commercial and small business banking; private banking; trust and investment services; certain insurance services; and mortgage services. The company also operates a loan production office in Nashville, Tennessee.

(1) Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence; Excludes terminated transactions and self-advisory roles

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