

**Harbor Community Bank (Private, Indiantown, FL ) has agreed to acquire nine Central Florida branches of Popular Community Bank from Popular, Inc. (NASDAQ: BPOP; Hato Rey, PR)**

Sandler O'Neill served as financial advisor to Harbor Community Bank in the purchase of these branches.

This transaction represents Sandler O'Neill's [44<sup>th</sup>] bank branch transaction since January 1, 2011. During that time period, Sandler O'Neill has advised on branch transactions totaling [467] branches and [\$25.1] billion in deposits, more than any other investment bank.<sup>1</sup>

**About the Transaction:**

Harbor Community Bank (Harbor) and Banco Popular (Popular) have announced the signing of a purchase and assumption agreement whereby Harbor will acquire the nine Central Florida branches of Popular subsidiary, Popular Community Bank. The branch offices are located in and around Orlando in Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties.

Upon closing of the transaction the nine branch offices and approximately \$230 million in associated deposits and \$115 million in loans will be merged into Harbor. Harbor Community Bank is one of Florida's most highly capitalized banks. The transaction is subject to the customary regulatory approvals and is anticipated to close in the last half of the year.

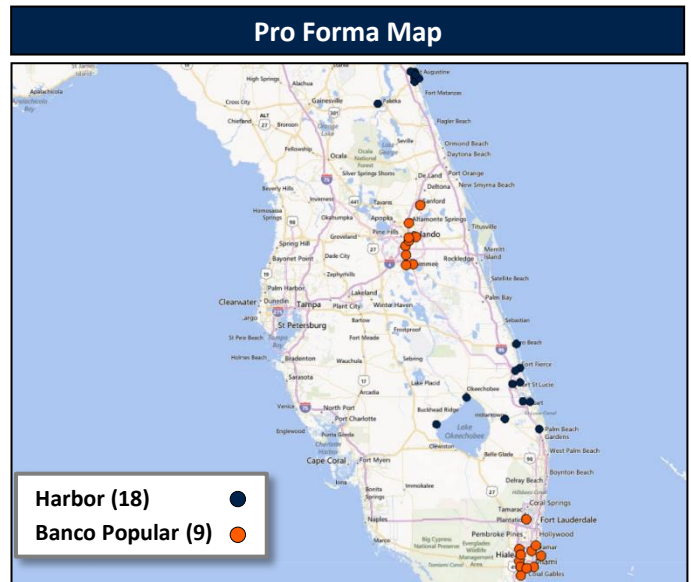
Harbor Community Bank currently has assets of approximately \$665 million and 18 Branch locations all in the state of Florida. Harbor and the HCBF Holding Company, are led by seasoned Florida bankers; Michael J Brown Sr. Chairman and CEO, J. Hal Roberts President and COO, Randall Ezell Executive Vice President and CFO and Mike Brown Jr. Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer continue with an organic and acquisition growth plan that started in 2011. This plan was supported by commitments of \$329 million in capital from the HCBF Holding Company Board of Directors and outside investors.

Mike Brown Sr. commented "We are excited with this opportunity to expand the Harbor Community Bank foot print into the rapidly growing Central Florida market and look forward to working with all of the Branch office personnel. We are certain that the foundation of customer service started by Popular Community Bank several years ago will be continued and enhanced by Harbor Community Bank with the support of the current Popular Community Bank Branch team during the integration process prior to closing and after the transition. "

Upon completion of the transaction Harbor Community Bank will have assets of approximately \$900 million and have banking facilities in 10 Florida Counties in South East Central Florida and North East Florida.

<sup>1</sup>Includes all completed and pending branch transactions since January 1, 2011

Source: SNL Financial



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