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(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(410) 750-0020

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	The NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during to preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a small reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “small reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Small reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates on June 30, 2012, was approximately \$12.9 million. At February 28, 2013, the number of outstanding shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, of the Corporation was 4,040,471.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III of this Form 10-K incorporates by reference certain information from the registrant’s definitive Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I	Item 1. Business	2
	Item 1A. Risk Factors	14
	Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments	23
	Item 2. Properties	23
	Item 3. Legal Proceedings	23
	Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures	23
PART II	Item 5. Market for the Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	23
	Item 6. Selected Financial Data	25
	Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	26
	Item 7A. Market Risk Management	45
	Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	46
	Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firms	46
	Consolidated Financial Statements	47
	Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	51
	Item 9. Changes in an Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure -	78
	Item 9A. Controls and Procedures	78
	Item 9B. Other Information	78
PART III	Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	78
	Item 11. Executive Compensation	79
	Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	79
	Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	79
	Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services	79
PART IV	Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	79

As used in this report, “the Bancorp,” “the Company,” “we,” “us,” and “ours” refer to Howard Bancorp, Inc. and its subsidiaries. References to the “Bank” refer to Howard Bank.

This report 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,” “should” and words of similar meaning. You can also identify them by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts.

These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- statements of our goals, intentions and expectations, particularly with respect to our business plan and strategies, including branch expansion, market share and asset growth, revenue and profit growth, expanding client relationships, increasing originations of residential mortgage loans, our portfolio of mortgage loans and our selling of loans into the secondary market, and increasing noninterest income and noninterest bearing commercial deposit accounts;
- statements with respect to our intentions to acquire one or more financial institutions, and the impact of such acquisitions on us;
- statements regarding the asset quality of our investment portfolios and anticipated recovery and collection of unrealized losses on securities available for sale;
- statements with respect to our allowance for loan losses, and the adequacy thereof;
- statements with respect to anticipated losses on, resolution of and additional reserves with respect to nonperforming assets;
- statement with respect to having adequate liquidity levels;
- our belief that we will retain a large portion of maturing certificates of deposit;
- the impact on us of recent changes to accounting standards;
- future cash requirements relating to commitments to extend credit; and
- the impact of interest rate changes on our net interest income.

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. We are under no duty to and do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus report.

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:

- general economic conditions, either nationally or in our market area, that are worse than expected;
- competition among depository and other financial institutions;

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inflation and changes in the interest rate environment that reduce our margins or reduce the fair value of financial instruments;

- adverse changes in the securities markets;
- changes in laws or government regulations or policies affecting financial institutions, including changes in regulatory fees and capital requirements;
- our ability to enter new markets successfully and capitalize on growth opportunities, and to otherwise implement our growth strategy;
- our ability to successfully integrate acquired entities, if any;
- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;
- changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the bank regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board;
- changes in our organization, compensation and benefit plans
- loss of key personnel; and
- other risk discussed in this report

Because of these and a wide variety of other uncertainties, our actual future results may be materially different from the results indicated by these forward-looking statements. You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements.

Part I

Item 1. Business

Howard Bancorp, Inc.

Howard Bancorp, Inc. was incorporated in April of 2005 under the laws of the State of Maryland and is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. On May 18, 2005, the stockholders of Howard Bank approved the reorganization of Howard Bank into a holding company structure. The reorganization became effective on December 15, 2005. In connection with the reorganization, (i) Howard Bank became our wholly-owned subsidiary, (ii) each outstanding share (or fraction thereof) of Howard Bank common stock was converted into two shares (or fraction thereof) of our common stock, and the former holders of Howard Bank common stock became the holders of all our outstanding shares, and (iii) warrants and options to purchase shares of Howard Bank common stock became options and warrants to purchase Howard Bancorp stock and were adjusted to reflect the exchange of two shares of our common stock for each share of the Bank's common stock.

We completed our initial public offering in July 2012, issuing 1,150,891 shares of our common stock. Simultaneously with our initial public offering we completed a private placement pursuant to which we sold 568,603 shares of our common stock.

The Company's primary business is owning all of the capital stock of Howard Bank. In addition to regulation of the Bank, as a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, we are subject to regulation and review by the Federal Reserve. See "— Supervision and Regulation."

Howard Bank

Howard Bank is a trust company chartered under Subtitle 2 of Title 3 of the Financial Institutions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Bank was formed in March 2004 and commenced banking operations on August 9, 2004. Howard Bank has chosen, for the time being, not to seek and exercise trust powers, and our business, powers and regulatory structure is the same as a Maryland-chartered commercial bank. The Bank is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), and our deposits are insured by the FDIC. The Bank has three operating subsidiaries, two of which hold foreclosed real estate and the other of which owns and manages real estate that we use for one of our branch locations and that also contains office and retail space.

Howard Bank is headquartered in Ellicott City, which is located in Howard County, Maryland. It has branches in both Howard County and the adjacent Anne Arundel County. We engage in a general commercial banking business, making various types of loans and accepting deposits. We market our financial services to small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals (the “mass affluent”).

Our core business strategy involves delivering advice and superior customer service to clients through local decision makers. We combine the Bank’s specialized focus on both local markets and small and medium-sized business related market segments with a broad array of products, new technology and seasoned banking professionals to position the Bank differently from most competitors. Our experienced executives establish a relationship with each client and bring value to all phases of a client’s business and personal banking needs. To develop this strategy, we have established long-standing relationships with key customers in the community and with local business leaders who can create business opportunities.

Our primary source of revenue is net interest income, with fees generated by lending, mortgage banking and depository service charges constituting a much smaller share of revenues. We have positioned the balance sheet to hold a high percentage of earning assets and, in turn, to have those earning assets dominated by loans rather than securities investments. Generally speaking, loans earn more attractive returns than investments and are a key source of product cross sales and customer referrals. Certain economic conditions may favor investments over loans, such as poor corporate earnings, downturns in real estate cycles and other general slowing economic conditions. At all times, our loan and investment strategies seek to balance the need to maintain adequate liquidity via excess cash or federal funds sold with opportunities to appropriately leverage our capital.

Our strategic plan focuses on enhancing stockholder value through market share growth as reflected in balance sheet growth, related revenue growth and resulting growth in operating profits. We opened our fifth full service branch location in the third quarter of 2012 and plan to open an additional full service branch during the third quarter of 2013. We also plan to open additional branches in the counties where we now operate and contiguous counties over the next several years, although we have no definitive plans or agreements in place with respect to any such additional branches. Our long-term vision includes supplementing our historically organic growth with strategically significant acquisitions. We believe that acquiring other financial institutions - in whole or in part (through business line spin-offs, branch sales or the hiring of teams of individuals) will allow us to expand our market, achieve certain operating efficiencies, and grow our stockholder base and thus our share value and liquidity. We believe that our demonstrated expertise in commercial lending, deposit gathering (especially non interest bearing transactional deposits) and community leadership positions us as an attractive acquirer. We also anticipate that increasing our capital levels will give us the ability to continue our organic asset growth and expand our relationships with key clients through a larger legal lending limit. Since the Bank’s opening in late 2004, we have participated loans and loan commitments to correspondent banking institutions because of our inability to retain 100% of certain loans originated given our legal lending limit.

Our Market Area

Our headquarters are located in Ellicott City, Maryland, and we consider our primary market area to be the Maryland counties of Howard and Anne Arundel. Howard County is located in central Maryland, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and, according to U.S. Census Bureau information, is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. Anne Arundel County is adjacent to Howard County. Our secondary market area includes the Maryland counties of Baltimore, Carroll and Harford and as well as Baltimore City. We also have loans outside our market areas, in particular in Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland, although we do not actively solicit business outside our market areas. We have five full service branches located in Ellicott City, Columbia, Laurel, western Ellicott City and Annapolis, Maryland.

Competitive Position

We believe that our position as a community bank with over \$400 million in assets positions us well to survive the current economic slowdown, market consolidation and heightened regulatory environment. Our formation in 2003 and 2004 has positioned us to take advantage of the ability to outsource certain activities (internal audit, compliance review, information security monitoring) and to source new products and services (check imaging, online banking) in a highly efficient manner and thus avoid the risk of impairment of operating earnings faced by some older small banks who, we believe, are locked into legacy systems and are finding the onslaught of new regulations challenging. These strategic partnerships include contractual relationships with some of the largest and strongest providers of item processing, data processing, information monitoring and payments systems alternatives. We believe that this provides the Bank with the best of technology and product selection without sacrificing the more intimate delivery advantages of a community bank. We believe the current economic and regulatory environment will lead to greater consolidation among financial institutions, including community banks. Some of that consolidation will occur with larger banks, thus exacerbating the scarcity of banks able to underwrite traditionally as we do and offer advice in our interactions with our customers, which we believe gives us a wider window of opportunity to extend our brand and value proposition. We believe, however, that to the extent some of that consolidation occurs between and among smaller banks, the resulting combined institutions will be better positioned to differentiate themselves.

We believe that our "Hands On" approach to delivering small and medium-sized businesses a very broad and deep array of competitive credit and cash management services through a team of experienced advisors and providing them with access to local policy and decision makers fills a "white space" between the sophisticated but distracted large banks whose best personnel work with the largest companies and the small banks who are very responsive but less capable of being proactive in providing advice. Relationship managers, team leaders and executive management at the Bank generally have decades of banking experiences and are well established in the communities that they serve. They are able to interface with clients directly to share that experience and to provide connections with their own network of other specialized advisors. We believe we also benefit from our committed leadership at both the executive management and board level who bring a broad array of skills and experiences to our company and are able to position the Bank for consistent profitable growth.

Lending Activities

General

Our primary market focus is on making loans to and gathering deposits from small and medium size businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals in our primary market area. Our loans are made to customers primarily in Howard and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland, and the surrounding communities. Our lending activities consist generally of short to medium term commercial lending, commercial mortgage lending for both owner occupied and investor properties, residential mortgage lending and consumer lending, both secured and unsecured. A substantial portion of our loan portfolio consists of loans to businesses secured by real estate and/or other business assets.

Credit Policies and Administration

We have adopted a comprehensive lending policy, which includes stringent underwriting standards for all types of loans. Our lending staff follows pricing guidelines established periodically by our management team. In an effort to manage risk, very little authority is given to individual loan officers. Most loan officers can approve loans of up to \$50,000, although one of our loan officers can approve loans of up to \$100,000 and our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Loan Officer can together approve loans of up to \$250,000. Loans above these amounts but less than \$1.5 million (or up to \$2.0 million for renewal of a loan in an amount previously approved) must be reviewed and approved by an officers' loan committee. All credit decisions in excess of the officers' loan committee's lending authority must be approved prior to funding by our board Loan Committee. Under the leadership of our executive management team, we believe that we employ experienced lending officers, secure appropriate collateral and carefully monitor the financial conditions of our borrowers and the concentration of loans in our portfolio.

In addition to the normal repayment risks, all loans in the portfolio are subject to the state of the economy and the related effects on the borrower and/or the real estate market. Generally, longer-term loans have periodic interest rate adjustments and/or call provisions. Senior management monitors the loan portfolio closely to ensure that we minimize past due loans and that we swiftly deal with potential problem loans.

Howard Bank also retains an outside, independent firm to review the loan portfolio. This firm performs a detailed annual review. We use the results of the firm's report primarily to validate the risk ratings applied to loans in the portfolio and identify any systemic weaknesses in underwriting, documentation or management of the portfolio. Results of the annual review are presented to executive management, the audit committee of the board and the full board of directors and are available to and used by regulatory examiners when they review the Bank's asset quality. We currently use Clifton Larsen to perform this review.

The Bank maintains the normal checks and balances on the loan portfolio not only through the underwriting process but through the utilization of an internal credit administration group that both assists in the underwriting and serves as an additional reviewer of underwriting. The separately-managed loan administration group also has oversight for documentation, compliance and timeliness of collection activities. Our outsourced internal audit firm also reviews documentation, compliance and file management.

Commercial Lending

Our commercial lending consists of lines of credit, revolving credit facilities, accounts receivable and inventory financing, term loans, equipment loans, small business administration (SBA) loans, stand-by letters of credit and unsecured loans. We originate commercial loans for any business purpose, including the financing of leasehold improvements and equipment, the carrying of accounts receivable, general working capital, contract administration and acquisition activities. These loans typically have maturities of seven years or less. We have a diverse client base and we do not have a concentration of these types of loans in any specific industry segment. We generally secure commercial business loans with accounts receivable and inventory, equipment, indemnity deeds of trust and other collateral such as marketable securities, cash value of life insurance, and time deposits at Howard Bank. Commercial business loans have a higher degree of risk than residential mortgage loans because the availability of funds for repayment generally depends on the success of the business. To help manage this risk, we establish parameters/covenants at the inception of the loan to provide early warning systems before payment default. We normally seek to obtain appropriate collateral and personal guarantees from the borrower's principal owners. We are able, given our business model, to proactively monitor the financial condition of the business.

Commercial Mortgage Lending

We finance commercial real estate for our clients, for both owner-occupied properties and investor properties (including residential properties). We generally will finance owner occupied commercial real estate at a maximum loan-to-value of 85% and non-owner occupied at a maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Our underwriting policies and processes focus on the underlying credit of the owner for owner occupied real estate and on the rental income stream

(including rent terms and strength of tenants) for non-owner occupied real estate as well as an assessment of the underlying real estate. Risks inherent in managing a commercial real estate portfolio relate to vacancy rates/ absorption rates for surrounding properties, sudden or gradual drops in property values as well as changes in the economic climate. We attempt to mitigate these risks by carefully underwriting loans of this type as well as by following appropriate loan-to-value standards. We are cash flow lenders and never rely solely on property valuations in reaching a lending decision. Personal guarantees are often required for commercial real estate loans as they are for other commercial loans. Most of our real estate loans carry fixed interest rates, amortize over 20 – 25 years but have five- to seven-year maturities. Properties securing our commercial real estate loans primarily include office buildings, office condominiums, distribution facilities and manufacturing plants. Substantially all of our commercial real estate loans are secured by properties located in our market area.

Commercial real estate loans generally carry higher interest rates and have shorter terms than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. Commercial real estate loans, however, entail significant additional risks as compared with residential mortgage lending, as they typically involve larger loan balances concentrated with single borrowers or groups of related borrowers. In addition, the payment of loans secured by income-producing properties typically depends on the successful operation of the property, as repayment of the loan generally is dependent, in large part, on sufficient income from the property to cover operating expenses and debt service. Changes in economic conditions that are not in the control of the borrower or lender could affect the value of the collateral for the loan or the future cash flow of the property. Additionally, any decline in real estate values may be more pronounced for commercial real estate than residential properties.

Construction Lending

Construction lending can cover funding for land acquisition, land development and/or construction of residential or commercial structures. Our construction loans generally bear a variable rate of interest and have terms of one to two years. Funds are advanced on a percentage-of-completion basis. These loans are generally repaid at the end of the development or construction phase, although loans for commercial construction will often convert into a permanent commercial mortgage loans at the end of the term of the loan. Loan to value parameters range from 65% of the value of land to 75% for developed land, 80% for commercial or multifamily construction and 85% for residential construction. These loan-to-value ratios represent the upper limit of advance rates to remain in compliance with Bank policy. Typically, loan-to-value ratios should be somewhat lower than these upper limits, requiring the borrower to provide significant equity at the inception of the loan. Our underwriting looks not only at the value of the property but the expected cash flows to be generated by sale of the parcels or completed construction. The borrower must have solid experience in this type of construction and personal guarantees are usually required.

Construction lending entails significant risks compared with residential mortgage lending. These risks involve larger loan balances concentrated with single borrowers with funds advanced upon the security of the land or the project under construction. The value of the project is estimated prior to the completion of construction. Thus, it is more difficult to evaluate accurately the total loan funds required to complete a project and related loan to value ratios. If the estimate of construction or development cost proves to be inaccurate, we may be required to advance additional funds beyond the amount originally committed in order to protect the value of the property. Moreover, if the estimated value of the completed project proves to be inaccurate, the borrower may hold a property with a value that is insufficient to assure full repayment. To mitigate these risks, in addition to the underwriting considerations noted above, we maintain an in-house construction monitoring unit that has oversight for the projects and we require both site visits and frequent reporting before funds are advanced.

Residential Mortgage Lending

We offer a variety of consumer-oriented residential real estate loans. Residential mortgage loans consist primarily of first mortgage loans to individuals, most of which have a loan to value not exceeding 85 percent. The remainder of this portion of our portfolio consists of home equity lines of credit and fixed rate home equity loans.

Our residential mortgage loans are generally for owner-occupied single family homes. These loans are generally for a primary residence although we will occasionally originate loans for a second home where the borrower has extremely strong credit. Our residential mortgage loans are generally fixed rate loans with 15- or 30-year terms. We will occasionally, however, originate variable rate loans with a five- to seven-year term, although such loans have a longer amortization schedule.

Our home equity loans and home equity lines of credit are primarily secured by a second mortgage on owner occupied one-to four-family residences. Our home equity loans are originated at fixed interest rates and with terms of between five and 30 years for primary residences and between five and 15 years for secondary and rental properties, and are fully amortizing. Our home equity lines allow for the borrower to draw against the line for ten years, after which the line is refinanced into a ten-year fixed loan, with the possibility of a one-time extension of five years. Home equity lines of credit carry a variable rate of interest and minimum monthly payments during the draw period, which are the greater of (i) \$50.00 or (ii) depending on credit score, loan-to-value and debt-to-income ratios, either the interest due or interest due plus 1% of the outstanding loan balance. Home equity loans and lines of credit are generally underwritten with a maximum loan-to-value ratio of 85% (80% when appraised value is greater than \$1 million) for a primary residence when combined with the principal balance of the existing mortgage loan; for home equity loans on secondary and rental properties, the maximum loan-to-value ratio is 65%. We require appraisals on all real estate loans – both commercial and residential. At the time we close a home equity loan or line of credit, we record a mortgage to perfect our security interest in the underlying collateral. Home equity loans and lines of credit also require title insurance, and borrowers must obtain hazard insurance, and flood insurance if applicable.

Home equity loans and lines of credit generally have greater risk than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. In these cases, we face the risk that collateral for a defaulted loan may not provide an adequate source of repayment of

the outstanding loan balance. In particular, because home equity loans are secured by second mortgages, decreases in real estate values could adversely affect the value of the property serving as collateral for these loans. Thus, the recovery of such property could be insufficient to compensate us for the value of these loans.

Loans secured by second mortgages have greater risk than owner-occupied residential loans secured by first mortgages. When customers default on their loans we attempt to foreclose on the property. However, the value of the collateral may not be sufficient to compensate for the amount of the unpaid loan, and we may be unsuccessful in recovering the remaining balance from these customers. In addition, decreases in property values could adversely affect the value of properties used as collateral for the loans. These second lien loans represent a smaller portion of our portfolio.

Our home equity and home improvement loan portfolio gives us a diverse client base. Although most of these loans are in our primary market area, the diversity of the individual loans in the portfolio reduces our potential risk.

Consumer Lending

We offer various types of secured and unsecured consumer loans. Generally, our consumer loans are made for personal, family or household purposes as a convenience to our customer base. As a general guideline, a consumer's total debt service should not exceed 40% of their gross income. The underwriting standards for consumer loans include a determination of the applicant's payment history on other debts and an assessment of his or her ability to meet existing obligations and payments on the proposed loan.

Consumer loans may present greater credit risk than residential mortgage loans because many consumer loans are unsecured or are secured by rapidly depreciating assets. Repossessed collateral for a defaulted consumer loan may not provide an adequate source of repayment of the outstanding loan balance because of the greater likelihood of damage, loss or depreciation. Consumer loan collections also depend on the borrower's continuing financial stability. If a borrower suffers personal financial difficulties, the loan may not be repaid. Also, various federal and state laws, including bankruptcy and insolvency laws, may limit the amount we can recover on such loans.

Loan Originations, Purchases, Sales, Participations and Servicing

All loans that we originate are underwritten pursuant to our policies and procedures, which incorporate standard underwriting guidelines. We originate both fixed and variable rate loans. Our loan origination activity may be adversely affected by a rising interest rate environment that typically results in decreased loan demand. We generally retain in our portfolio the majority of loans that we originate, although we originate a small number of first lien residential mortgage loans that we sell into the secondary market. We do not retain the servicing rights on such loans.

We occasionally sell participations in commercial loans to correspondent banks if the amount of the loan exceeds our internal limits. More rarely, we purchase loan participations from correspondent banks in the local market as well. Those loans are underwritten in-house with the same care of loans directly originated.

Loan Approval Procedures and Authority

Our lending activities follow written, non-discriminatory underwriting standards and loan origination procedures established by our board of directors. The loan approval process is intended to assess the borrower's ability to repay the loan, the viability of the loan, and the adequacy of the value of the collateral that will secure the loan, if applicable. To assess a business borrower's ability to repay, we review and analyze, among other factors: current income, credit history including the Bank's prior experience with the borrower, cash flow, any secondary sources of repayment, other debt obligations in regards to the equity/net worth of the borrower and collateral available to the Bank to secure the loan.

We require appraisals of all real property securing one- to four-family residential and commercial real estate loans and home equity loans and lines of credit. All appraisers are state-licensed or state-certified appraisers, and our practice is to have local appraisers approved by the board of directors annually.

Investments and Funding

We balance our liquidity needs based on loan and deposit growth via the investment portfolio and short term borrowings. It is our goal to provide adequate liquidity to support our loan growth. We use the generally short term investments that represent our liquidity to generate additional positive earnings. Howard Bank's primary source of funds is, and will continue to be, core deposits generated from the local marketplace. Additional funding is provided by customer repurchase agreements, Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") advances, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve (the "FRB") Discount Window, and other purchased funds. Other purchased funds may include certificates of deposit over \$100,000, federal funds purchased, and institutional or brokered deposits. Lines of credit with the FHLB of Atlanta are maintained to protect liquidity levels resulting from unexpected deposit withdrawals and natural-market credit demand.

Our investment policy is reviewed annually by our board of directors. The board of directors has appointed its executive committee to serve as the investment committee, and the executive committee therefore meets at regular intervals (not less than quarterly) and provides a report on the investment portfolio performance to the full board of directors. The investment officer is designated by the President and is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of the liquidity and investments in accordance with the policies approved by the board of directors. The investment officer is presently our Chief Financial Officer. We actively monitor our investment portfolio and we classify the majority of the portfolio as “available for sale.” In general, under such a classification, we may sell investment instruments as management deems appropriate.

Other Banking Products

We offer our customers wire transfer services, courier service for non-negotiable deposits, ATM and check cards, automated teller machines at all of our full-service branch locations, safe deposit boxes at all full service locations and credit cards through a third party processor. Additionally, we provide Internet banking capabilities to our customers and merchant card services for our business customers. With our Internet banking service, our customers may view their accounts on line and electronically remit bill payments. Our commercial account services include an overnight sweep service and remote deposit capture service.

In 2012, we complemented our existing Internet and eBanking services with the launch of Mobiliti Mobile Banking, PopMoney and eStatement products. These state of the art products provide the Bank's consumer customers the ability to view account information and pay bills from their mobile device, easily make payments directly to individuals and, with eStatements, to replace their paper monthly statement with an electronically delivered statement.

Deposit Activities

Deposits are the major source of our funding. We offer a broad array of consumer and business deposit products that include demand, money market, savings and individual retirement accounts, as well as certificates of deposit. We offer through key technology partnerships a competitive array of commercial cash management products, which in combination with our in-house courier service and remote deposit/ check imaging service, allow us to attract demand deposits. We believe that we pay competitive rates on our interest bearing deposits. As a relationship-oriented organization, we generally seek to obtain deposit relationships with our loan clients.

We also use customer repurchase agreements, FHLB advances, the FRB Discount Window and other purchased funds as a funding mechanism. Other purchased funds may include certificates of deposits over \$100,000, federal funds purchased and institutional or brokered deposits.

Employees

Howard Bank has 72 full-time employees and four part-time employees as of December 31, 2012. None of our employees are represented by any collective bargaining unit, and we believe that relations with our employees are good. Howard Bancorp has no employees.

Lending Limit

The Bank's legal lending limit for loans to one borrower was approximately \$5.5 million as of December 31, 2012. We further monitor our exposure to one borrower through a policy to limit our "in-house" lending limit to \$5.0 million, which in-house limit can be waived by our board loan committee. As part of our risk management strategy, we may attempt to participate a portion of larger loans to other financial institutions. This strategy allows us to maintain customer relationships yet observe the legal lending limit and manage credit exposure. However, this strategy may not always be available.

Competition

Our primary market area is highly competitive and heavily branched by other financial institutions of all sizes. Competition for loans to small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and

high-net-worth individuals is intense, and pricing is important. We believe that acquisitions of several local competitors by larger institutions headquartered outside of the State of Maryland during the last five years have enhanced the Bank's positioning as a locally headquartered and managed community bank, but many of these competitors now have substantially greater resources and lending limits than we do and offer services, such as extensive and established branch networks and trust services, that we do not expect to provide in the near future or ever. Moreover, larger institutions operating in our primary market area may have access to borrowed funds at a lower rate than is available to us. Deposit competition is also strong among institutions in our primary market area.

However, recent mergers of other area banks into large regional and national financial institutions have created opportunities for community focused and prudently managed community banks. While our board of directors is aware of the competition that these larger institutions offer, we believe that local independent banks play and will continue to play a significant role in our primary market area. Our board of directors believes it is a significant and distinct advantage to be a community owned and operated state bank interested in serving the needs of small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals.

Participation in Small Business Lending Fund

On September 22, 2011, we entered into a securities purchase agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to which we sold to the Secretary of the Treasury 12,562 shares of our Series AA Preferred Stock, having a liquidation amount per share equal to \$1,000, for an aggregate purchase price of \$12,562,000. We issued the Series AA Preferred Stock pursuant to Treasury's Small Business Lending Fund ("SBLF"). Enacted into law as part of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, the SBLF was a \$30 billion fund designed to encourage lending to small businesses by providing Tier 1 capital to qualified community banks with assets of less than \$10 billion at favorable rates. We are pleased to be one of only four banks in the State of Maryland that was approved to participate in this program. The Series AA Preferred Stock qualifies as Tier 1 capital and is generally non-voting. In accordance with the terms of the SBLF program, the Series AA Preferred Stock has an initial annual dividend rate of 5%. The dividend rate will be reduced if our small business lending increases by at least 2.5%; this reduced rate may be as low as 1% if such lending increases by 10% or more. If we increase small business lending by at least 2.5% but by less than 10%, the rate on the Series AA Preferred Stock may fall to between 2% and 4%, but if lending does not increase in the first two and one-half years the annual dividend rate will increase to 7%. After four and one-half years, the dividend rate will increase to 9% if we have not repaid the SBLF funding at such time.

SUPERVISION AND REGULATION

Howard Bancorp, Inc.

We are a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. We are subject to regulation and examination by the FRB, and are required to file periodic reports and any additional information that the FRB may require. The Bank Holding Company Act generally prohibits a bank holding company from engaging in activities other than banking, managing or controlling banks or other permissible subsidiaries, and acquiring or retaining direct or indirect control of any company engaged in any activities closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks.

The status of Howard Bancorp, Inc. as a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act and a Maryland-chartered bank holding company does not exempt it from certain federal and state laws and regulations applicable to corporations generally, including, without limitation, certain provisions of the federal securities laws.

Howard Bank

Howard Bank is a Maryland chartered trust company (with all powers of a commercial bank), and its deposit accounts are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund (“DIF”) of the FDIC up to the maximum legal limits. It is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation and the FDIC. The regulations of these various agencies govern most aspects of Howard Bank’s business, including required reserves against deposits, loans, investments, mergers and acquisitions, borrowing, dividends and location and number of branch offices. The laws and regulations governing Howard Bank generally have been promulgated to protect depositors and the DIF, and not for the purpose of protecting stockholders.

Set forth below is a brief description of the material regulatory requirements that are or will be applicable to Howard Bank and Howard Bancorp, Inc. The description below is limited to the material aspects of the statutes and regulations addressed, and is not intended to be a complete description of such statutes and regulations and their effects on Howard Bank and Howard Bancorp, Inc.

Banking Regulation

Financial Institutions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code

The Financial Institutions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code (the “Banking Code”) contains detailed provisions governing the organization, operations, corporate powers, commercial and investment authority, branching rights and responsibilities of directors, officers and employees of Maryland banking institutions. The Banking Code delegates extensive rulemaking power and administrative discretion to the Maryland Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation in its supervision and regulation of state-chartered banking institutions. The Maryland Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation may order any banking institution to discontinue any violation of law or unsafe or unsound business practice.

Capital Requirements

Under the FDIC’s regulations, federally insured state-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System (“state non-member banks”), such as Howard Bank, are required to comply with minimum leverage capital requirements. For an institution determined by the FDIC to not be anticipating or experiencing significant growth and to be, in general, a strong banking organization rated composite 1 under Uniform Financial Institutions Ranking System established by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, the minimum capital leverage requirement is a ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets of 3.0%. For all other institutions, the minimum leverage capital ratio is not less than 4.0%. Tier 1 capital is the sum of common stockholders’ equity, noncumulative perpetual preferred stock (including any related surplus) and minority investments in certain subsidiaries, less intangible assets (except for certain servicing rights and credit card relationships) and certain other specified items.

In addition, FDIC regulations require state non-member banks to maintain certain ratios of regulatory capital to regulatory risk-weighted assets, or “risk-based capital ratios.” Risk-based capital ratios are determined by allocating assets and specified off-balance sheet items to four risk-weighted categories ranging from 0.0% to 200.0%. State non-member banks must maintain a minimum ratio of total capital to risk-weighted assets of at least 8.0%, of which at least one-half must be Tier 1 capital. Total capital consists of Tier 1 capital plus Tier 2 or supplementary capital items, which include allowances for loan losses in an amount of up to 1.25% of risk-weighted assets, cumulative preferred stock and certain other capital instruments, and a portion of the net unrealized gain on equity securities. The includable amount of Tier 2 capital cannot exceed the amount of the institution’s Tier 1 capital.

At this time the bank regulatory agencies are more inclined to impose higher capital requirements in order to meet well capitalized standards, and future regulatory change could impose higher capital standards as a routine matter. The regulators may also set higher capital requirements for holding companies whose circumstances warrant it. For example, holding companies experiencing internal growth or making acquisitions are expected to maintain strong capital positions substantially above the minimum supervisory levels, without significant reliance on intangible assets.

As an additional means to identify problems in the financial management of depository institutions, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act requires federal bank regulatory agencies to establish certain non-capital safety and soundness standards for institutions for which they are the primary federal regulator. The standards relate generally to operations and management, asset quality, interest rate exposure and executive compensation. The agencies are authorized to take action against institutions that fail to meet such standards.

Prompt Corrective Action

Under federal prompt corrective action regulations, the FDIC is authorized and, under certain circumstances required, to take supervisory actions against state non-member banks that are not adequately capitalized. Under these regulations, a bank is considered to be (i) “well capitalized” if it has total risk-based capital of 10.0% or more, Tier 1 risk-based capital of 6.0% or more, Tier 1 leverage capital of 5.0% or more, and is not subject to any written capital order or directive; (ii) “adequately capitalized” if it has total risk-based capital of 8.0% or more, Tier 1 risk-based capital of 4.0% or more and Tier 1 leverage capital of 4.0% or more (3.0% under certain circumstances), and does not meet the definition of “well capitalized”; (iii) “undercapitalized” if it has total risk-based capital of less than 8.0%, Tier 1 risk-based capital of less than 4.0% or Tier 1 leverage capital of less than 4.0% (3.0% under certain circumstances); (iv) “significantly undercapitalized” if it has total risk-based capital of less than 6.0%, Tier 1 risk-based capital less than 3.0%, or Tier 1 leverage capital of less than 3.0%; and (v) “critically undercapitalized” if its ratio of tangible equity to total assets is equal to or less than 2.0%. Under certain circumstances, that FDIC may reclassify a well capitalized institution as adequately capitalized, and may require an adequately capitalized institution or an undercapitalized institution to comply with supervisory actions as if it were in the next lower category (except that the FDIC may not reclassify a significantly undercapitalized institution as critically undercapitalized). As of December 31, 2012, Howard Bank was “well capitalized” for this purpose.

Howard Bank has been “well capitalized” since it commenced its business operations.

Proposed New Capital Rules

On June 12, 2012, the federal bank regulatory agencies adopted notices of proposed rulemaking in which they proposed to revise their risk-based and leverage capital requirements consistent with agreements reached by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) in “Basel III: A Global Regulatory Framework for More Resilient Banks and Banking Systems” (“Basel III”). If adopted, the new requirements would introduce new tier 1 common equity ratio requirements of 4.5% and 6.5%, net of regulatory deductions, for adequately capitalized and well-capitalized institutions, respectively, and would also establish more conservative standards for including an instrument in regulatory capital. The new requirements would also introduce a capital conservation buffer of an additional 2.5% of common equity to risk-weighted assets, raising the target minimum common equity ratio to 7%, the minimum tier 1 capital ratio to 8.5%, and the minimum total capital ratio to 10.5%. An institution’s failure to achieve these minimum levels including the capital conservation buffer would restrict the institution’s ability to make capital distributions, including dividends, and to make certain discretionary bonus payments to executive officers. The regulatory agencies also reserve the right to require capital ratios for individual institutions that are higher than these minimums depending on the institution’s individual circumstances. The new requirements would also assign new risk weight categories for certain assets, most notably residential mortgage loans, high volatility commercial real estate loans, and past due

assets. These new risk weightings may require banks and bank holding companies to maintain additional capital against assets in those categories and may introduce more volatility in their capital ratios.

If adopted in their proposed form, the requirements will be phased in over a multi-year period. The ultimate impact of the new capital and liquidity standards on our operations is currently being reviewed and will depend on a number of factors, including the final rulemaking and implementation by the bank regulatory agencies. We cannot determine the ultimate effect that the final regulations, if enacted, would have upon our earnings or financial position, although the requirements to maintain higher levels of capital or to maintain higher levels of liquid assets could adversely impact our financial results.

Dividends

Howard Bancorp, Inc. is a legal entity separate and distinct from Howard Bank. Virtually all of Howard Bancorp's revenue available for the payment of dividends on its common stock results from dividends paid to Howard Bancorp by Howard Bank. Under Maryland law, Howard Bank may declare a cash dividend, after providing for due or accrued expenses, losses, interest and taxes, from its undivided profits or, with the prior approval of the Maryland Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, from its surplus in excess of 100% of its required capital stock. Also, if Howard Bank's surplus is less than 100% of its required capital stock, cash dividends may not be paid in excess of 90% of net earnings. In addition to these specific restrictions, the bank regulatory agencies have the ability to prohibit or limit proposed dividends if such regulatory agencies determine the payment of such dividends would result Howard Bank being in an unsafe and unsound condition. Because Howard Bank has negative retained earnings, it is currently unable to pay dividends to Howard Bancorp, Inc. without first obtaining the approval of the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation. To date, Howard Bank has received approval from the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation to issue dividends only with respect to the Series AA Preferred Stock issued under the SBLF Program.

Deposit Insurance Assessments

Howard Bank's deposit accounts are insured by the FDIC generally up to a maximum of \$250,000 per separately insured depositor. FDIC-insured depository institutions are required to pay deposit insurance assessments to the FDIC. The amount of a particular institution's deposit insurance assessment is based on that institution's risk classification under an FDIC risk-based assessment system. An institution's risk classification is assigned based on its capital levels and the level of supervisory concern the institution poses to the regulators. Deposit insurance assessments fund the DIF, which is currently under-funded.

The Dodd-Frank Act changed the way an insured depository institution's deposit insurance premiums are calculated. The assessment base will no longer be the institution's deposit base, but rather its average consolidated total assets less its average tangible equity. The legislation also permanently increased the maximum amount of deposit insurance for banks, savings institutions and credit unions to \$250,000 per depositor, retroactive to January 1, 2008, and provided unlimited deposit insurance through December 31, 2012 for noninterest bearing transaction accounts. As scheduled, the unlimited insurance coverage for noninterest-bearing transaction accounts expired on December 31, 2012. The Dodd-Frank Act also made changes to the minimum designated reserve ratio of the DIF, increasing the minimum from 1.15% percent to 1.35% of the estimated amount of total insured deposits, eliminating the upper limit for the reserve ratio designated by the FDIC each year, and eliminating the requirement that the FDIC pay dividends to depository institutions when the reserve ratio exceeds certain thresholds.

As mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act, in February 2011, the FDIC approved a final rule that changes the deposit insurance assessment system from one that is based on domestic deposits to one that is based on average consolidated total assets minus average tangible equity. In addition, the rule adopts a "scorecard" assessment scheme for larger banks and suspends dividend payments indefinitely if the DIF reserve ratio exceeds 1.5% percent, but provides for decreasing assessment rates when the reserve ratio reaches certain thresholds. Under the new rule, larger insured depository institutions will likely be forced to pay higher assessments than under the old system, which should offset the cost of the assessment increases for institutions with consolidated assets of less than \$10 billion, such as Howard Bank.

Maryland Regulatory Assessment

The Maryland Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation annually assesses state banking institutions to cover the expense of regulating banking institutions. The Bank's asset size determines the amount of the assessment.

Liquidity

Howard Bank is subject to the reserve requirements imposed by the State of Maryland. A Maryland banking institution is required to have at all times a reserve equal to at least 15% of its demand deposits. Howard Bank is also subject to the uniform reserve requirements of the FRB's Regulation D, which applies to all depository institutions with transaction accounts or non-personal time deposits. For 2012, amounts in transaction accounts above \$11.5 million and up to \$71.0 million were required to have reserves held against them in the ratio of three percent of the amount. Amounts above \$71.0 million required reserves of \$1,785,000 plus 10 percent of the amount in excess of \$71.0 million. For 2013, amounts in transaction accounts above \$12.4 million and up to \$79.5 million must have reserves held against them in the ratio of three percent of the amount. Amounts above \$79.5 million require reserves of \$2,013,000 plus 10 percent of the amount in excess of \$79.5 million. The Maryland reserve requirements may be used to satisfy the requirements of Regulation D. Howard Bank is in compliance with its reserve requirements.

Loans-to-One-Borrower Limitation

With certain limited exceptions, a Maryland banking institution may lend to a single or related group of borrowers an amount equal to 15% of its unimpaired capital and surplus. An additional amount may be lent, equal to 10% of unimpaired capital and surplus, if such loan is secured by readily marketable collateral, which is defined to include certain securities and bullion, but generally does not include real estate. Howard Bank is in compliance with the loans-to-one borrower limitations.

Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending Laws

Under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (“CRA”), the FDIC is required to assess the record of all financial institutions regulated by it to determine if such institutions are meeting the credit needs of the community (including low and moderate income neighborhoods) which they serve. CRA performance evaluations are based on a four-tiered rating system: Outstanding, Satisfactory, Needs to Improve and Substantial Noncompliance. CRA performance evaluations are considered in evaluating applications for such things as mergers, acquisitions and applications to open branches. Howard Bank has a CRA rating of “Outstanding.” In addition, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act prohibit lenders from discriminating in their lending practices on the basis of characteristics specified in those statutes. The failure to comply with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act could result in enforcement actions by the FDIC, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Justice, and in private civil actions by borrowers.

Transactions with Related Parties

Transactions between banks and their related parties or affiliates are limited by Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act. An affiliate of a bank is any company or entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the bank. In a holding company context, the parent bank holding company and any companies which are controlled by such parent holding company are affiliates of the bank.

Generally, Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act and the FRB's Regulation W limit the extent to which the bank or its subsidiaries may engage in "covered transactions" with any one affiliate to an amount equal to 10.0% of such institution's capital stock and surplus, and contain an aggregate limit on all such transactions with all affiliates to an amount equal to 20.0% of such institution's capital stock and surplus. The term "covered transaction" includes the making of loans, purchase of assets, issuance of guarantees and other similar transactions. In addition, loans or other extensions of credit by the bank to an affiliate are required to be collateralized in accordance with regulatory requirements and the bank's transactions with affiliates must be consistent with safe and sound banking practices and may not involve the purchase by the bank of any low-quality asset. Section 23B applies to covered transactions as well as certain other transactions and requires that all such transactions be on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable, to the institution or subsidiary as those provided to non-affiliates.

Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and the FRB's Regulation O govern extensions of credit made by a bank to its directors, executive officers, and principal stockholders ("insiders"). Among other things, these provisions require that extensions of credit to insiders be made on terms that are substantially the same as, and follow credit underwriting procedures that are not less stringent than, those prevailing for comparable transactions with unaffiliated persons and that do not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. Further, such extensions may not exceed certain limitations on the amount of credit extended to such persons, individually and in the aggregate, which limits are based, in part, on the amount of Howard Bank's capital. Extensions of credit in excess of certain limits must also be approved by the board of directors.

Standards for Safety and Soundness

Federal law requires each federal banking agency to prescribe certain standards for all insured depository institutions. These standards relate to, among other things, internal controls, information systems and audit systems, loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate risk exposure, asset growth, compensation, and other operational and managerial standards as the agency deems appropriate. Interagency guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal banking agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. If the appropriate federal banking agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard prescribed by the guidelines, the agency may require the institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard. If an institution fails to meet these standards, the appropriate federal banking agency may require the institution to implement an acceptable compliance plan. Failure to implement such a plan can result in further enforcement action, including the issuance of a "cease and desist" order or the imposition of civil money penalties.

Anti-Money Laundering and OFAC

Under federal law, financial institutions must maintain anti-money laundering programs that include established internal policies, procedures and controls; a designated compliance officer; an ongoing employee training program; and testing of the program by an independent audit function. Financial institutions are also prohibited from entering into specified financial transactions and account relationships and must meet enhanced standards for due diligence and customer identification in their dealings with foreign financial institutions and foreign customers. Financial institutions must take reasonable steps to conduct enhanced scrutiny of account relationships to guard against money

laundering and to report any suspicious transactions, and law enforcement authorities have been granted increased access to financial information maintained by financial institutions. Bank regulators routinely examine institutions for compliance with these obligations, and they must consider an institution's compliance in connection with the regulatory review of applications, including applications for banking mergers and acquisitions. The regulatory authorities have imposed "cease and desist" orders and civil money penalty sanctions against institutions found to be violating these obligations.

The Office of Foreign Assets Control, ("OFAC") is responsible for helping to insure that U.S. entities do not engage in transactions with certain prohibited parties, as defined by various Executive Orders and Acts of Congress. OFAC sends bank regulatory agencies lists of persons and organizations suspected of aiding, harboring or engaging in terrorist acts, known as Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons. If Howard Bancorp or Howard Bank finds a name on any transaction, account or wire transfer that is on an OFAC list, Howard Bancorp or Howard Bank must freeze such account, file a suspicious activity report and notify the appropriate authorities.

Consumer Protection Laws

Howard Bank is subject to a number of federal and state laws designed to protect borrowers and promote lending to various sectors of the economy. These laws include the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and various state law counterparts.

In addition, federal law currently contains extensive customer privacy protection provisions. Under these provisions, a financial institution must provide to its customers, at the inception of the customer relationship and annually thereafter, the institution's policies and procedures regarding the handling of customers' nonpublic personal financial information. These provisions also provide that, except for certain limited exceptions, a financial institution may not provide such personal information to unaffiliated third parties unless the institution discloses to the customer that such information may be so provided and the customer is given the opportunity to opt out of such disclosure. Further, under the "Interagency Guidelines Establishing Information Security Standards," banks must implement a comprehensive information security program that includes administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to ensure the security and confidentiality of customer information. Federal law makes it a criminal offense, except in limited circumstances, to obtain or attempt to obtain customer information of a financial nature by fraudulent or deceptive means.

The Dodd-Frank Act

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Act into law, and many of those laws are now in effect. The Dodd-Frank Act will have a broad impact on the financial services industry, imposing significant regulatory and compliance changes, including the designation of certain financial companies as systemically significant, the imposition of increased capital, leverage, and liquidity requirements, and numerous other provisions designed to improve supervision and oversight of, and strengthen safety and soundness within, the financial services sector.

The following items provide a brief description of certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Source of strength. The Dodd-Frank Act requires all companies, including bank holding companies, that directly or indirectly control an insured depository institution to serve as a source of strength for the institution. Under this requirement, Howard Bancorp in the future could be required to provide financial assistance to Howard Bank should Howard Bank experience financial distress.

Mortgage loan origination and risk retention. The Dodd-Frank Act contains additional regulatory requirements that may affect our operations and result in increased compliance costs. For example, the Dodd-Frank Act imposes new standards for mortgage loan originations on all lenders, including