

March 6, 2009

Mr. Neil M. Barofsky Special Inspector General – TARP 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; Suite 1064 Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Barofsky:

We are happy to provide you with an update on our actions in connection with our participation in the Troubled Asset Relief Program ("TARP") Capital Purchase Program (CPP) as you requested in your letter dated February 6, 2009.

# INTRODUCTION

In connection with this update, we would at the outset, like to provide a short description of our Company and also of actions taken by our Company in order to enhance balance sheet strength prior to our participation in the TARP CPP.

Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc. ("Citizens") is a regional financial holding company headquartered in Flint, Michigan with total consolidated assets of \$13.1 billion as of December 31, 2008. Citizens conducts its business operations primarily through its commercial bank subsidiaries, including Citizens Bank, which serves communities in Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, and F&M Bank, which serves communities in Iowa. Substantially all of Citizens' loans are made to businesses and individuals in these market areas. Citizens has 233 offices and is the largest bank headquartered in the state of Michigan. The majority of Citizens' loans, deposits, and offices are in the state of Michigan.

Citizens has been proactive in taking early steps to ensure that we have the balance sheet strength to support our customers and communities. On April 17, 2008 we announced the suspension of our common stock dividend. On June 5, 2008 we announced a \$200 million capital raise in the public security markets. These early actions demonstrated our commitment to prudent balance sheet management, supported our lending capability through private sector means, and ensures that TARP proceeds are not being used to pay common stock dividends.

# UPDATE OF ACTIONS TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO TARP FUNDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

- 1. With respect to our usage of TARP CPP proceeds we will cover:
  - a. Our anticipated use of TARP funds,
  - b. Whether TARP funds are segregated from other institutional funds,
  - c. Our actual use of TARP funds to date, and
  - d. Our expected use of unspent TARP funds.
- 2. With respect to Executive Compensation, we believe it is helpful to describe chronologically what actions we have taken even prior to becoming subject to TARP and also what actions we have taken subsequent to becoming subject to TARP. In this regard, we will cover:
  - a. Actions taken by us prior to the enactment of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "EESA"),
  - b. Actions taken by us as a result of the enactment of the EESA,
  - c. Actions taken or that will be taken by us as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "ARRA"),
  - d. Other compensation-related information.

The discussions set forth in this chronology will cover: (i) Our specific plans and the status of the implementation of those plans which address executive compensation requirements when we initially received the funds, (ii) Our specific plans and the status of the implementation of those plans which address executive compensation requirements mandated by the legislation described in 2.a. and 2.b. above, (iii) How we have impacted executive compensation to limit excessive risk, (iv) How limitations have been implemented to be in alignment with the Department of Treasury guidelines, and (v) How such limitations impact other long-term incentive plans or other deferred forms of executive compensation.

#### 1. TARP FUNDS

# a. Our anticipated use of TARP funds

Citizens applied to TARP in October 2008 and on December 12, 2008 received \$300 million in proceeds. In our press release dated December 15, 2008 (attached as Exhibit A), we stated "The additional capital gives us flexibility to continue to support our customers' borrowing needs in this demanding economic environment and to continue to support growth in the communities we serve." Our plans were to immediately invest in up to \$300 million in FHLMC, FNMA, or GNMA mortgage backed securities and subsequently use those high quality securities as collateral to secure borrowings to fund a similar amount of loan production over time. We publicly confirmed our use of the proceeds in this manner in our year-end earnings release dated January 22, 2009 (attached as Exhibit B - see page 2 under the heading "Balance Sheet") in connection with the description of our investment security activity: "The increase over September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of investing the proceeds of the aforementioned fourth quarter of 2008 preferred stock issuance into securities that can be pledged as collateral for funding of future loans."

# b. Are the TARP funds segregated from other institutional funds?

We have not segregated these funds into a separate organization or entity. We have established a TARP committee which is responsible for developing and overseeing loan production initiatives to monitor usage of the TARP CPP proceeds.

# c. Our actual use of TARP funds to date

The following is a summary of Citizens' actions to date regarding our use of TARP capital:

- Purchased \$289 million in Government Agency Mortgage Related Securities during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008. This provided a source of collateral for future borrowing to support our own lending efforts, and provided immediate support to the conforming mortgage market and ultimately the housing market.
- Generated Consumer loan production and funding of \$20 million from December 15, 2008 through February 28, 2009.
- Generated Residential Mortgage originations of \$82 million from December 15, 2008 through February 28, 2009, including \$24 million for retention in the loan portfolio and \$58 million for sale in the secondary market.
- Generated Commercial Loan production of \$163 million from December 15, 2008 though February 28, 2009; of that \$4 million was SBA.

# d. Our expected use of unspent TARP funds

The primary benefit to Citizens resulting from our participation in TARP is that we will be able to originate at least \$300 million in loans. In addition to the loan production and funding we engaged in during late 2008 and early 2009 as described above, we expect to be able to fund new loan production over the upcoming year. The speed with which we will be able to generate new loans and the aggregate level of loans we will carry on the balance sheet will be heavily influenced by the level of loan demand from creditworthy borrowers and our local economic conditions.

Economic conditions have continued to deteriorate materially in the brief time since our application and receipt of TARP CPP. As business activity has slowed, inventory and receivables have declined and loans have been paid down by borrowers. As much of our lending is commercial and industrial in nature and secured by inventory and receivables, this has made it more difficult for us to originate new loans. Nevertheless, we plan to increase small business loan origination efforts in the face of these conditions,

(b) (4)

areas of focus. We were the #1 SBA loan originator in Michigan in 2008 and publicly announced our intention to grow this even further in 2009 in a press release dated February 19, 2009 (attached as Exhibit C).

(b) (4)

We are

continuing to focus our loan production efforts on our Consumer, Mortgage, Small Business and Commercial & Industrial business segments, as we believe these segments offer the most potential for revenue growth based on our core competencies.

Lastly, we are committed to sound lending principles and practices with respect to the financial resources that have been entrusted to us. We will balance our commitment to support our local economy with our commitment to manage risk appropriately, provide safety and security to our depositors, and deliver long term value for our shareholders, including the U.S. Treasury.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

a. Actions taken by Citizens prior to the enactment of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "EESA")

Citizens is very cognizant of the unprecedented challenges in the financial services industry and had determined to make changes in its executive compensation practices well before the EESA was enacted on October 3<sup>rd</sup> of that year. Citizens' executive compensation program has historically been designed to reward performance so that Citizens would provide competitive compensation opportunities to its senior executives but actual compensation paid to its senior executives would vary based on performance. Consistent with this philosophy and Citizens' unfavorable financial results for 2007 (due in significant part to the adverse economic conditions and the challenges facing the financial services industry), the Compensation and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee") had determined in April of 2007 to undertake a number of measures including the following:

- 1. Freeze the base salaries of the members of Citizens' leadership team, then comprised of its 5 named executive officers
- 2. Eliminate short-term cash incentive awards or bonuses to the leadership team members in 2008 for 2007 performance.
- 3. Eliminate long-term incentive awards to the leadership team members in 2008.

Also prior to the above noted actions of the Compensation Committee, in January of 2008 the Board of Directors of Citizens (the "Board of Directors") adopted a "clawback policy" which is attached hereto as Exhibit D. Under this policy, if the Board of Directors subsequently determines that, as a result of an executive's misconduct, Citizens is required to materially restate all or a significant portion of its financial statements for the period for which the compensation was paid, Citizens would have the right to require that such executive officer (i) reimburse Citizens for the amount of any related bonus or incentive compensation received, and (ii) forfeit any vested options or restricted stock, or cancel any related unvested restricted or deferred equity awards granted on the basis of having met or exceeded performance goals if, according to the restated financial statements, such goals were not in fact met or exceeded.

## b. Actions taken by Citizens as a result of the enactment of the EESA

Subsequent to the enactment of the EESA in October 2008, Citizens undertook the following additional measures:

- Citizens' senior risk officer conducted a review of Citizens' incentive plans to determine
  whether any incentive bonus arrangement thereunder might promote unnecessary risk taking
  and threaten the value of Citizens. In making this determination, the senior risk officer
  considered the following factors with respect to each incentive bonus arrangement:
  - If there is an appropriate balance between fixed and variable pay;
  - If the maximum annual payouts are reasonable;
  - · If the incentive financial metrics are fair and balanced; and
  - How the level and structure of compensation compares to the peer group.

Based on a review of the above factors, the senior risk officer determined that Citizens' incentive compensation plans currently do not promote or encourage excessive or unnecessary risk taking. The senior risk officer will present his findings to the Compensation Committee on March 9, 2009, and it is expected that the senior risk officer will obtain the consensus and approval of the Compensation Committee. This review process will be conducted annually by Citizens' senior risk officer so long as Citizens is subject to TARP requirements.

- 2. In October of 2008, based upon the more stringent requirement of EESA, the Board of Directors conducted a review of Citizens' then current "clawback policy", and determined to adopt certain revisions to bring such policy into compliance with EESA. Moreover, as noted below, Citizens has committed to modify its clawback policy even further to bring it into compliance with the even more stringent requirements of ARRA.
- 3. The Board of Directors passed a resolution to amend Citizens' benefits plans to comply with EESA with respect to its named officers (see Exhibit E), and each such named officer consented in writing to such amendment (see Exhibit F). Further, all of Citizens' named executives signed a waiver waiving any claim that they may have against the United States Government and Citizens for any changes to their compensation or benefits that are required by EESA (see Exhibit G).
- c. Actions taken or that will be taken as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "ARRA")

Citizens has reviewed the ARRA, which was passed on February 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, and intends to fully comply with all of the provisions set forth in the ARRA during the period in which such provisions are applicable, as follows:

1. All of Citizens' incentive compensation arrangements will continue to be reviewed to ensure that there are no incentives for Citizens' senior executive officers to take unnecessary and excessive risks that could threaten the value of Citizens.

- 2. Citizens will modify its "clawback policy" as necessary to provide for the recovery by Citizens of any bonus, retention award or incentive compensation paid to a senior executive officer and any of Citizens' next 20 most highly compensated employees based on statements of earnings, revenues, gains or other criteria that are later found to be materially inaccurate.
- 3. Citizens will not make any "golden parachute" payment (as defined in Section 111.(a)(2)) to any senior executive officer of Citizens

  the extent prohibited by the ARRA and any regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of the Treasury. Pending the publication of regulations by the Secretary of the Treasury interpreting Section 111.(b)(1)(c) of the ARRA, Citizens has ceased making payments pursuant to pre-existing contracts with terminated individuals to the extent Citizens believes such payments might be considered prohibited "golden parachute payments" thereunder.
- 4. Citizens will not pay or accrue any bonus, retention award or incentive compensation to its senior executive officers except for awards of long-term restricted stock granted in compliance with Section 111.(b)(D)(i)(I through III) or required to be paid pursuant to a written employment contract executed on or before February 11, 2009. Citizens has taken affirmative steps to identify the individuals it believes to be covered by Section 111.(1)(i)(ii)III to make certain that no bonus, retention or incentive awards earned by such individuals for 2008 will be paid while Citizens remains subject to applicable TARP restrictions, and that no such awards or arrangements are entered into after February 11, 2009.
- 5. Citizens will not sponsor any compensation plan that it believes would encourage manipulation of its reported earnings to enhance the compensation of any of its employees.
- 6. The Compensation Committee will continue to be composed entirely of "independent" directors (as defined by applicable Nasdaq rules) and will meet at least semi-annually for the purpose of reviewing, discussing and evaluating Citizens' employee compensation plans generally and to assess any risk posed to Citizens from such plans.
- 7. Citizens' Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer will provide annually in its Form 10-K, beginning with Citizens' 2009 annual report on Form 10-K to be filed in 2010, a written certification to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Citizens' compliance with the requirements of the ARRA and the relevant regulations to be promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury thereunder.
- 8. The Board of Directors, acting through its Compensation Committee, will adopt a companywide policy regarding excessive or luxury expenditures in accordance with and at such time as regulations are promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury under the ARRA.
- 9. Citizens will submit a proposal at its annual shareholder meeting each year, beginning in 2009, for a nonbinding shareholder vote to approve the compensation of its executives as disclosed in Citizens' annual meeting proxy statement for that meeting and in accordance with applicable regulations.

# d. Other compensation-related information

In January 2009, prior to the passage of ARRA, the Compensation Committee approved a long-term incentive award to certain of Citizens' senior executive officers and other leadership team members. The terms of the award are disclosed in Citizens' Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 6, 2009 and will be disclosed in Citizens' 2009 annual meeting proxy statement when completed.

The Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors may, in the future, consider revisions to aspects of Citizens' compensation not restricted by ARRA, and may determine that it is appropriate in the exercise of their fiduciary duties and in the best interests of Citizens and its shareholders to revise various aspects of compensation, such as to retain members of Citizens' leadership team, maintain employee morale, create incentives for employees, align employee interests with shareholder interests or attract new leadership team members to Citizens.

# CONCLUSION

We understand the significance of the public investment that has been made in Citizens and the importance of our role in the economic health of our markets and our country. Citizens has continued to lend to clients and customers as part of our ongoing business supported by the capital generation and preservation actions we took in early 2008. In the fourth quarter of 2008, we approved over \$600 million of new or renewed credit extensions for consumers and businesses in the communities we serve. We are confident we can continue to make a difference in the communities we serve as our legacy banking franchise has since 1871. Please contact me if you need any additional information.

I, Charles D. Christy, certify that: I have reviewed this response and supporting documents, and, based on my knowledge, this response and the supporting documents do not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading.

CITIZENS REPUBLIC BANCORP, INC.

By: Charles D. Christy

Its: Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

#### Exhibit A

# Citizens Republic Bancorp Issues \$300 Million in Preferred Stock to the U.S. Treasury Through the Capital Purchase Program

Company Release - 12/15/2008 09:29

FLINT, Mich., Dec. 15 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc. (Nasdaq: CRBC) announced today that on December 12, 2008 it issued 300,000 shares of its Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, ("preferred stock") to the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury) as part of the Treasury's Capital Purchase Program. The aggregate value of transaction is \$300 million. In addition, Citizens issued a ten-year warrant to the Treasury to purchase up to 17,578,125 shares of Citizens' common stock, no par value, at an exercise price of \$2.56 per share. The preferred stock and warrants will be treated as additions to Citizens' regulatory Tier 1 and Total capital and will increase Citizens' already strong Tier 1 capital ratio from 10.88% at September 30, 2008 to approximately 13.85% on a pro forma basis.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20050421/DETH014LOGO)

"We are pleased to participate in this program and believe it represents a vote of confidence in Citizens. The additional capital gives us flexibility to continue to support our customers' borrowing needs in this demanding economic environment and to continue to support growth in the communities we serve," said William R. Hartman, chairman, president and chief executive officer.

The preferred stock has no par value, will carry a liquidation price of \$1,000 per share, and will pay cumulative dividends at a rate of 5% per year for the first five years and 9% per year thereafter. Citizens cannot redeem the preferred securities during the first three years after issuance except with the proceeds from a "qualified equity offering." Any redemption, either before three years or thereafter, will be at the liquidation price and will require Federal Reserve approval.

#### Corporate Profile

Citizens Republic Bancorp is a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of commercial, consumer, mortgage banking, trust and financial planning services to a broad client base. Citizens serves communities in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana as Citizens Bank and in Iowa as F&M Bank, with 233 offices and 264 ATMs. Citizens Republic Bancorp is the largest bank holding company headquartered in Michigan with roots dating back to 1871 and the 43rd largest bank holding company headquartered in the United States. More information about Citizens Republic Bancorp is available at <a href="https://www.citizensbanking.com">www.citizensbanking.com</a>.

#### Safe Harbor Statement

Discussions and statements in this release that are not statements of historical fact, including statements that include terms such as "will," "may," "should," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "intend," and "plan," including without limitation future financial and operating results, plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Any forward-looking statement is not a guarantee of future performance and actual results could differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking information.

Factors and other risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ are detailed from time to time in Citizens' filings with the SEC, which are available at the SEC's web site <a href="www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>. Other factors not currently anticipated may also materially and adversely affect Citizens' results of operations, cash flows and financial position. There can be no assurance that future results will meet expectations. While Citizens believes that the forward-looking statements in this release are reasonable, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. In addition, these statements speak only as of the date made. Citizens does not undertake, and expressly disclaims any obligation to update or alter any statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by applicable law.

SOURCE Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc.

Contact: Charles D. Christy, EVP & Chief Financial Officer, +1-810-237-4200, charlie.christy@citizensbanking.com, or Kristine D. Brenner, Director of Investor Relations, +1-810-257-2506, kristine.brenner@citizensbanking.com, both of Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc.



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **CONTACTS**

Charles D. Christy
EVP & Chief Financial Officer
(810) 237-4200
Charlie.Christy@citizensbanking.com

Kristine D. Brenner
Director of Investor Relations
(810) 257-2506
Kristine.Brenner@citizensbanking.com

# CITIZENS REPUBLIC BANCORP ANNOUNCES FOURTH QUARTER 2008 RESULTS

**FLINT, MICHIGAN, January 22, 2009** --- Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: CRBC) announced today a net loss of \$195.4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008, compared with a net loss of \$7.2 million for the third quarter of 2008 and net income of \$28.0 million for the fourth quarter of 2007. For the year ended December 31, 2008, Citizens recorded a net loss of \$393.1 million compared with net income of \$100.8 million for the same period of 2007. The decreases were primarily the result of a non-cash valuation allowance of \$136.6 million against deferred tax assets and higher provision for loan losses. Additionally, the decrease from the full year of 2007 included the result of the goodwill impairment charge, credit writedown and fair-value adjustments recorded in the second quarter of 2008.

On December 12, 2008, Citizens issued fixed rate cumulative perpetual preferred stock ("preferred stock") and ten-year warrants ("warrants") to purchase up to 17,578,125 shares of Citizens' common stock to the U.S. Department of the Treasury that together totaled \$300.0 million. The preferred stock was recorded at a fair value of \$265.9 million, which will be accreted up to the \$300.0 million par value over the estimated term of five years. As a result, Citizens recorded a \$0.2 million dividend to the preferred shareholders. While this did not affect total shareholders' equity or the book value of the common stock, it increased the net loss attributable to common shareholders and affected the calculation of basic and diluted net loss per common share for the three and twelve months ended December 31, 2008.

After incorporating the aforementioned \$0.2 million dividend to the preferred shareholders, Citizens reported a net loss attributable to common shareholders of \$195.6 million for the three months ended December 31, 2008. Diluted net income (loss) per share was \$(1.56), compared with \$(0.20) for the third quarter of 2008 and \$0.37 for the fourth quarter of 2007. Annualized returns on average assets and average equity during the fourth quarter of 2008 were (5.94)% and (49.86)%, respectively, compared with (0.22)% and (1.84)% for the third quarter of 2008 and 0.83% and 7.11% for the fourth quarter of 2007. For the year ended December 31, 2008, Citizens recorded a net loss attributable to common shareholders of \$405.0 million, or \$(4.30) per diluted share, compared with net income of \$100.8 million or \$1.33 per diluted share for the full-year of 2007.

"This past year was extremely difficult, presenting unprecedented economic challenges for the banking industry. While these challenges had a negative impact on our results, we believe we've taken the necessary steps to emerge from this turmoil poised to profitably grow our franchise over the long-term. Our internal credit stress-test analyses, based on industry peak and worse-than-industry-peak scenarios, indicate that Citizens is solidly positioned with sufficient capital and liquidity to manage through this uncertain credit market," stated William R. Hartman, chairman, president and chief executive officer. "While we can't control the economic forces working against us, we will continue facing them head-on, maintaining sound operating fundamentals, and providing clients with the extraordinary service which has been our hallmark since 1871," continued Hartman.

"The U.S. Department of Treasury's investment in our bank has enabled us to enhance our capital and liquidity positions and our lending capabilities. Throughout the financial crisis we have continued lending and this investment expands our ability to respond to our customers' needs now and after demand improves. Additionally, our participation in the FDIC Transaction Account Guarantee Program provides 100% coverage for our non-interest bearing depositors. We believe these actions benefit the many communities we serve," Hartman concluded.

#### Key Highlights in the Quarter:

- Total deposits at December 31, 2008 increased \$46.3 million or less than 1% over September 30, 2008 and increased \$750.5 million or 9.0% over December 31, 2007. This represents the fifth consecutive quarter of total deposit growth.
- Citizens continues to hold excess short-term (liquid) assets at December 31, 2008. Citizens' parent company cash resources totaled \$261.4 million at December 31, 2008 as compared with \$270.3 million at September 30, 2008. The parent company's interest and preferred dividend payment obligations are approximately \$35 million annually and, therefore, Citizens believes its parent company has more than adequate long-term liquidity.
- Citizens continues to maintain strong pre-tax pre-provision core operating earnings, with \$38.1 million for the fourth quarter of 2008, compared with \$40.6 million for the third quarter of 2008 and \$42.7 million for the fourth quarter of 2007.
- At year end Citizens' regulatory capital ratios were higher than third quarter and continue to exceed the "well-capitalized' designation. As of December 31, 2008, Citizens' estimated regulatory capital ratios are as follows:
  - o Tier 1 12.26%
  - o Total Capital 14.55%
  - o Tier 1 Leverage 9.65%
- The allowance for loan losses at December 31, 2008 increased to \$255.3 million or 2.80% of portfolio loans, compared with \$217.7 million or 2.32% at September 30, 2008. The provision for loan losses for the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$118.6 million, compared with \$58.4 million for the third quarter of 2008. The increase in the provision for loan losses was primarily due to \$45.3 million in gross charge-offs on four large commercial loans (higher than anticipated) and the continued migration of commercial real estate loans to nonperforming status. Net charge-offs for the fourth quarter of 2008 totaled \$81.0 million, compared with \$22.4 million for the third quarter of 2008.
- Citizens recorded a non-cash valuation allowance of \$155.7 million against deferred tax assets under SFAS 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes," during the fourth quarter of 2008. The valuation allowance was recorded as a \$136.6 million income tax provision and \$19.1 million as a reduction to the other comprehensive income component of shareholders' equity primarily due to the significant loss Citizens experienced in 2008 reflecting the decreased likelihood that Citizens will be able to recognize the full benefit of its deferred tax assets.

#### **Balance Sheet**

Total assets at December 31, 2008 were \$13.1 billion, essentially unchanged from September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007.

Investment securities at December 31, 2008 totaled \$2.4 billion, an increase of \$228.8 million or 10.6% over September 30, 2008 and an increase of \$126.1 million or 5.6% over December 31, 2007. The increase over September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of investing the proceeds of the aforementioned fourth quarter of 2008 preferred stock issuance into securities that can be pledged as collateral for funding of future loans, partially offset by using portfolio cash flow to reduce short-term borrowings. Given the timing of the preferred stock issuance in mid-December 2008, Citizens invested the proceeds in highly liquid securities to ensure availability as customer demand for loans increases. In addition to the aforementioned factors, the variance from December 31, 2007 reflects the use of portfolio cash flow to fund commercial loan growth during 2008. Citizens did not have any other-than-temporary impairment charges during the fourth quarter of 2008.

The following table displays the total commercial loan portfolio by segment at quarter end for each of the last five quarters. The following definitions are provided to clarify the types of loans included in each of the commercial real estate segments identified in the table. Land hold loans are secured by undeveloped land which has been acquired for future development. Land development loans are secured by land undergoing infrastructure improvements to create finished marketable lots for commercial or residential construction. Construction loans are secured by commercial, retail and residential real estate in the construction phase with the intent to be sold or become an income producing property. Income producing loans are secured by non-owner occupied real estate leased to one or more tenants. Owner occupied loans are secured by real estate occupied by the owner for ongoing operations.

Commercial Loan Portfolio					
in millions	Dec 31 2008	Sep 30 2008	Jun 30 2008	Mar 31 2008	Dec 31 2007
Land Hold	\$ 45.0	\$ 48.3	\$ 49.8	\$ 61.6	\$ 63.8
Land Development	132.7	125.0	128.2	159.2	167.8
Construction	263.5	364.2	344.1	370.7	342.6
Income Producing	1,556.2	1,533.2	1,569.9	1,567.3	1,526.0
Owner-Occupied	967.3	999.6	1,009.3	1,015.6	997.0
Total Commercial Real Estate	2,964.7	3,070.3	3,101.3	3,174.4	3,097.2
Commercial and Industrial	2,602.4	2,703.7	2,703.8	2,653.8	2,557.1
Total Commercial Loans	\$5,567.1	\$5,774.0	\$ 5,805.1	\$5,828.2	\$5,654.3

Total commercial loans at December 31, 2008 decreased \$206.9 million or 3.6% from September 30, 2008 and decreased \$87.2 million or 1.5% from December 31, 2007. The decrease from September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of reducing balances on approximately \$85 million of certain asset-based and large participated loans with narrow margins and \$68.9 million of gross charge-offs. The decrease from December 31, 2007 was primarily the result of the aforementioned decrease during the fourth quarter of 2008 and transferring \$86.2 million of nonperforming commercial real estate loans to loans held for sale during the second quarter of 2008, partially offset by new relationships in all of Citizens' markets during 2008.

Residential mortgage loans at December 31, 2008 totaled \$1.3 billion, essentially unchanged from September 30, 2008 and a decrease of \$182.4 million or 12.6% from December 31, 2007. The decline was primarily the result of weak consumer demand in Citizens' markets, the sale of more than 70% of new mortgage originations into the secondary market, and transferring \$41.7 million of nonperforming residential mortgage loans to loans held for sale during the second quarter of 2008.

Direct consumer loans, which are primarily home equity loans, were \$1.5 billion at December 31, 2008, essentially unchanged from September 30, 2008 and a decrease of \$120.2 million or 7.6% from December 31, 2007. The decrease was due to weak consumer demand, which is being experienced throughout the industry.

Indirect consumer loans, which are primarily marine and recreational vehicle loans totaled \$820.5 million at December 31, 2008, a decrease of \$22.6 million or 2.7% from September 30, 2008 as a result of the anticipated seasonal decline in consumers' interest for indirect products. Indirect consumer loans were essentially unchanged from December 31, 2007.

Loans held for sale at December 31, 2008 were \$91.4 million, a decrease of \$15.2 million or 14.2% from September 30, 2008 and an increase of \$15.5 million or 20.5% over December 31, 2007. The decrease from September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of transferring loans to other real estate owned ("ORE") due to nonpayment issues. The increase over December 31, 2007 was primarily the result of transferring \$92.8 million in nonperforming commercial real estate and residential mortgage loans to loans held for sale during the second quarter of 2008, partially offset by a decrease in residential mortgage origination volume awaiting sale in the secondary market as a result of faster funding through Citizens' alliance with PHH Mortgage, which began in the first quarter of 2008 and, to a lesser extent; a decline in commercial loans held for sale due to customer paydowns, adjustments to reflect current fair-market value, and transfers to ORE.

Goodwill at December 31, 2008 was \$597.2 million, unchanged from September 30, 2008 and a decrease of \$178.1 million or 23.0% from December 31, 2007. The decrease was due to a \$178.1 million non-cash and non-tax-deductible goodwill impairment charge recorded in the second quarter of 2008. As required by SFAS 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," Citizens conducted its annual goodwill impairment test during the fourth quarter of 2008 and concluded there was no additional impairment at

this time. There can be no assurance, however, that future testing will not result in additional material impairment charges due to further developments in the banking industry or Citizens' markets.

Total deposits at December 31, 2008 were \$9.1 billion, up slightly from September 30, 2008 and an increase of \$750.5 million or 9.0% over December 31, 2007. Core deposits, which exclude all time deposits, totaled \$4.4 billion at December 31, 2008, a decrease of \$105.1 million or 2.3% from September 30, 2008 and an increase of \$297.1 million or 7.2% over December 31, 2007. The decrease in core deposits from September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of the migration of funds from lower-cost deposits to time deposits with higher yields and businesses holding lower cash positions. The increase over December 31, 2007 was primarily the result of a new on-balance sheet sweep product for Citizens' commercial clients introduced in late 2007. Time deposits totaled \$4.6 billion at December 31, 2008, an increase of \$151.4 million or 3.4% over September 30, 2008 and an increase of \$453.4 million or 10.9% over December 31, 2007. The increases were primarily the result of a shift in funding mix from short-term borrowings to longer-term certificates of deposit and brokered deposits, as well as focused deposit generation during 2008.

Other interest-bearing liabilities, which include federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase, other short-term borrowings, and long-term debt, decreased \$202.7 million or 8.2% from September 30, 2008 to \$2.3 billion and decreased \$1.2 billion or 34.9% from December 31, 2007. The decreases were primarily the result of a shift in the mix of funding to deposits and the proceeds from the issuance of equity securities in June 2008 being used to pay down debt.

#### **Capital Adequacy and Liquidity**

Shareholders' equity at December 31, 2008 increased \$64.5 million or 4.2% over September 30, 2008 to \$1.6 billion and increased \$23.4 million or 1.5% over December 31, 2007. Shareholders' equity at December 31, 2008 reflects the issuance of \$265.9 million of fixed rate cumulative perpetual preferred stock and \$34.1 million of ten-year warrants to purchase up to 17,578,125 shares of Citizens' common stock to the U.S. Department of the Treasury on December 12, 2008. The increase over September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of the aforementioned preferred stock and warrant issuance, partially offset by the effect of net loss recorded during the fourth quarter of 2008 and an increase in the accumulated other comprehensive loss position due to lower market interest rates and the \$19.1 million component of the deferred tax asset valuation allowance. When compared with December 31, 2007, the increase also reflects two actions which occurred during the second quarter of 2008: the issuance of \$200.0 million of common stock and preferred stock (\$189.0 million net of issuance costs and the underwriting discount) and a goodwill impairment charge, credit writedown and fair-value adjustments that together reduced shareholders' equity by \$205.6 million (after-tax).

Citizens continues to maintain a strong capital position, and its regulatory capital ratios are above "well-capitalized" standards, as evidenced by the following key capital ratios.

	Regulatory Minimum for "Well- Capitalized"	12/31/08	9/30/08	6/30/08	Excess Capital over Minimum (in millions)
Tier 1 capital ratio*	6.00%	12.26%	10.88%	10.80%	\$616.4
Total capital ratio*	10.00%	14.55%	13.13%	13.03%	\$447.4
Tier 1 leverage ratio*	5.00%	9.65%	8.76%	8.71%	\$581.6
Tangible common equity to tangible assets		5.75%	7.33%	6.44%	
Tangible equity to tangible assets  * December 31, 2008 is an estimate		7.88%	7.33%	7.35%	

Citizens maintains a very strong liquidity position due to its on-balance sheet liquidity sources and very stable funding base comprised of approximately 69% deposits, 17% long-term debt, 12% equity, and 2% short-term liabilities. During the fourth quarter of 2008, Citizens increased total deposits by \$46.3 million, issued \$300.0 million in preferred stock and warrants and participated in the FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program ("TLGP"). The TLGP provides 100% FDIC coverage to noninterest-bearing deposit accounts and certain interest-bearing checking accounts as well as eligibility for Citizens to issue FDIC-guaranteed unsecured debt through June 30, 2009 in an amount up to approximately \$230 million. Citizens also has access to high levels of untapped liquidity through collateral-based borrowing capacity

provided by portions of both the loan and investment securities portfolios. Additionally, money market investments and securities available-for-sale could be sold for cash to provide liquidity.

Citizens' parent company cash resources totaled \$261.4 million at December 31, 2008. The parent company's interest and preferred dividend payment obligations increased from approximately \$20 million to approximately \$35 million annually as a result of the fourth quarter of 2008 preferred stock issuance. Citizens believes its parent company has more than adequate long-term liquidity.

#### Net Interest Margin and Net Interest Income

Net interest margin was 3.03% for the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with 3.09% for the third quarter of 2008 and 3.26% for the fourth quarter of 2007. The decrease in net interest margin from the third quarter of 2008 was primarily the result of deposit spread compression due to price competition in Citizens' markets and an increase in loan balances transferring to nonperforming status, partially offset by expanding commercial and consumer loan spreads.

The decrease in net interest margin from the fourth quarter of 2007 was primarily the result of deposit price competition, the transfer of loans to nonperforming status, and an increase in funding costs related to extending short-term borrowings, partially offset by expanding commercial and consumer loan spreads and retail time deposits repricing to a lower rate. For the full year of 2008, net interest margin declined to 3.09% compared with 3.38% for the full year 2007 as a result of the aforementioned factors.

Net interest income was \$85.7 million for the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with \$87.3 million for the third quarter of 2008 and \$92.2 million for the fourth quarter of 2007. The decrease from the third quarter of 2008 was primarily the result of lower net interest margin, partially offset by a \$19.2 million increase in average earning assets. The increase in average earning assets was primarily the result of higher investment portfolio and money market investments balances due to the factors discussed under "Balance Sheet," partially offset by decreases to commercial and consumer loan portfolio balances as a result of general economic conditions.

The decrease in net interest income compared with the fourth quarter of 2007 was primarily the result of a lower net interest margin, partially offset by a \$52.7 million increase in average earning assets. The increase in average earning assets was primarily the result of an increase in commercial loan balances and money market investments balances due to the factors discussed under "Balance Sheet," partially offset by decreases in the investment portfolio, residential mortgage, and consumer loan portfolio balances.

For the full year of 2008, net interest income declined to \$348.9 million compared with \$382.2 million for the full year of 2007 as a result of the lower net interest margin, partially offset by a \$41.0 million increase in average earning assets due to the aforementioned factors.

#### **Credit Quality**

The quality of Citizens' loan portfolio is impacted by numerous factors, including the economic environment in the markets in which Citizens operates. Citizens carefully monitors its loans in an effort to identify and mitigate any potential credit quality issues and losses in a proactive manner. Citizens continues to manage credit quality challenges proactively, by:

- Continuing to analyze Citizens' commercial automobile-related exposure through various forward-looking potential stress scenarios.
- Expanding the quarterly review of non-watch credits to include commercial and industrial relationships. Coupled with the continuation of reviewing the non-watch commercial real estate relationships, these practices enable Citizens to validate obligor ratings and exposure management strategies.
- Streamlining collection and modification programs for residential mortgage loans to mitigate foreclosures more effectively.

The following tables represent four qualitative aspects of the loan portfolio that illustrate the overall level of quality and risk inherent in the loan portfolio.

Table 1 – Delinquency Rates by Loan Portfolio – This table illustrates the loans where the contractual
payment is 30 to 89 days past due and interest is still accruing. While these loans are actively

- worked to bring them current, past due loan trends may be a leading indicator of potential future nonperforming loans and charge-offs.
- Table 2 Commercial Watchlist This table illustrates the commercial loans that, while still accruing
  interest, may be at risk due to general economic conditions or changes in a borrower's financial
  status.
- Table 3 Nonperforming Assets This table illustrates the loans that are in nonaccrual status, loans past due 90 days or more on which interest is still accruing, nonperforming loans that are held for sale, and other repossessed assets acquired. The commercial loans included in this table are reviewed as part of the watchlist process in addition to the loans displayed in Table 2.
- Table 4 Net Charge-Offs This table illustrates the portion of loans that have been charged-off during each quarter.

30 to 89 days Past Due	Dec 3	1, 2008		Sep 30	, 2008		J	Jun 3	0, 2008			Mar 3	11, 2008			Dec 3	31, 2007	
in millions	 \$	% of Portfolio		\$	% of Portfolio			\$	% of Portfolio	_		\$	% of Portfolio	_		\$	% of Portfolio	_
Land Hold	\$ 3.9	8.67	%	\$ 7.3	15.11	%	\$	9.3	18.67	%	\$	6.6	10.71	%	\$	4.6	7.21	%
Land Development	5.2	3.92		10.3	8.24			1.1	0.86			16.3	10.24			28.7	17.10	
Construction	27.3	10.36		26.1	7.17		1	1.9	3.46			10.5	2.83			31.7	9.25	
Income Producing	76.7	4.93		50.1	3.27		4	8.5	3.09			29.3	1.87			54.0	3.54	
Owner-Occupied	 37.5	3.88		21.3	2.13	_	1	8.6	1.84	_		19.0	1.87	_		20.3	2.04	
Total Commercial Real Estate	 150.6	5.08		115.1	3.75		8	9.4	2.88			81.7	2.57		_	139.3	4.50	_
Commercial and Industrial	56.5	2.17		29.1	1.08		2	9.5	1.09			39.9	1.50			39.0	1.53	
Total Commercial Loans	 207.1	3.72		144.2	2.50	-	11	8.9	2.05	•	_	121.6	2.09	•	_	178.3	3.15	•
Residential Mortgage	39.5	3.13		37.7	2.95		3	8.5	2.94			33.5	2.40			46.4	3.21	
Direct Consumer	25.5	1.76		19.5	1.32		1	8.4	1.22			21.7	1.42			24.3	1.55	
Indirect Consumer	 18.5	2.25	_	13.6	1.61		1.	4.4	1.73			13.3	1.62			15.9	1.92	
Total Delinquent Loans	\$ 290.6	3.19	-%	\$ 215.0	2.29	%	\$ 19	0.2	2.01	%	\$ _	190.1	1.99	%	\$	264.9	2.79	-%

Total delinquencies at December 31, 2008 increased \$75.6 million or 35.2% over September 30, 2008 and increased \$25.7 million or 9.7% over December 31, 2007 due to the continued weak Midwest economy. When compared with September 30, 2008, the increase in total commercial delinquencies was primarily due to ten large customers requiring proactive mitigation strategies. In general, 40% – 45% of the increase in commercial delinquency is attributable to administrative and renewal matters, such as longer response times for updated appraisals, which delinquencies are generally resolved through discussion with the borrowers.

As part of the overall credit underwriting and review process, Citizens carefully monitors commercial and commercial real estate credits that are current in terms of principal and interest payments but may deteriorate in quality as economic conditions change. Commercial relationship officers monitor their clients' financial condition and initiate changes in loan ratings based on their findings. Loans that have migrated within the loan rating system to a level that requires increased oversight are considered watchlist loans (generally consistent with the regulatory definition of special mention, substandard, and doubtful loans) and include loans that are in accruing (see Table 2) or nonperforming status (see Table 3). Citizens utilizes the watchlist process as a proactive credit risk management practice to help mitigate the migration of commercial loans to nonperforming status and potential loss. Once a loan is placed on the watchlist, it is reviewed quarterly by the chief credit officer, senior credit officers, senior market managers, and commercial relationship officers to assess cash flows, collateral valuations, guarantor liquidity, and other pertinent trends. During these reviews, action plans are affirmed to address emerging problem loans or to implement a specific plan for removing the loans from the portfolio. Additionally, loans viewed as substandard or doubtful are transferred to Citizens' special loans or small business workout groups and are subjected to an even higher level of monitoring and workout activity.

Table 2 Commercial Watchlist		Dog 2	1, 2008		Sep 30	2008			lun 3	0. 2008			Mar 3	1. 2008			Dec 3	31. 2007	
Accruing loans only	****	Decs	% of		och oc	% of	-	-	Junic	% of	•		ivica c	% of			D00 0	% of	-
in millions		\$	Portfolio		\$	Portfolio		_	\$	Portfolio		-	\$	Portfolio			\$	Portfolio	
Land Hold	\$	18.5	41.11	%. \$	20.7	42.86	%	\$	24.2	48.59	%	\$	27.7	44.97	%	\$	27.1	42.48	%
Land Development		49.3	37.15		51.8	41.44			47.5	37.05			55.9	35.11			72.7	43.33	
Construction		74.8	28.39		104.8	28.78			86.3	25.08			66.7	17.99			90.1	26.30	
Income Producing		401.0	25.77		290.3	18.93			239.3	15.24			221.3	14.12		2	25.5	14.78	
Owner-Occupied		178.4	18.44		167.0	16.71			161.8	16.03			155.8	15.34		1	53.0	15.35	_
Total Commercial Real Estate		722.0	24.35		634.6	20.67	•	_	559.1	18.03		•	527.4	16.61		5	68.4	18.35	_
Commercial and Industrial		436.8	16.78		431.2	15.95			432.5	16.00			407.1	15.34		3	87.4	15.15	
Total Watchlist Loans	\$1	,158.8	20.82	% \$	1,065.8	18.46	%	\$_	991.6	17.08	%	\$	934.5	16.03	%	\$ 9	55.8	16.90	%

Accruing watchlist loans at December 31, 2008 increased \$93.0 million or 8.7% over September 30, 2008 and increased \$203.0 million or 21.2% over December 31, 2007. The increases are primarily the result of continuing commercial real estate deterioration in Michigan and additional downgrades as a result of closely monitoring borrowers' repayment capacity in this environment.

Table 3 Nonperforming Assets	Dec 2	31, 2008		Sep 30	2008		Jun 3	30, 2008		Mar 3	31, 2008		Dec :	31, 2007	
•		% of			% of			% of		-	% of			% of	-
in millions	\$	Portfolio		\$	Portfolio		\$	Portfolio		\$	Portfolio		\$	Portfolio	
Land Hold	\$ 10.4	23.11 %	6 \$	11.0	22.77	% :	3.4	6.83 %	6	\$ 5.5	8.93	% 9	4.5	7.05	%
Land Development	23.4	17.63	,	20.6	16.48		22.8	17.78		46.4	29.15		35.6	21.22	
Construction	18.3	6.94		25.7	7.06		12.6	3.66		51.9	14.00		28.8	8.41	
Income Producing	78.6	5.05		57.6	3.76		23.1	1.47		40.5	2.58		21.5	1.41	
Owner-Occupied	31.8	3.29		17.7	1.77		13.1	1.30		23.5	2.31		19.7	1.98	_
Total Commercial Real Estate	162.5	5.48		132.6	4.32		75.0	2.42		167.8	5.29		110.1	3.55	
Commercial and Industrial	64.6	2.48		38.2	1.41		31.6	1.17		20.3	0.76		12.7	0.50	
Total Nonperforming Commercial Loan	227.1	4.08		170.8	2.96		106.6	1.84		188.1	3.23		122.8	2.17	
Residential Mortgage	59.5	4.71		40.2	3.14		12.4	0.95		45.8	3.29		46.9	3.25	
Direct Consumer	15.1	1.04		16.3	1.10		16.3	1.09		13.5	0.88		13.7	0.87	
Indirect Consumer	2.6	0.32	٠	2.1	0.25		1.4	0.17		1.7	0.21		2.1	0.25	
Loans 90+ days still															
accruing and restructured	1.7	0.02		1.9	0.02		2.5	0.03		4.4	0.05		3.9	0.04	-
Total Nonperforming Portfolio Loans	306.0	3.36 %	6	231.3	2.47	%	139.2	1.47 9	6	253.5	2.65	%	189.4	1.99	%
Nonperforming Held for Sale	75.2			86.6			92.6			22.8			21.6		
Other Repossessed Assets Acquired	58.0			46.5			54.1			50.3			40.5		
Total Nonperforming Assets	\$ 439.2	<del></del>	\$	364.4		9	285.9			\$ 326.6		\$	251.5		

Nonperforming assets are comprised of nonaccrual loans, loans past due over 90 days and still accruing interest, restructured loans, nonperforming held for sale, and other repossessed assets acquired. Nonperforming assets totaled \$439.2 million at December 31, 2008, an increase of \$74.8 million or 20.5% over September 30, 2008 and an increase of \$187.7 million over December 31, 2007. The increase over September 30, 2008 was primarily the result of a change in status of five commercial relationships, which together totaled \$57.0 million, and higher nonperforming residential mortgage loans as a result of general economic deterioration in the Midwest, especially Michigan. The increase over December 31, 2007 was primarily the result of significant deterioration in the real estate secured portfolios (particularly commercial) and general economic deterioration in the Midwest. Nonperforming assets at December 31, 2008 represented 4.79% of total loans plus other repossessed assets acquired compared with 3.87% at September 30, 2008 and 2.64% at December 31, 2007. Nonperforming commercial loan inflows were \$155.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with \$102.6 million in the third quarter of 2008 and \$72.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Nonperforming commercial loan outflows were \$99.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with \$38.5 million in the third quarter of 2008 and \$56.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2007. The fourth quarter of 2008 outflows included \$15.2 million loans that returned to accruing status, \$14.5 million in loan

payoffs and paydowns, \$66.5 million in charged-off loans, and \$3.0 million transferring to other repossessed assets acquired.

Table 4 Net Charge-Offs	 						Т	hree N	fonths End	ded							
	 Dec 3	1, 2008	_	Sep 30	0, 2008			Jun 3	30, 2008			Mar 3	31, 2008	***************************************	De	c 31, 20	07
in millions	 \$	% of Portfolio**	 -	 \$	% of Portfolio**	-	_	\$	% of Portfolio**			\$	% of Portfolio**		\$	% Portf	of olio**
Land Hold	\$ 4.6	40.89	%	\$ 1.7	14.08	%	\$	0.7	5.62	%	\$	0.5	3.25	%	\$ 0.	4 :	2.51 %
Land Development	5.8	17.48		6.9	22.08			16.4	51.17			6.6	16.58		6.	3 15	5.02
Construction	10.7	16.24		0.5	0.55			13.8	16.04			1.2	1.29		1.	8 2	2.10
Income Producing	21.7	5.58		4.4	1.15			7.7	1.96			0.9	0.23		2.	4 (	0.63
Owner-Occupied	 3.1	1.28	_	1.3	0.52			3.4	1.35			(0.1)	(0.04)		(0.	2) ((	(80.0
Total Commercial Real Estate	45.9	6.19	-	14.8	1.93	•	_	42.0	5.42	-	-	9.1	1.15		10.		.38
Commercial and Industrial	 21.9	3.37	_	 0.4	0.06			0.6	0.09			0.9	0.14		1.	4 (	).22
Total Commercial Loans	67.8	4.87		15.2	1.05	•		42.6	2.94	•	_	10.0	0.69		12.	1 (	0.86
Residential Mortgage	1.6	0.51		0.5	0.16			20.7	6.33			1.8	0.52		2.	) (	0.55
Direct Consumer	5.9	1.63		3.3	0.89			3.1	0.83			3.0	0.79		2.	3 (	.59
ndirect Consumer	 5.7	2.78		3.4	1.61			2.9	1.39			2.6	1.27		3.	3 1	.59
Total Net Charge-offs ** Represents an annualized rate.	\$ 81.0	3.48	%	\$ 22.4	0.94	%	\$_	69.3	2.93	%	\$ _	17.4		%	19.		.84 %

	Full Year	2008	F	Full Year	2007
Net charge-offs	\$ 190.1	2.01 %	\$	50.9	0.55 %

Net charge-offs totaled \$81.0 million or 3.48% of average portfolio loans in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with \$22.4 million or 0.94% of average portfolio loans in the third quarter of 2008 and \$19.7 million or 0.84% of average portfolio loans in the fourth quarter of 2007. The increase over the third quarter of 2008 was primarily the result of charging-off four large commercial loans totaling \$45.3 million. The increases over the three-month and twelve-month periods of 2007 were primarily the result of higher charge-offs on commercial real estate due to declining real estate values and general economic deterioration in the Midwest.

After determining what Citizens believes is an adequate allowance for loan losses, the provision for loan losses is calculated as a result of the net effect of the quarterly change in the allowance for loan losses identified based on the risk in the portfolio and the quarterly net charge-offs. The provision for loan losses was \$118.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2008, compared with \$58.4 million in the third quarter of 2008 and \$6.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2007. The increase over the third quarter of 2008 was primarily the result of the aforementioned four large commercial charge-offs as well as continued migration of commercial real estate loans to nonperforming status. This migration, and continuous evaluation of the underlying collateral supporting these loans, caused an increase in the allowance for loan losses due to the higher likelihood that portions of these loans may eventually be charged-off. For the full year of 2008, the provision for loan losses totaled \$282.1 million compared with \$45.2 million for the full year of 2007 due to the aforementioned factors.

The allowance for loan losses was \$255.3 million or 2.80% of portfolio loans at December 31, 2008, compared with \$217.7 million or 2.32% at September 30, 2008 and \$163.4 million or 1.72% at December 31, 2007. The increases were primarily the result of continued deterioration in commercial real estate loans, signs of potential deterioration in commercial and industrial loans due to recessionary pressures, and an increase in the loss migration rates and extended duration of residential mortgage and consumer loans. Based on current conditions and expectations, Citizens believes that the allowance for loan losses at December 31, 2008 is adequate to address the estimated loan losses inherent in the existing loan portfolio.

#### Noninterest Income

Noninterest income for the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$15.8 million, a decrease of \$12.3 million from the third quarter of 2008 and a decrease of \$13.5 million from the fourth quarter of 2007. For the full year of 2008, noninterest income totaled \$101.7 million, a decrease of \$20.8 million from the full year of 2007.

The decrease in noninterest income from the third quarter of 2008 was primarily the result of lower other income (\$5.2 million), higher net loss on loans held for sale (\$4.6 million), lower mortgage and other loan

income (\$1.5 million), as well as minor decreases in several other categories. The decrease in other income was primarily due to swap income recognition (\$3.4 million) and lower revenue on bank owned life insurance policies (\$1.6 million) resulting from lower market interest rates in the fourth quarter of 2008. The decrease in swap income recognition was primarily the result of changes in the credit spreads of Citizens' swap counterparties and changes in market interest rates as well as hedge ineffectiveness due to cash flow hedges on prime-based loans that were pre-paid. The higher net loss on loans held for sale was primarily the result of updated lower appraisal values on underlying collateral. The decrease in mortgage and other income was primarily the result of lower mortgage origination volume.

The decrease in noninterest income from the fourth quarter of 2007 was primarily due to lower other income (\$5.3 million), net loss on loans held for sale (\$5.4 million), lower trust fees (\$1.1 million), lower mortgage and other loan income (\$0.9 million), lower service charges on deposit accounts (\$0.6 million), and lower brokerage and investment fees (\$0.4 million). The decrease in other income was primarily the result of the aforementioned factors. The net loss on loans held for sale was primarily the result of updated lower appraisal values on the underlying collateral. The decline in trust fees and brokerage and investment fees were primarily the result of recent negative market conditions and lower demand for investment products due to attractively-priced traditional certificates of deposit in Citizens' markets. The lower mortgage and other loan income was primarily due to weak consumer demand in Citizens' markets. The decrease in service charges on deposit accounts was primarily due to a decline in customer transaction volume.

The decrease in noninterest income compared to the full year of 2007 was primarily due to a higher net loss on loans held for sale (\$8.9 million), lower other income (\$5.2 million), lower mortgage and other loan income (\$4.6 million), lower trust fees (\$2.1 million), and a net decrease from minor changes in several other categories, all as a result of the aforementioned factors, partially offset by higher bankcard fees (\$1.3 million). In addition, the other income category included a \$2.1 million gain in the first quarter of 2008 due to Citizens' receipt of proceeds from the partial redemption of its Visa shares.

#### **Noninterest Expense**

Noninterest expense for the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$78.6 million, an increase of \$4.3 million over the third quarter of 2008 and essentially unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2007. For the full year of 2008, noninterest expense totaled \$490.7 million, an increase of \$163.3 million over the full year of 2007.

The increase in noninterest expense from the third quarter of 2008 was primarily the result of other expense (\$3.9 million) and other loan expenses (\$2.6 million), partially offset by savings in salaries and employee benefits (\$2.5 million). The increase in other expense was primarily the result of a \$2.4 million loss related to the repurchase of all auction rate securities sold to wealth management clients (\$8.8 million in par value) to restore liquidity to their accounts, a \$1.1 million loss on a captive insurance program, and an increase in the FDIC premiums as a result of a mandatory phase-out of FDIC credits, partially offset by lower telephone expenses. Increases in other loan expenses were primarily the result of higher foreclosure expenses (\$2.6 million), partially offset by lower provisioning to fund the reserve for unused loan commitments, which fluctuates with the amount of unadvanced customer lines of credit. The decrease in salaries and benefits was primarily the result of lower commission-based compensation due to a decline in production volume and a reduction in annual performance-based incentives due to overall corporate performance for 2008.

Noninterest expense was essentially unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2007 as increases in other expense (\$3.5 million), other loan expenses (\$3.1 million), and ORE expenses, profits, and losses, net (\$1.6 million) were substantially offset by a general decline in all expenses due to cost savings and efficiencies implemented throughout 2007 following completion of the Republic merger in December 2006. The increase in other expense was primarily due to higher FDIC premiums as a result of a mandatory phase-out of FDIC credits and industry-wide increases on FDIC insurance, as well as the aforementioned loss on auction rate securities. The increase in other loan expense was primarily the result of higher other mortgage processing fees due to the alliance with PHH Mortgage entered into in the first quarter of 2008 and higher foreclosure expenses associated with repossessing collateral underlying commercial and residential real estate loans. The increase in ORE expenses, profits, and losses, net was primarily the result of owning more repossessed properties.

Salary costs included severance expense of \$1.2 million for the fourth quarter of 2008, \$2.0 million for the third quarter of 2008, and \$3.0 million for the fourth quarter of 2007. Citizens had 2,232 full-time equivalent employees at December 31, 2008 compared with 2,261 at September 30, 2008 and 2,501 at December 31, 2007.

The increase in noninterest expense over the full year of 2007 was primarily due to the aforementioned \$178.1 million goodwill impairment charge and the \$5.0 million fair-value adjustment on ORE which occurred in the second quarter of 2008, as well as higher other loan expenses (\$7.9 million) and ORE expenses, profits, and losses, net (\$5.7 million, excluding the aforementioned \$5.0 million fair-value adjustment) in 2008 due to the factors discussed above, partially offset by the general decline in all other expense categories due to cost savings and efficiencies implemented during 2007 as well as the effect of \$8.2 million in restructuring and merger-related expenses incurred in 2007.

#### **Income Tax Provision**

The income tax provision for the fourth quarter of 2008 was \$99.6 million, an increase of \$109.8 million over the third quarter of 2008 and an increase of \$91.1 million over the fourth quarter of 2007. For the full year of 2008, the income tax provision totaled \$71.0 million, an increase of \$39.7 million over the same period of 2007. The increases over the three-month periods were primarily the result of recording a valuation allowance of \$136.6 million against deferred tax assets, partially offset by the effect of lower pre-tax income. Additionally, the increase over the prior year was partially offset by the effect of lower pre-tax income, excluding the non-tax deductible goodwill impairment charge recorded in the second quarter of 2008.

SFAS 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes," requires that companies assess whether a valuation allowance should be established against their deferred tax assets based on the consideration of all available evidence using a "more likely than not" standard. In accordance with SFAS 109, Citizens reviewed its deferred tax asset and determined that due mainly to the significant pre-tax loss in 2008 it must establish a valuation allowance against the entire net deferred tax asset, excluding goodwill. As of December 31, 2008, Citizens recorded a \$155.7 million valuation allowance, which consisted of \$136.6 million recognized as income tax provision and \$19.1 million recognized through the other comprehensive income component of shareholders' equity in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. Despite the valuation allowance, these assets remain available to offset future taxable income. The deferred tax asset will be analyzed quarterly for changes affecting realizability and the valuation allowance may be reduced or eliminated in future periods accordingly. In making such judgments, significant weight is given to evidence that can be objectively verified. Citizens analyzes changes in near-term market conditions and considers both positive and negative evidence as well as other factors which may impact future operating results in making the decision to establish the valuation allowance.

# Reconciliation of Pre-Tax Pre-Provision Core Operating Earnings

Citizens is presenting pre-tax pre-provision core operating earnings in this release for purposes of additional analysis of operating results. Pre-tax pre-provision core operating earnings, as defined by management, represents net income (loss) excluding income tax provision (benefit), the provision for loan losses, and any impairment charges (including goodwill, credit writedowns and fair-value adjustments) caused by this economic cycle.

The following table reconciles pre-tax pre-provision core operating earnings to consolidated net income (loss) presented in accordance with US generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), which is the principal and most useful measure of earnings and provides comparability of earnings with other companies. However, Citizens believes presenting pre-tax pre-provision core operating earnings provides investors with the ability to better understand Citizens' underlying operating trends separate from the direct effects of the impairment charges, credit issues, fair value adjustments, challenges inherent in the real estate downturn and other economic cycle issues and displays a consistent core operating earnings trend before the impact of these challenges. The credit quality section of this earnings release already isolates all of the challenges and issues related to the credit quality of Citizens' loan portfolio and its impact on Citizens earnings as reflected in the provision for loan losses.

Pre-Tax Pre-Provision Core Operating Earnings	***************************************	Thre	e M	1onths En	dec	t	 
	Dec 31	Sep 30	J	lun 30		Mar 31	Dec 31
(in thousands)	2008	 2008		2008		2008	2007
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (195,369)	\$ (7,176)	\$ (	201,634)	\$	11,127	\$ 27,967
Income tax provision (benefit)	99,634	(10,192)		(19,401)		929	8,582
Provision for loan losses	118,565	58,390		74,480		30,619	6,055
Goodwill impairment charge				178,089		***	
Fair-value writedown on loans held for sale	5,865	1,261		2,248			508
Fair-value writedown on ORE	602	675		5,849		937	(427)
Fair-value writedown on bank owned life insurance	2,896	551				***	***
Loss on auction rate securities repurchase	2,406						
SFAS 157 mark-to-market on swaps	2,414	(2,894)		(293)		(514)	
Captive insurance impairment charge	1,053						****
Pre-Tax Pre-Provision Core Operating Earnings	\$ 38,066	\$ 40,615	\$	39,338	\$	43,098	\$ 42,685

Citizens is very focused on preserving capital, enhancing liquidity, and generating solid operating earnings in the long-term.

#### Forward-Looking Guidance

Citizens anticipates the following performance for the first quarter of 2009:

- Net interest income will be slightly lower than the fourth quarter of 2008 due to continued deposit price competition and continued migration of certain loans to nonperforming status.
- Noninterest income will be higher than the fourth quarter of 2008 primarily due to a lower net loss on loans held for sale.
- Noninterest expense will be higher than the fourth quarter of 2008 as increases in FDIC premiums,
   ORE expenses, and advertising are expected to more than offset current savings initiatives.
- Citizens does not anticipate recording an income tax provision (benefit) during 2009 unless there is a change in the realizability of the deferred tax asset.

Given the uncertainties in the Midwest economy, continued downturn in real estate markets, and volatility in borrower capacities, it is very difficult to give a narrow range of qualitative guidance on net charge-offs and provision expense at this time. Citizens anticipates net charge-offs and provision for loan losses for the first quarter of 2009 will be less than the fourth quarter of 2008, assuming future real estate values stabilize and the recessionary impact on borrowers' ability to re-pay does not continue to worsen.

## **Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

In addition to results presented in accordance with GAAP, this release includes non-GAAP financial measures such as those included in the "Reconciliation of Pre-Tax Pre-Provision Core Operating Earnings" section and the "Non-GAAP Reconciliation" table. Citizens believes these non-GAAP financial measures provide information useful to investors in understanding the underlying operational performance of the company, its business, and performance trends and facilitates comparisons with the performance of others in the banking industry. Specifically, Citizens believes the exclusion of restructuring and merger-related expenses, intangible asset amortization, and the goodwill impairment to create "core operating earnings" as well as the exclusion of related goodwill and other intangible assets, net of applicable deferred tax amounts, to create "average tangible assets" and "average tangible equity" facilitates the comparison of results for ongoing business operations. Citizens' management internally assesses the company's performance based, in part, on these non-GAAP financial measures.

In accordance with industry standards, certain designated net interest income amounts are presented on a taxable equivalent basis, including the calculation of net interest margin and the efficiency ratio displayed in the "Selected Quarterly Information" and "Financial Summary and Comparison" tables. Citizens believes the presentation of net interest margin on a taxable equivalent basis allows comparability of net interest margin with our industry peers by eliminating the effect of the differences in portfolios attributable to the proportion represented by both taxable and tax-exempt investments.

Although Citizens believes the above non-GAAP financial measures enhance investors' understanding of its business and performance, these non-GAAP measures should not be considered a substitute for GAAP basis financial measures.

#### **Other News**

## Stock Repurchase Program

During the fourth quarter of 2008, Citizens did not repurchase any shares of its stock under the stock repurchase program. As of December 31, 2008, there were 1,241,154 shares remaining to be purchased under the program approved by the Board of Directors on October 16, 2003.

#### **Analyst Conference Call**

William R. Hartman, chairman, president and CEO, Charles D. Christy, EVP and CFO, John D. Schwab, EVP and chief credit officer, and Martin E. Grunst, treasurer, will review the quarter's results in a conference call for analysts and investors at 10:00 a.m. ET on Friday, January 23, 2009.

A live audio webcast is available on Citizens' investor relations page at <a href="www.citizensbanking.com">www.citizensbanking.com</a> or by calling (800) 862-9098 (conference ID: Citizens Republic). To participate in the conference call, please connect approximately 10 minutes prior to the scheduled conference time.

The call will be archived for 90 days at <a href="www.citizensbanking.com">www.citizensbanking.com</a>. In addition, a digital recording will be available approximately two hours after the completion of the conference call until January 30, 2009. To listen to the replay, please dial (800) 727-6189.

#### **Investor Conference Presentation**

William R. Hartman, chairman, president and CEO, and Charles D. Christy, EVP and CFO, will present at the Citi 2009 Financial Services Conference in New York City on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 2:00 pm Eastern. The presentation may include forward looking information on financial trends, asset quality and earnings outlook.

A live audio webcast will be available on Citizens' investor relations page at <a href="www.citizensbanking.com">www.citizensbanking.com</a>. A replay will be available at the same website for 90 days. Presentation slides will be posted to Citizens' website prior to the event.

#### Corporate Profile

Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc. is a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of commercial, consumer, mortgage banking, trust and financial planning services to a broad client base. Citizens serves communities in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana as Citizens Bank and in Iowa as F&M Bank, with 233 offices and 266 ATMs. Citizens Republic Bancorp is the largest bank holding company headquartered in Michigan with roots dating back to 1871 and is the 41st largest bank holding company headquartered in the United States. More information about Citizens Republic Bancorp is available at <a href="https://www.citizensbanking.com">www.citizensbanking.com</a>.

#### Safe Harbor Statement

Discussions and statements in this release that are not statements of historical fact, including statements that include terms such as "will," "may," "should," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "intend," and "plan," including without limitation future financial and operating results, plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Any forward-looking statement is not a guarantee of future performance and actual results could differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking information.

Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, without limitation, the following:

- Deteriorating economic conditions in Michigan and the other Upper Midwest states in which Citizens operates have adversely affected its business and may continue to adversely affect Citizens.
- Declining real estate markets have adversely affected the value of Citizens' loan portfolio and may lead to further losses.
- Citizens may be required to record further impairment charges in respect of its goodwill and other intangible assets.

- Loan losses, such as those due to changes in loan portfolios, fraud and economic factors, could
  exceed the amount of losses Citizens has anticipated, requiring additional increases in the allowance
  that would reduce Citizens' net income and could have a negative impact on its capital and financial
  position.
- A rapid or substantial increase or decrease in interest rates could adversely affect Citizens' net interest income and results of operations.
- The ability of Citizens' holding company to pay dividends, repurchase its shares or to repay its
  indebtedness depends upon the results of operations of its subsidiaries and their legal ability to pay
  dividends to the holding company as well as the restrictions currently in place on outstanding senior
  preferred shares (such as the requirement for consent of the U.S. Department of the Treasury to pay
  dividends) and trust preferred debt.
- If Citizens is unable to continue to attract core deposits or continue to obtain third party financing on
  favorable terms, its cost of funds will increase, adversely affecting the ability to generate the funds
  necessary for lending operations, reducing net interest margin and negatively affecting results of
  operations.
- Citizens' ability to have access to interbank or other liquidity sources may be affected by rating agency downgrades or other market factors.
- Increased competition with other financial institutions or an adverse change in Citizens' relationship
  with a number of major customers could reduce its net interest margin and net income by decreasing
  the number and size of loans originated, the interest rates charged on these loans and the fees
  charged for services to customers, and could cause Citizens to lend to customers who are less likely
  to pay in order to maintain historical origination levels.
- Litigation to which Citizens is a party is subject to many uncertainties such that the expenses and ultimate exposure with respect to many of these matters cannot be ascertained.
- If Citizens is unable to adequately invest in and implement new technology-driven products and services to respond to rapid technological changes in its industry, it may not be able to compete effectively, or the cost to provide products and services may increase significantly.
- Changes in federal or state banking laws, regulations, and regulatory practices could affect Citizens'
  ability to offer new products and services, obtain financing, pay dividends from the subsidiaries to its
  holding company, attract deposits, or make loans and leases at satisfactory spreads, and could also
  result in the imposition of additional costs.
- A lack of market acceptance of Citizens' new products and services, which are often costly to develop and market initially, would have a negative effect on financial condition and results of operations.
- Changes in accounting methods, including fair-value adjustments, could negatively impact Citizens' results of operations and financial condition.
- Citizens' business continuity plans or data security systems could prove to be inadequate, resulting in a material interruption in, or disruption to, its business and a negative impact on its results of operations.
- Citizens' vendors could fail to fulfill their contractual obligations, resulting in a material interruption in, or disruption to, its business and a negative impact on its results of operations.
- Citizens' potential inability to integrate acquired operations could have a negative effect on its expenses and results of operations.
- Citizens could face unanticipated environmental liabilities or costs related to real property owned or acquired through foreclosure, which could have a negative effect on expenses and results of operations.
- Citizens' controls and procedures may fail or be circumvented, which could have a material adverse effect on its business, results of operations and financial condition.
- Citizens' holding company's articles of incorporation and bylaws as well as certain banking laws may have an anti-takeover effect.

These factors also include any other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in Citizens' filings with the SEC, which are available at the SEC's web site <a href="www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>. Other factors not currently anticipated may also materially and adversely affect Citizens' results of operations, cash flows and financial position. There can be no assurance that future results will meet expectations. While Citizens believes that the forward-looking statements in this release are reasonable, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. In addition, these statements speak only as of the date made. Citizens does not undertake, and expressly disclaims any obligation to update or alter any statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by applicable law.

Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited) Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries			
(in thousands)	December 31, 2008	September 30, 2008	December 31, 2007
Assets			
Cash and due from banks	\$ 171,695	\$ 268,944	\$ 241,104
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	214,925	2,568	172
Investment Securities:			
Securities available for sale, at fair value	2,248,772	2,018,958	2,132,164
Securities held to maturity, at amortized cost			
(fair value of \$137,846, \$134,367 and \$129,366, respectively)	138,575	139,574	129,126
Total investment securities	2,387,347	2,158,532	2,261,290
FHLB and Federal Reserve stock	148,764	148,768	148,838
Portfolio loans:	•	,	,
Commercial and industrial	2,602,334	2,703,714	2,557,152
Commercial real estate	2,964,721	3,070,282	3,097,196
Total commercial	5,567,055	5,773,996	5,654,348
Residential mortgage	1,262,841	1,279,696	1,445,214
Direct consumer Indirect consumer	1,452,166 820,536	1,481,380 843,126	1,572,329 829,353
	9,102,598	9,378,198	9,501,244
Total portfolio loans Less: Allowance for loan losses	9,102,398 (255,321)	(217,727)	(163,353)
Net portfolio loans	8,847,277	9,160,471	9,337,891
Loans held for sale	91,362	106,531	75,832
Premises and equipment	124,217	123,805	132,500
Goodwill	597,218	597,218	775,308
Other intangible assets	21,414	23,540	30,546
Bank owned life insurance	218,333 263,464	219,125	214,321
Other assets		306,449	288,181
Total assets	<u>\$ 13,086,016</u>	\$ 13,115,951	\$ 13,505,983
Liabilities			
Noninterest-bearing deposits	\$ 1,143,294	\$ 1,156,419	\$ 1,125,966
Interest-bearing demand deposits Savings deposits	780,176 2,504,320	768,466 2,607,974	782,889 2,221,813
Time deposits	4,624,616	4,473,216	4,171,257
Total deposits	9,052,406	9,006,075	8,301,925
Federal funds purchased and securities sold	9,032,400	9,000,073	0,301,323
under agreements to repurchase	65,015	59,781	488,039
Other short-term borrowings	10,377	63,281	54,128
Other liabilities	164,274	102,391	144,501
Long-term debt	2,192,623	2,347,644	2,939,510
Total liabilities	11,484,695	11,579,172	11,928,103
Shareholders' Equity			
Preferred stock - no par value	266,088		
Common stock - no par value	1,214,469	1,179,661	975,446
Retained earnings	170,358	365,954	597,333
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(49,594)	(8,836)	5,101
Total shareholders' equity	1,601,321	1,536,779	1,577,880
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 13,086,016	\$ 13,115,951	\$ 13,505,983

Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries	)	Three Month December				Twelve Mo		
(in thousands, except per share amounts)		2008	20	07		2008		2007
Interest Income								
Interest and fees on loans	\$	138,794	\$ 169	9,233	\$	586,073	\$	684,047
Interest and dividends on investment securities:			_					
Taxable		19,770		0,741		78,089		88,07
Tax-exempt Dividends on FHLB and Federal Reserve stock		7,174 1,761		7,321 1,678		29,096 7,269		29,26 6,41
Money market investments		1,761		15		384		104
Total interest income		167,677	191	8,988		700,911		807,91
	***************************************	107,077		5,500	-			001,01
Interest Expense Deposits		53,170	61	2,179		220,883		257,19
Short-term borrowings		162		8,812		8,029		34,316
Long-term debt		28,658		5,809		123,067		134,22
Total interest expense		81,990	106	6,800		351,979		425,732
Net Interest Income		85,687	92	2,188		348,932		382,179
Provision for loan losses	***************************************	118,565		6 <u>,055</u>		282,054		45,17
Net interest (expense) income after provision for loan losses		(32,878)	86	3,13 <u>3</u>		66,878		337,002
Noninterest Income								
Service charges on deposit accounts		11,714	12	2,350		47,470		48,05
Trust fees		4,062		5,175		17,967		20,10
Mortgage and other loan income		1,807		2,687		11,443		16,02
Brokerage and investment fees ATM network user fees		1,606 1,514		2,029 1,463		7,109 6,319		7,90° 6,28
Bankcard fees		1,898		1,806		7,440		6,124
Losses on loans held for sale		(5,865)		(508)		(9,373)		(508
Other income		(981)		<u> 1,294</u>		13,368		18,615
Total fees and other income		15,755	29	9,296		101,743		122,593
Investment securities losses		(1)				(1)		(25
Total noninterest income		15,754	29	9,296		101,742		122,568
Noninterest Expense								
Salaries and employee benefits		37,194		3,644		158,193		175,895
Occupancy		7,214		7,608		28,592		30,97
Professional services Equipment		3,644 3,156		1,432 3,857		15,184 12,966		18,031 14,650
Data processing services		3,748		3,874		16,470		16,234
Advertising and public relations		1,304		,212		5,897		7,282
Postage and delivery		1,931		,863		7,342		7,800
Other loan expenses		5,367	2	2,281		13,381		5,518
ORE expenses, profits, and losses, net Intangible asset amortization		1,547 2,126	_	(69) 2,659		11,008		325
Goodwill impairment		2,120				9,132 178,089		11,534
Restructuring and merger-related expenses		***		(356)		170,005		8,247
Other expense		11,380		,875		34,448		30,936
Total noninterest expense		78,611		3,880		490,702		327,423
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	***************************************	(95,735)		5,549		(322,082)		132,147
Income tax provision (benefit)		99,634		3,582		70,970		31,305
Net Income (Loss)	\$	(195,369)		,967	\$	(393,052)	\$	100,842
Deemed dividend on preferred stock	*	(.00,000)	Ψ = -	,00,	Ψ,	(11,737)	Ψ	100,012
Accretion of redeemable preferred stock		(227)				(227)		
Net Income (Loss) Attributable to Common Shareholders	\$	(195,596)	\$ 27	,967	•	(405,016)	<u> </u>	100,842
. ,	<b>Y</b>	1100,000)	Ψ 21	,001	φ !	(-00,010)	Ψ	100,042
Net Income (Loss) Per Common Share:  Basic	\$	(1.56)	\$	0.37	\$	(4.30)	\$	1.34
Diluted	Ψ	(1.56)		0.37	φ	(4.30)	Ψ	1.34
Cash Dividends Declared Per Common Share		***		.290		0.290		1.160
Average Common Shares Outstanding:								
Basic		125,385	75	,185		94,156		75,339
Diluted		125,385	75	,253		94,156		75,578

Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries	th Qtr 2008	3rd Qtr 2008	2nd Qtr 2008	1st Qtr 2008	4th Qtr 2007
Summary of Operations (thousands)	an du 2000	0.0 0.0			
Net interest income	\$ 85,687	\$ 87,318	\$ 87,615	\$ 88,312	\$ 92,188
Provision for loan losses	118,565	58,390	74,480	30,619	6,055
Total fees and other income	15,755	28,005	27,058	30,925	29,296
nvestment securities losses	(1)			Arrive Inc	
Noninterest expense (1)	78,611	74,301	261,228	76,562	78,880
ncome tax provision (benefit)	99,634	(10,192)	(19,401)	929	8,582
Net income (loss) (2)	(195,369)	(7,176)	(201,634)	11,127	27,967
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders (3)	(195,596)	(18,913)	(201,634)	11,127	27,967
Taxable equivalent adjustment	4,519	4,593	4,611	4,679	4,673
Cash dividends		****	***	21,958	21,941
Per Common Share Data					
Net Income (loss):	<b>A</b> /	A (A.A.)	A (0.00)	A 0.45	A 007
Basic	\$ (1.56)	\$ (0.20)	\$ (2.53)	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.37
Diluted	(1.56)	(0.20)	(2.53)	0.15 0.290	0.37 0.290
Dividends Market Velue:		******		0.290	0.250
Market Value:	\$ 4.75	\$ 11.00	\$ 13.97	\$ 14.74	\$ 17.37
High Low	1.34	1.75	2.67	10.41	13.00
Close	2.98	3.08	2.82	12.43	14.51
Book value	12.71	12.20	16.12	20.82	20.84
Tangible book value	7.80	7.27	9.62	10.21	10.20
Shares outstanding, end of period (000)	125,997	126,017	95,899	75,748	75,722
At Period End (millions)					
Assets	\$ 13,086	\$ 13,116	\$ 13,170	\$ 13,539	\$ 13,506 9.501
Portfolio loans Deposits	9,103 9,052	9,378 9,006	9,449 8,661	9,573 8,487	8,302
Shareholders' equity	1,601	1,537	1,546	1,577	1,578
Average Balances (millions)					
Assets	\$ 13,074	\$ 13,157	\$ 13,296	\$ 13,442	\$ 13,305
Portfolio loans Deposits	9,267 8,998	9,456 8,837	9,514 8,604	9,499 8,417	9,335 7,951
Shareholders' equity	1,559	1,551	1,546	1,579	1,561
Credit Quality Statistics (\$ thousands)					
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 304,293	\$ 229,391	\$ 136,741	\$ 249,113	\$ 185,397
oans 90 or more days past due and still accruing	1,486	1,635	2,179	4,077	3,650
Restructured loans	256	271	285	300	315 189,362
Total nonperforming portfolio loans Nonperforming held for sale	306,035 75,142	231,297 86,645	139,205 92,658	253,490 22,754	21,676
Other repossessed assets acquired (ORAA)	58,037	46,459	54,066	50,350	40,502
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 439,214	\$ 364,401	\$ 285,929	\$ 326,594	\$ 251,540
Nowance for loan losses	\$ 255,321	\$ 217,727	\$ 181,718	\$ 176,528	\$ 163,353
Nowance for loan losses as a percent of portfolio loans	2.80 %				1.72
Nowance for loan losses as a percent of nonperforming assets	58.13	59.75	63.55 130.54	54.05 69.64	64.94 86.27
Allowance for loan losses as a percent of nonperforming loans  Jonperforming assets as a percent of portfolio loans plus ORAA	83.43 4.79	94.13 3.87	3.01	3.39	2.64
Nonperforming assets as a percent of portion loans plus crown	3.36	2.78	2.17	2.41	1.86
Net loans charged off as a percent of average portfolio loans (annualized)	3.48	0.94	2.93	0.74	0.84
Net loans charged off	\$ 80,971	\$ 22,381	\$ 69,290	\$ 17,444	\$ 19,660
Performance Ratios (annualized)					
Return on average assets	(5.94) %		, ,		0.83
Return on average shareholders' equity	(49.86)	(1.84)	(52.47)	2.83	7.11
Average shareholders' equity / average assets	11.92	11.79	11.62	11.74	11.73
Net interest margin (FTE) (4)	3.03	3.09	3.11	3.12	3.26

<sup>(1)</sup> Noninterest expense includes a goodwill impairment charge of \$178.1 million in the second quarter of 2008 and restructuring and merger related expenses of (\$0.4) million in the fourth quarter of 2007.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net income (loss) includes a deferred tax valuation allowance of \$136.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2008.

<sup>(3)</sup> Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders includes the following non-cash items: \$0.2 million accretion of redeemable preferred stock in the fourth quarter of 2008 and \$11.7 million deemed dividend to preferred shareholders in the third quarter of 2008.

<sup>(4)</sup> Net interest margin is presented on an annualized basis, includes taxable equivalent adjustments to interest income and is based on a tax rate of 35%.

<sup>(5)</sup> The Efficiency Ratio measures how efficiently a bank spends its revenues. The formula is: Noninterest expense/(Net interest income + Taxable equivalent adjustment + Total fees and other income).

Financial Summary and Comparison	Twelve mon		
Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries	Decemb 2008	er 31, <b>2007</b>	% Change
Summary of Operations (thousands)		,	
Net interest income	\$ 348,932	\$ 382,179	(8.7) %
Provision for loan losses	282,054	45,177	524.3
Total fees and other income	101,743	122,593	(17.0) (97.7)
Investment securities (losses) gains	(1) 490.702	(25) 327,423	49.9
Noninterest expense (1) Income tax provision (benefit)	70,970	31,305	126.7
Net income (loss) (2)	(393,052)	100,842	(489.8)
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders (3)	(405,016)	100,842	(501.6)
Cash dividends	21,958	87,798	(75.0)
Oddii dividondo	21,000		(1.0.0)
Per Common Share Data			
Net Income:	A (4.00)	<b>.</b> 404	(400.0) 0(
Basic Diluted	\$ (4.30) (4.30)	\$ 1.34 1.33	(420.9) % (423.3)
Dividends	0.290	1.160	(75.0)
			( /
Market Value:	¢ 4474	¢ 20.05	(AE 2)
High Low	\$ 14.74 1.34	\$ 26.95 13.00	(45.3) (89.7)
Close	2.98	14.51	(79.5)
Book value	12.71	20.84	(39.0)
Tangible book value	7.80	10.20	(23.5)
Shares outstanding, end of period (000)	125,997	75,722	66.4
At Period End (millions)			
Assets	\$ 13,086	\$ 13,506	(3.1) %
Portfolio loans	9,103	9,501	(4.2)
Deposits Shareholders' equity	9,052 1,601	8,302 1,578	9.0 1.5
	1,001	1,376	1.3
Average Balances (millions)			
Assets	\$ 13,242	\$ 13,320	(0.6) %
Portfolio loans	9,434	9,212	2.4
Deposits Shareholders' equity	8,715 1,558	8,169 1.550	6.7 0.5
	1,556	1,550	
Performance Ratios (annualized)			
Return on average assets	(2.97) %	0.76 %	(490.8) %
Return on average shareholders' equity	(25.22)	6.51	(487.4)
Average shareholders' equity / average assets	11.77	11.64	1.1
Net interest margin (FTE) (4)	3.09	3.38	(8.6)
Efficiency ratio (5)	104.61	62.57	67.2
Net loans charged off as a percent of average portfolio loan	2.01	0.55	265.5

<sup>(1)</sup> Noninterest expense includes a goodwill impairment charge of \$178.1 million in 2008 and restructuring and merger related expenses of \$8.2 million in 2007.

<sup>(2)</sup> Net income (loss) includes a deferred tax asset valuation allowance of \$136.6 million in 2008.

<sup>(3)</sup> Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders includes the following non-cash items in 2008: \$0.2 million accretion of redeemable preferred stock and \$11.7 million deemed dividend to preferred shareholders.

<sup>(4)</sup> Net interest margin is presented on an annualized basis and includes taxable equivalent adjustments to interest income of \$18.4 million and \$18.5 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, based on a tax rate of 35%.

<sup>(5)</sup> The Efficiency Ratio measures how efficiently a bank spends its revenues. The formula is: Noninterest expense/(Net interest income + Taxable equivalent adjustment + Total fees and other income).

Non-GAAP Reconciliation Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries										
Cluzens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries	4th	Qtr 2008	3rd (	Qtr 2008	2nd	Qtr 2008	1st Qtr 20	08	4th Q	tr 2007
Summary of Core Operations (thousands)										
Net income (loss)	\$	(195,369)	\$	(7,176)	\$	(201,634)	\$ 11,12	27	\$ 2	27,967
Add back: Restructuring and merger related expenses (net of tax effect	t) <sup>1</sup>	***				***	-			(231)
Add back: Amortization of core deposit intangibles (net of tax effect) <sup>2</sup>		1,382		1,447		1,516	1,59	91		1,729
Add back: Goodwill impairment		***		***		178,089				
Core operating earnings (loss)	<u>\$</u>	(193,987)	\$	(5,729)	\$	(22,029)	\$ 12,71	8	\$ 2	29,465
Average Balances (millions)										
Average assets	\$	13,074	\$	13,157	\$	13,296	\$ 13,44	12	\$	13,305
Goodwill		(597)		(597)		(713)	(77	<b>7</b> 5)		(777)
Core deposit intangible assets		(22)		(25)		(27)		29)		(32)
Deferred taxes		7		8		9	***************************************	0		11
Average tangible assets	\$_	12,462	\$	12,543	\$	12,565	\$ 12,64	8	<u>\$</u>	12,507
Average equity	\$	1,559	\$	1,551	\$	1,546	\$ 1,57	<b>'</b> 9	\$	1,561
Goodwill		(597)		(597)		(713)	(77	<b>'</b> 5)		(777)
Core deposit intangible assets		(22)		(25)		(27)	(2	29)		(32)
Deferred taxes		7		8		9	1	0		11
Average tangible equity	\$_	947	\$	937	\$	815	\$ 78	<u>85</u>	\$	763
Performance Ratios (annualized)										
Core operating earnings (loss)/average tangible assets		(6.19) %		(0.18) %		(0.71) %	6 0.4	0 %	ı	0.93 %
Core operating earnings (loss)/average tangible equity		(81.48)		(2.43)		(10.87)	6.5	52		15.32

<sup>(1)</sup> Tax effect of (\$125) for the 4th quarter of 2007.

<sup>(2)</sup> Tax effect of \$744, \$779, \$817, and \$856 for 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st quarters of 2008, respectively, and \$930 for the 4th quarter of 2007.

# Noninterest Income and Noninterest Expense (Unaudited) Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries

Citizens Republic Bancorp and Subsidiaries	Three Months Ended									
	-	Dec 31	:	Sep 30		Jun 30		Mar 31		Dec 31
(in thousands)		2008		2008		2008		2008	2007	
NONINTEREST INCOME:										
Service charges on deposit accounts	\$	11,714	\$	12,254	\$	12,036	\$	11,466	\$	12,350
Trust fees		4,062		4,513		4,608		4,784		5,175
Mortgage and other loan income		1,807		3,269		3,023		3,344		2,687
Brokerage and investment fees		1,606		1,376		2,211		1,916		2,029
ATM network user fees		1,514		1,715		1,677		1,413		1,463
Bankcard fees		1,898		1,874		1,924		1,744		1,806
Gains (losses) on loans held for sale		(5,865)		(1,261)		(2,248)		1		(508)
Other income		(981)		4,265		3,827		6,257		4,294
Total fees and other income		15,755		28,005		27,058		30,925		29,296
Investment securities losses	-	(1)			***************************************	***		***		***
TOTAL NONINTEREST INCOME	\$	15,754	\$	28,005	\$	27,058	\$	30,925	\$	29,296
NONINTEREST EXPENSE:										
Salaries and employee benefits	\$	37,194	\$	39,728	\$	39,046	\$	42,225	\$	43,644
Occupancy	•	7,214	•	6.749	,	6,954		7,675		7,608
Professional services		3,644		3,246		4,531		3,763		4,432
Equipment		3,156		3,160		3,420		3,230		3,857
Data processing services		3,748		4,185		4,233		4,304		3,874
Advertising and public relations		1,304		1,297		1,458		1,838		1,212
Postage and delivery		1,931		1,626		2,058		1,727		1,863
Other loan expenses		5,367		2,755		3,448		1,811		2,281
ORE expenses, profits, and losses, net		1,547		1,825		6,394		1,242		(69)
Intangible asset amortization		2,126		2,226		2,333		2,447		2,659
Goodwill impairment				***		178,089				
Restructuring and merger-related expenses		***						***		(356)
Other expense		11,380		7,504		9,264		6,300		7,875
TOTAL NONINTEREST EXPENSE	\$	78,611	\$	74,301	\$	261,228	\$	76,562	\$	78,880

Average Balances, Yields and Rates			Three Months I	nded			
	December 31	. 2008	September 3		December 31, 2007		
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	
(dollars in thousands)	Balance	Rate (1)	Balance	Rate (1)	Balance	Rate (1)	
Earning Assets							
Money market investments	\$ 122,574	0.58 %	31,955	1.99 %	1,318	4.61 %	
Investment securities:							
Taxable	1,567,930	5.04	1,435,883	5.09	1,593,595	5.21	
Tax-exempt	670,015	6.59	674,102	6.64	675,459	6.67	
FHLB and Federal Reserve stock Portfolio loans	148,765	4.71	148,782	5.13	145,253	4.59	
Commercial and industrial	2,665,081	5.21	2,738,993	5.42	2,385,971	6.97	
Commercial real estate	3,031,173	6.26	3,087,556	6.28	3,074,207	7.56	
Residential mortgage	1,271,909	5.89	1,294,952	5.90	1,448,125	6.56	
Direct consumer	1,466,810	6.38	1,491,328	6.63	1,584,772	7.64	
Indirect consumer	832,379	6.81	843,549	6.73	841,480	6.83	
Total portfolio loans	9,267,352	5.98	9,456,378	6.07	9,334,555	7.20	
Loans held for sale	100,011	1.37	110,377	1.99	73,796	4.23	
Total earning assets	11,876,647	5.78	11,857,477	5.92	11,823,976	6.85	
Nonearning Assets							
Cash and due from banks	193,667		221,332		209,013		
Bank premises and equipment	124,195		124,343		132,297		
Investment security fair value adjustment	(25,650)		850		17,402		
Other nonearning assets	1,129,453		1,140,661		1,296,783		
Allowance for loan losses	(224,674)		(187,981)		(174,443)	<b>†</b>	
Total assets	\$ 13,073,638		\$ 13,156,682		\$ 13,305,028		
Interest-Bearing Liabilities							
Deposits:							
Interest-bearing demand	\$ 752,477	0.64 %	\$ 788,495	0.67 %	\$ 773,462	0.69 %	
Savings deposits	2,545,445	1.35	2,601,866	1.59	2,147,236	2.79	
Time deposits	4,559,987	3.78	4,300,715	3.82	3,898,732 774,778	4.65 4.51	
Short-term borrowings	80,315 2,324,252	0.81	226,893 2,420,601	1.86 4.99	2,880,587	4.94	
Long-term debt	10,262,476	4.91 3.18	10,338,570	3.25	10.474.795	4.05	
Total interest-bearing liabilities	10,202,470	3.10	10,330,370	3.23	10,474,755	4.00	
Noninterest-Bearing Liabilities and Shareholders'							
Equity	4 4 4 0 2 2 7		1 146 010		1,132,050		
Noninterest-bearing demand	1,140,337		1,146,010 121,521		1,132,030		
Other liabilities	111,863 1,558,962		1,550,581		1,560,561		
Shareholders' equity	\$ 13,073,638		\$ 13,156,682		\$ 13,305,028		
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	φ 13,U13,030		φ 13,130,002		ψ 10,000,020		
Interest Spread		2.60 %		2.67 %		2.80 %	
Contribution of noninterest bearing sources of funds		0.43		0.42		0.46	
Net Interest Margin (1)		3.03 %		3.09 %		3.26 %	

<sup>(1)</sup> Net interest margin is presented on an annualized basis, includes taxable equivalent adjustments to interest income and is based on a tax rate of 35%.

Average Balances, Yields and Rates	Twoh	Twelve Months Ended December 31,							
	2008	2007							
	Average	Average	Average	Average					
(dollars in thousands)	Balance	Rate (1)	Balance	Rate (1)					
Earning Assets									
Money market investments	40,551	0.95 %	1,940	5.37 %					
Investment securities									
Taxable	1,503,983	5.19	1,726,042	5.10					
Tax-exempt	673,395	6.65	671,753	6.70					
FHLB and Federal Reserve stock	148,806	4.89	137,676	4.66					
Portfolio loans									
Commercial and industrial	2,656,982	5.52	2,138,853	7.38					
Commercial real estate	3,104,815	6.45	3,103,082	7.68					
Residential mortgage	1,334,706	6.11	1,490,447	6.62					
Direct consumer	1,507,073	6.74	1,638,084	7.80					
Indirect consumer	830,376	6.75	841,600	6.76					
Total portfolio loans	9,433,952	6.21	9,212,066	7.38					
Loans held for sale	87,565	3.19	97,744	7.42					
Total earning assets	11,888,252	6.05	11,847,221	6.98					
Nonearning Assets									
Cash and due from banks	203,431		198,908						
Bank premises and equipment	126,255		136,135						
Investment security fair value adjustment	6,544		3,879						
Other nonearning assets	1,206,143		1,307,126						
Allowance for loan losses	(189,072)		(173,148)						
Total assets	<u>\$ 13,241,553</u>		\$ 13,320,121						
Interest-Bearing Liabilities									
Deposits:									
Interest-bearing demand	\$ 771,735	0.66 %	\$ 831,983	0.69 %					
Savings deposits	2,551,570	1.73	2,188,296	2.92					
Time deposits	4,268,931	4.02	4,008,919	4.68					
Short-term borrowings	318,404	2.52	721,086	4.76					
Long-term debt	2,520,181	4.88	2,728,181	4.92					
Total interest-bearing liabilities	10,430,821	3.37	10,478,465	4.06					
Noninterest-Bearing Liabilities and Shareholders'									
Equity									
Noninterest-bearing demand	1,122,974		1,139,695						
Other liabilities	129,344		152,000						
Shareholders' equity	1,558,414		1,549,961						
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<b>\$ 13,241,553</b>		\$ 13,320,121						
Interest Spread		2.68 %		2.92 %					
Contribution of noninterest bearing sources of funds		0.41		0.46					
Net Interest Margin <sup>(1)</sup>		3.09 %		3.38 %					

<sup>(1)</sup> Net interest margin is presented on an annualized basis, includes taxable equivalent adjustments to interest income and is based on a tax rate of 35%.

(in thousands)	Three Months Ended								
	Dec 31	Sep 30	Jun 30	Mar 31	Dec 31				
	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007				
Commercial and industrial	\$ 64,573	\$ 38,168	\$ 31,599	\$ 20,268	\$ 12,659				
Commercial real estate	162,544	132,629	75,082	<u>167,836</u>	110,159				
Total commercial (1)	227,117	170,797	106,681	188,104	122,818				
Residential mortgage	59,515	40,234	12,414	45,796	46,865				
Direct consumer	15,049	16,270	16,273	13,503	13,657				
Indirect consumer	2,612	2,090	1,373	1,710	2,057				
Loans 90 days or more past due and still accruing	1,486	1,635	2,179	4,077	3,650				
Restructured loans	256	271	285	300	315				
Total nonperforming portfolio loans	306,035	231,297	139,205	253,490	189,362				
Nonperforming held for sale	75,142	86,645	92,658	22,754	21,676				
Other Repossessed Assets Acquired	58,037	46,459	54,066	50,350	40,502				
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 439,214	\$ 364,401	\$ 285,929	\$ 326,594	\$ 251,540				
(1) Changes in commercial nonperforming loans (ir	cluding restruc	tured loans) for t	he quarter (in mi	llions):					
Inflows	\$ 155.5	\$ 102.6	\$ 54.5	\$ 99.0	\$ 72.1				

56.3

Net change

(81.4)

64.1

65.3

15.9

	Three Months Ended								
(in thousands)  Allowance for loan losses - beginning of period  Provision for loan losses	Dec 31 2008	Sep 30 2008	Jun 30 2008	Mar 31 2008	Dec 31 2007				
	\$ 217,727	\$ 181,718	\$ 176,528	\$ 163,353	\$ 176,958				
	118,565	58,390	74,480	30,619	6,055				
Charge-offs:									
Commercial and industrial	22,813	2,222	921	1,045	1,723				
Commercial real estate	46,058	15,063	42,225	9,132	11,219				
Total commercial	68,871	17,285	43,146	10,177	12,942				
Residential mortgage	1,565	497	20,738	1,769	2,013				
Direct consumer	6,239	3,603	3,631	3,522	2,706				
Indirect consumer	6,299	3,924	3,525	<u>3,141</u>	3,729				
Total charge-offs	82,974	25,309	71,040	18,609	21,390				
Recoveries:									
Commercial and industrial	904	1,805	302	142	348				
Commercial real estate	151	274	241	50	489				
Total commercial	1,055	2,079	543	192	837				
Residential mortgage	2	12	15	***	76				
Direct consumer	385	304	565	472	370				
Indirect consumer	561	533	627	501	447				
Total recoveries	2,003	2,928	1,750	1,165	1,730				
Net charge-offs	80,971	22,381	69,290	17,444	19,660				
sllowance for loan losses - end of period	\$ 255,321	\$ 217,727	\$ 181,718	\$ 176,528	\$ 163,353				
Reserve for loan commitments - end of period	\$ 3,941	\$ 4,274	\$ 5,154	\$ 5,293	\$ 5,571				

# Michigan's #1 Bank Holding Company Leads Expanded Small Business Lending Initiative

Company Release - 02/19/2009 10:58

Citizens Bank to utilize new federal economic stimulus package incentives to expand SBA lending programs

FLINT, Mich., Feb. 19 /PRNewswire/ -- Citizens Bank is expanding its support of small businesses throughout Michigan. Citizens Bank will increase the number of SBA loans it provides as a result of the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provides significant new incentives to boost small business lending. Citizens Bank is the leading SBA lender in dollars in Michigan with \$28,152,500 in loans in fiscal 2008.

Citizens ranks number one in the SBA's Preferred Lender Program (PLP) in Michigan. Preferred lenders like Citizens Bank enjoy delegated underwriting and have the ability to approve SBA loan applications in-house on behalf of the SBA. This delegated underwriting provides for extremely fast loan approvals and expedited loan closings.

"Citizens Bank has the successful platform to expand our support of the small businesses that are the heart of Michigan's economy," said Cathleen H. Nash, president and chief executive officer of Citizens Republic Bancorp. "We already have helped hundreds of small businesses to grow and succeed, in turn creating new jobs for many Michigan residents. The stimulus package provides additional resources that greatly enhance our efforts, and will increase the number of small businesses who are able to obtain assistance."

The stimulus package increases the government guarantee on certain types of SBA loans from 75 to 90 percent; temporarily removes the guarantee fees the SBA charges lenders and borrowers (for example, on a million dollar loan, a borrower would save \$26,250).

"One of the key objectives of the stimulus package was to unclog the market for SBA loans - we plan on fully utilizing the new incentives to do just that," said Thomas G. Zernick, vice president, head of SBA Lending, Citizens Bank. "Citizens Bank has maintained its commitment to the small businesses of Michigan through these difficult times. The new programs will allow us to help more businesses achieve their goals."

# Corporate Profile

Citizens Republic Bancorp is a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of commercial, consumer, mortgage banking, trust and financial planning services to a broad client base. Citizens Republic Bancorp serves communities in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio as Citizens Bank and in Iowa as F&M Bank, with 233 offices and 266 ATMs. Citizens Republic Bancorp is the largest bank holding company headquartered in Michigan with roots dating back to 1871. Citizens Republic is the 41st largest bank holding company headquartered in the United States. More information about Citizens Republic Bancorp is available at <a href="www.citizensbanking.com">www.citizensbanking.com</a>.

#### SOURCE Citizens Bank

Contact: Maribeth Farkas, farkas@caponigro.com or Walter Kraft, kraft@caponigro.com, both of Caponigro Public Relations, for Citizens Bank, +1-248-355-3200

# Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc.

# Meeting of the Board of Directors October 28, 2008

Action: Amend Benefit Plans to Comply with Emergency Economic Stabilization Act

WHEREAS Citizens Republic Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company") currently intends on entering into a Securities Purchase Agreement with the United States Department of Treasury (the "Agreement") as part of the Capital Purchase Program under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA"); and

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 1.2(d)(iv) of the Agreement, the Company is required to amend its "Benefit Plans" with respect to its "Senior Executive Officers" (as such terms are defined in the Agreement) to the extent necessary to comply with Section 111 of EESA; and

WHEREAS the applicable "Benefit Plans" are the plans in which any Senior Executive Officer participates, or is eligible to participate, and the agreements to which any Senior Executive Officer is a party, that either: (i) provide for incentive or bonus compensation based on the achievement of performance goals tied to or affected by the Company's financial results ("Financial Performance Plans") or (ii) provide for payments or benefits upon an "applicable severance from employment" within the meaning of EESA ("Involuntary Separation Pay Arrangements");

RESOLVED that each Financial Performance Plan and Involuntary Separation Pay Arrangement is hereby amended effective as of the date of entry into the Agreement as follows:

1. <u>Compliance With Section 111 of EESA</u>. Each Financial Performance Plan and Involuntary Separation Pay Arrangement is hereby amended by adding the following provision as a final section to such arrangement:

"Compliance With Section 111 of EESA. Solely to the extent, and for the period, required by the provisions of Section 111 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA") applicable to participants in the Capital Purchase Program under EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008: (a) each "Senior Executive Officer" within the meaning of Section 111 of EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008 who participates in this plan or is a party to this agreement shall be ineligible to receive compensation hereunder to the extent that the Board of Directors or Compensation and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company determines this plan or agreement includes incentives for the Senior Executive Officer to take unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of the financial institution; (b) each Senior Executive

Officer who participates in this plan or is a party to this agreement shall be required to forfeit any bonus or incentive compensation paid to the Senior Executive Officer hereunder during the period that the Department of the Treasury holds a debt or equity position in the Company based on statements of earnings, gains, or other criteria that are later proven to be materially inaccurate; and (c) the Company shall be prohibited from making to each Senior Executive Officer who participates in this plan or is a party to this agreement, and each such Senior Executive Officer shall be ineligible to receive hereunder, any "golden parachute payment" in connection with the Senior Executive Officer's "applicable severance from employment," in each case, within the meaning of Section 111 of EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008."

2. <u>Continuation of Affected Plans</u>. Except as expressly or by necessary implication amended hereby, each Financial Performance Plan and Involuntary Separation Pay Arrangement shall continue in full force and effect.

I, Charles D. Christy, hereby do consent to the adoption of the amendments to the "Benefit Plans" as defined in and as described in the attached "Resolution and Amendment" adopted at the October 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, as and to the extent, and for the period, required by the provisions of Section 111 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA") applicable to participants in the Capital Purchase Program under EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of the 3rd day of November, 2008:

Charles D. Christy

I, William R. Hartman, hereby do consent to the adoption of the amendments to the "Benefit Plans" as defined in and as described in the attached "Resolution and Amendment" adopted at the October 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, as and to the extent, and for the period, required by the provisions of Section 111 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA") applicable to participants in the Capital Purchase Program under EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of the 3rd day of November, 2008:

William R. Hartman

I, Cathleen H. Nash, hereby do consent to the adoption of the amendments to the "Benefit Plans" as defined in and as described in the attached "Resolution and Amendment" adopted at the October 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, as and to the extent, and for the period, required by the provisions of Section 111 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA") applicable to participants in the Capital Purchase Program under EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of the 3rd day of November, 2008:

Cathleen H. Nash

I, Clinton A. Sampson, hereby do consent to the adoption of the amendments to the "Benefit Plans" as defined in and as described in the attached "Resolution and Amendment" adopted at the October 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, as and to the extent, and for the period, required by the provisions of Section 111 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA") applicable to participants in the Capital Purchase Program under EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of the 3rd day of November, 2008:

Clinton A. Samoson

I, John D. Schwab, hereby do consent to the adoption of the amendments to the "Benefit Plans" as defined in and as described in the attached "Resolution and Amendment" adopted at the October 28, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors, as and to the extent, and for the period, required by the provisions of Section 111 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA") applicable to participants in the Capital Purchase Program under EESA and the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of the 3rd day of November, 2008:

hi D. Schwab

UST Sequence No. 116

#### WAIVER

In consideration for the benefits I will receive as a result of my employer's participation in the United States Department of the Treasury's TARP Capital Purchase Program, I hereby voluntarily waive any claim against the United States or my employer for any changes to my compensation or benefits that are required to comply with the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

I acknowledge that this regulation may require modification of the compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements, policies and agreements (including so-called "golden parachute" agreements) that I have with my employer or in which I participate as they relate to the period the United States holds any equity or debt securities of my employer acquired through the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

This waiver includes all claims I may have under the laws of the United States or any state related to the requirements imposed by the aforementioned regulation, including without limitation a claim for any compensation or other payments I would otherwise receive, any challenge to the process by which this regulation was adopted and any tort or constitutional claim about the effect of these regulations on my employment relationship.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of this12thday\_of December 2008

Charles D. Christy

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

In consideration for the benefits I will receive as a result of my employer's participation in the United States Department of the Treasury's TARP Capital Purchase Program, I hereby voluntarily waive any claim against the United States or my employer for any changes to my compensation or benefits that are required to comply with the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

I acknowledge that this regulation may require modification of the compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements, policies and agreements (including so-called "golden parachute" agreements) that I have with my employer or in which I participate as they relate to the period the United States holds any equity or debt securities of my employer acquired through the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

This waiver includes all claims I may have under the laws of the United States or any state related to the requirements imposed by the aforementioned regulation, including without limitation a claim for any compensation or other payments I would otherwise receive, any challenge to the process by which this regulation was adopted and any tort or constitutional claim about the effect of these regulations on my employment relationship.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of this 12thday of December 2008

Milliam R. Hartman

Chairman, President and Chief

Executive Officer

In consideration for the benefits I will receive as a result of my employer's participation in the United States Department of the Treasury's TARP Capital Purchase Program, I hereby voluntarily waive any claim against the United States or my employer for any changes to my compensation or benefits that are required to comply with the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

I acknowledge that this regulation may require modification of the compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements, policies and agreements (including so-called "golden parachute" agreements) that I have with my employer or in which I participate as they relate to the period the United States holds any equity or debt securities of my employer acquired through the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

This waiver includes all claims I may have under the laws of the United States or any state related to the requirements imposed by the aforementioned regulation, including without limitation a claim for any compensation or other payments I would otherwise receive, any challenge to the process by which this regulation was adopted and any tort or constitutional claim about the effect of these regulations on my employment relationship.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of this 12th day of December 2008

Cathleen H. Nash

Executive Vice President, Regional Banking

In consideration for the benefits I will receive as a result of my employer's participation in the United States Department of the Treasury's TARP Capital Purchase Program, I hereby voluntarily waive any claim against the United States or my employer for any changes to my compensation or benefits that are required to comply with the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

I acknowledge that this regulation may require modification of the compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements, policies and agreements (including so-called "golden parachute" agreements) that I have with my employer or in which I participate as they relate to the period the United States holds any equity or debt securities of my employer acquired through the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

This waiver includes all claims I may have under the laws of the United States or any state related to the requirements imposed by the aforementioned regulation, including without limitation a claim for any compensation or other payments I would otherwise receive, any challenge to the process by which this regulation was adopted and any tort or constitutional claim about the effect of these regulations on my employment relationship.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of this <sup>12th</sup> ay of December 2008

Clinton A. Sampson

Executive Vice President and

Regional Chairman

In consideration for the benefits I will receive as a result of my employer's participation in the United States Department of the Treasury's TARP Capital Purchase Program, I hereby voluntarily waive any claim against the United States or my employer for any changes to my compensation or benefits that are required to comply with the regulation issued by the Department of the Treasury as published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2008.

I acknowledge that this regulation may require modification of the compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements, policies and agreements (including so-called "golden parachute" agreements) that I have with my employer or in which I participate as they relate to the period the United States holds any equity or debt securities of my employer acquired through the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

This waiver includes all claims I may have under the laws of the United States or any state related to the requirements imposed by the aforementioned regulation, including without limitation a claim for any compensation or other payments I would otherwise receive, any challenge to the process by which this regulation was adopted and any tort or constitutional claim about the effect of these regulations on my employment relationship.

Agreed to and acknowledged as of this 12th ay of December 2008

John D. Schwab

Executive Vice President and

Chief Credit Officer