
Section 1: 8-K (FORM 8-K)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): June 5, 2019

PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Massachusetts
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-37504
(Commission File No.)

45-3231576
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

5 Market Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

01913
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (978) 834-8555

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, no par value per share	PVBC	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 **Other Events**

On June 5, 2019, the Board of Trustees of Provident Bancorp (the “MHC”) and the Boards of Directors of Provident Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) and The Provident Bank (the “Bank”) each adopted the Plan of Conversion (the “Plan”) pursuant to which the MHC will undertake a “second-step” conversion and cease to exist. The Company will reorganize from a two-tier mutual holding company structure to a fully public stock holding company structure. The MHC currently owns 52.3% of the outstanding shares of the common stock of the Company.

Pursuant to the Plan, (i) the Bank will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of a newly formed Maryland stock corporation (the “New Holding Company”), (ii) the shares of common stock of the Company held by persons other than the MHC (whose shares will be canceled) will be converted into shares of common stock of the New Holding Company pursuant to an exchange ratio designed to generally preserve the percentage ownership interests of such persons, and (iii) the New Holding Company will offer and sell shares of common stock representing the ownership interest of the MHC in a subscription offering. The Plan is subject to regulatory approval as well as the approval of the corporators of the MHC and the Company’s stockholders (including the approval of a majority of the Company’s outstanding shares of common stock held by persons other than the MHC).

Shares not subscribed for in the subscription offering may be sold in a community, syndicated and/or firm commitment underwritten public offering. The number and price of shares to be sold in the offering and the exchange ratio for current stockholders of the Company will be based on an independent appraisal.

The foregoing summary of the Plan is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the Plan, which is filed as Exhibit 2.1 to this Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

The Company announced the adoption of the Plan in a press release dated June 5, 2019. A copy of the press release is filed as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 **Financial Statements and Exhibits**

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Exhibits:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>2.1</u>	<u>Plan of Conversion of Provident Bancorp dated June 5, 2019</u>
<u>99.1</u>	<u>Press Release dated June 5, 2019</u>

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC.

DATE: June 5, 2019

By: /s/ David P. Mansfield
David P. Mansfield
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Section 2: EX-2.1 (EXHIBIT 2.1)

Exhibit 2.1

PROVIDENT BANCORP

PLAN OF CONVERSION

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees
on June 5, 2019**

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1.1	Form of Agreement of Merger between Provident Bancorp and Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation
Exhibit 1.2	Form of Agreement of Merger between Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation and Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Maryland corporation

PROVIDENT BANCORP

PLAN OF CONVERSION

ARTICLE 1.

Introduction—Business Purpose

This Plan of Conversion (the “Plan”) provides for the conversion and reorganization of Provident Bancorp, a Massachusetts-chartered mutual holding company (the “MHC”), into the capital stock form of organization and all steps incident or necessary thereto (the “Conversion”). The MHC currently owns 52.3% of the common stock of Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation (the “Mid-Tier Holding Company”), which owns 100% of the common stock of The Provident Bank (the “Bank”). The Bank is a Massachusetts-chartered savings bank headquartered in Amesbury, Massachusetts. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Article 1 shall have the respective meanings set forth in Article 2 hereof.

The Plan, which has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the MHC, the Board of Directors of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Board of Directors of the Bank, is to be carried out under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, applicable Regulations of the Massachusetts Division of Banks (the “Division”) and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “FRB”), and other applicable laws and regulations. The Board of Trustees of the MHC currently contemplates that, following the Conversion, all of the capital stock of the Bank will be held by a Maryland corporation (the “Stock Holding Company”) and that the Stock Holding Company will issue and sell shares of its common stock (the “Holding Company Common Stock”) in a Subscription Offering upon the terms and conditions set forth herein to Eligible Account Holders, Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any), Tax-Qualified Employee Plans established by the Bank or the Stock Holding Company, and Employees, Officers, Directors, Trustees or Corporators of the MHC or the Bank, according to the respective priorities set forth in the Plan. Any shares not subscribed for in the Subscription Offering may be offered for sale to certain members of the public directly by the Stock Holding Company through a Direct Community Offering and/or a Syndicated Community Offering. Alternatively, any shares not subscribed for in the Subscription Offering and any Direct Community Offering may be offered for sale in a Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering, or in any other manner permitted by the Bank Regulators. All sales of Holding Company Common Stock in a Direct Community Offering, in a Syndicated Community Offering, in a Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering, or in any other manner permitted by the Bank Regulators, will be at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees of the MHC and the Board of Directors of the Stock Holding Company. As part of the Conversion, each Minority Stockholder will receive Holding Company Common Stock in exchange for Minority Shares.

The Plan is subject to the approval of various regulatory agencies, and must be approved by a majority of the total votes of the MHC’s Corporators and a majority of the MHC’s Independent Corporators (who shall constitute not less than 60% of all Corporators) eligible to be cast at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called for such purpose. This Plan also must be approved by at least (i) two-thirds of the total votes eligible to be cast by Stockholders at the Meeting of Stockholders, and (ii) a majority of the total votes eligible to be cast by Minority Stockholders at the Meeting of Stockholders.

The Conversion is to be effectuated as follows, or in any other manner that is consistent with the purposes of the Plan and applicable laws and regulations. The Mid-Tier Holding Company will establish the Stock Holding Company as a first-tier stock holding company subsidiary. The MHC will merge with and into the Mid-Tier Holding Company with the Mid-Tier Holding Company as the resulting entity pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger attached hereto as Exhibit 1.1 (the “MHC Merger”). As part of the MHC Merger, shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock held by the MHC will be canceled and all persons holding liquidation rights in the MHC will constructively receive liquidation rights in the Mid-Tier Holding Company in exchange for their liquidation rights in the MHC. Immediately after the MHC Merger, the Mid-Tier Holding Company will merge with the Stock Holding Company, with the Stock Holding Company as the resulting entity (the “Mid-Tier Merger”), pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger attached hereto as Exhibit 1.2, whereby the Bank will become the wholly owned subsidiary of the Stock Holding Company. As part of the Mid-Tier Merger, the liquidation rights held by persons in the Mid-Tier Holding Company pursuant to the MHC Merger will automatically, without further action on the part of such persons, be exchanged for an interest in the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account. Immediately after the Mid-Tier Merger, the Stock Holding Company will offer for sale shares of Holding Company Common Stock in the Offering (the “Offering Shares”). The Stock Holding Company will contribute at least 50% of the net proceeds of the Offering to the Bank in constructive exchange for additional shares of common stock of the Bank and in exchange for the Bank Liquidation Account.

The foregoing is subject to modification as necessary to address tax or regulatory considerations. Upon the Conversion, Eligible Account Holders and the Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if a Supplemental Eligibility Record Date is established) will be granted interests in the liquidation account to be established by the Bank and the Stock Holding Company pursuant to Section 9.7 hereof.

The primary purposes of the Conversion are to: (1) enhance the Bank’s regulatory capital position; (2) transition the Bank’s organization to a stock holding company structure, which gives the Stock Holding Company greater flexibility to access the capital markets compared to the Bank’s existing mutual holding company structure; (3) improve the liquidity of the existing shares of common stock; (4) facilitate the Stock Holding Company’s ability to pay dividends to its public stockholders; and (5) facilitate future mergers and acquisitions. In addition, the Board of Trustees and senior management believe that the Conversion will be beneficial to the population within the Bank’s primary market area. The Conversion will provide local customers and other residents with an additional opportunity to become equity owners of the Bank, and thereby participate in possible stock price appreciation and cash dividends, which is consistent with the objective of being a locally-owned financial institution serving local financial needs. The Board of Trustees and management believe that, through local stock ownership, current customers and non-customers who purchase Holding Company Common Stock will seek to enhance the financial success of the Bank through consolidation of their banking business and increased referrals to the Bank.

The Bank became a stock-form subsidiary of the Mid-Tier Holding Company when the Bank reorganized into the two-tier mutual holding company structure in 2014. Accordingly, the Conversion will not affect the corporate existence of the Bank. The Bank's business and operations will not be affected or interrupted by the Conversion, and the Bank will continue as the same legal entity after the Conversion. The Conversion will have no impact on depositors, borrowers or other customers of the Bank. Upon the Conversion, each deposit account holder of the Bank will continue to hold exactly the same deposit account as the holder held immediately before the Conversion, and such deposit account holder shall have all of the same rights and privileges after the Conversion. All deposit accounts in the Bank following the Conversion will continue to be insured up to the legal maximum by the Deposit Insurance Fund of the FDIC and the Depositors Insurance Fund established by Massachusetts General Laws for amounts in excess of FDIC coverage limits, in the same manner as such deposit accounts were insured immediately before the Conversion. There will be no change in the Bank's loans. The Conversion will not result in any reduction of the Bank's reserves or net worth.

ARTICLE 2. Definitions

As used in the Plan, the terms set forth below have the following meanings:

Acting in Concert. The term "Acting in Concert" means Persons seeking to combine or pool their voting or other interests (such as subscription rights) in the securities of an issuer for a common purpose, pursuant to any contract, understanding, relationship, agreement or other arrangement, whether written or otherwise. When Persons act together for such purpose, their group is deemed to have acquired their stock. The determination of whether a group is Acting in Concert shall be made solely by the Board of Trustees of the MHC or Officers delegated by such Board and may be based on any evidence upon which the Board or such delegate(s) chooses to rely, including, without limitation, joint account relationships or the fact that such Persons have filed joint Schedules 13D with the SEC with respect to other companies; provided, however, that the determination of whether a group is Acting in Concert remains subject to review by the Division. Persons living at the same address, whether or not related, will be deemed to be Acting in Concert unless otherwise determined by the Board or such delegate(s). Trustees and Corporators of the MHC and Directors of the Mid-Tier Holding Company, the Stock Holding Company and the Bank shall not be deemed to be Acting in Concert solely as a result of their membership on any such board or boards.

Affiliate. An "Affiliate" of, or a Person "Affiliated" with, a specified Person, is a Person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Person specified.

Application. The application, including a copy of the Plan, submitted by the MHC to the Commissioner for approval of the Conversion.

Associate. The term “Associate,” when used to indicate a relationship with any Person, means: (a) any corporation or organization (other than the Bank, the Stock Holding Company, the Mid-Tier Holding Company, the MHC or a majority-owned subsidiary of any thereof) of which such Person is an Officer or partner or is, directly or indirectly, the beneficial owner of 10% or more of any class of equity securities; (b) any trust or other estate in which such Person has a substantial beneficial interest or as to which such Person serves as trustee or in a similar fiduciary capacity; or (c) any relative or spouse of such Person, or any relative of such spouse, who has the same home as such Person or who is a Director or Trustee or Officer of the MHC, the Stock Holding Company, the Mid-Tier Holding Company, or the Bank, or any subsidiary thereof; *provided, however,* that any Employee Plan shall not be deemed to be an Associate of any Corporator, Director, Trustee or Officer of the MHC, the Mid-Tier Holding Company, the Stock Holding Company or the Bank, and provided that, for purposes of aggregating total shares that may be held by Officers and Directors, the term “Associate” does not include any Tax-Qualified Employee Plan. When used to refer to a Person other than a Corporator, Officer, Trustee or Director of the Bank, the MHC, the Mid-Tier Holding Company or the Stock Holding Company, the MHC in its sole discretion may determine the Persons that are Associates of other Persons. Trustees and Corporators of the MHC and Directors of the Stock Holding Company, the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Bank shall not be deemed to be Associates solely as a result of their membership on such board or boards.

Bank. The Provident Bank.

Bank Liquidation Account. The account established in the Bank representing the liquidation interests received by Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any) in connection with the Conversion.

Bank Regulators. The Commissioner, the FRB and other bank regulatory agencies, if any, responsible for reviewing and approving the Conversion, including the ownership of the Bank by the Stock Holding Company and the mergers required to effect the Conversion.

BHCA. The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

Code. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Commissioner. The Commissioner of Banks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Community Offering. A Direct Community Offering and/or a Syndicated Community Offering.

Control (including the terms “controlling”, “controlled by”, and “under common control with”). The possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise.

Conversion. The Conversion of the MHC to stock form pursuant to the Plan, and all steps incident or necessary thereto.

Conversion Shares. The Offering Shares and the Exchange Shares.

Corporator. A corporator, as defined in Title 209, Section 33.02 of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, of the MHC.

Demand Account. Non-interest-bearing demand deposits that are subject to check or to withdrawal or transfer on negotiable or transferable order to the Bank and that are permitted to be issued by statute, regulation, or otherwise and are payable on demand.

Deposit Account. Any withdrawable deposit account offered by the Bank, including, without limitation, savings accounts, NOW account deposits, certificates of deposit, demand deposits, Keogh Plans, SEPs and Individual Retirement Accounts for which the Bank acts as custodian or trustee, and such other types of deposit accounts as may then have been authorized by Massachusetts or federal law and regulations, but not including repurchase agreements, savings bank life insurance policies, certain escrow accounts, or trust department accounts held separately from deposit accounts in accordance with Section 4 of Chapter 167G of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Direct Community Offering. The offering for sale directly by the Stock Holding Company of Holding Company Common Stock (a) to the Local Community, as provided in Exhibit 7.6 of the Plan, with preference given to natural persons residing in the Local Community, and then (b) to the public at large. The Direct Community Offering may be conducted simultaneously with the Subscription Offering.

Directors. The directors of the Bank, the Mid-Tier Holding Company and/or the Stock Holding Company, as the context may dictate.

Division. The Division of Banks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Eligibility Record Date. May 31, 2018, the date for determining who qualifies as an Eligible Account Holder.

Eligible Account Holder. Any Person holding a Qualifying Deposit on the Eligibility Record Date.

Employee. All Persons who are employed by the Bank, the Mid-Tier Holding Company or the MHC. The term "Employee" does not include a Trustee, Director or Officer.

Employee Plan. Any Tax-Qualified Employee Plan or Non-Tax-Qualified Employee Benefit Plan.

ESOP. The employee stock ownership plan established by the Bank.

Estimated Valuation Range. The range of the estimated consolidated *pro forma* market value of the Stock Holding Company, which shall also be equal to the range of the estimated *pro forma* market value of the aggregate Conversion Shares and Exchange Shares to be issued in the Conversion. The Estimated Valuation Range shall be based on the Independent Valuation determined by the Independent Appraiser prior to the Subscription Offering, as it may be amended from time to time thereafter. The Independent Valuation of the *pro forma* market value of the Stock Holding Company established by the Independent Appraiser shall form the midpoint of the Estimated Valuation Range. The maximum of the Estimated Valuation Range may vary as much as 15% above the midpoint of the Estimated Valuation Range (the “Maximum of the Estimated Valuation Range”) and 15% below the midpoint of the Estimated Valuation Range. The Maximum of the Estimated Valuation Range may be increased by up to 15% subsequent to the commencement of the Offering to reflect changes in demand for the Holding Company Common Stock or changes in market conditions.

Exchange Act. The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Exchange Offering. The offering of Holding Company Common Stock to Minority Stockholders in exchange for Minority Shares.

Exchange Ratio. The rate at which shares of Holding Company Common Stock are exchanged for Minority Shares upon consummation of the Conversion. The Exchange Ratio (which shall be rounded to four decimal places) shall be determined such that as of the closing of the Conversion the rate will result in the Minority Stockholders owning in the aggregate the same percentage of the outstanding shares of Holding Company Common Stock immediately upon completion of the Conversion as the percentage of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock owned by them in the aggregate immediately prior to the consummation of the Conversion before giving effect to (a) cash in lieu of any fractional shares and (b) any shares of Offering Shares purchased by Minority Stockholders in the Offering.

Exchange Shares. The shares of Holding Company Common Stock issued to Minority Stockholders in the Exchange Offering.

FDIC. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering. The offering, at the sole discretion of the Stock Holding Company, of Offering Shares not subscribed for in the Subscription Offering and any Direct Community Offering, to members of the general public through one or more underwriters. A Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering may occur following the Subscription Offering and the Direct Community Offering, if any.

FRB. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

FRB Applications. The FRB Conversion Application to be submitted to the FRB by the MHC and the Holding Company Application to be submitted to the FRB by the Stock Holding Company.

FRB Conversion Application. The FRB Conversion Application seeking the FRB’s prior approval of, or non-objection to, the MHC’s conversion from mutual to stock form.

Group Maximum Purchase Limit. The limitation on the purchase of shares of Holding Company Common Stock established by Section 8.3 hereof, as such limit may be increased pursuant to said Section 8.3.

Holding Company Application. The Holding Company Application on Form FR Y-3 for the FRB's prior approval of the Stock Holding Company's acquisition of the Bank.

Holding Company Common Stock. The shares of common stock to be issued by the Stock Holding Company in the Conversion.

Independent Appraiser. The appraiser retained by the MHC to prepare an independent appraisal of the *pro forma* market value of the Conversion Shares.

Independent Corporator. A Corporator who is not an Employee, Officer or Trustee of the MHC or the Mid-Tier Holding Company, or an Employee, Officer, Director, or "significant borrower" of the Bank, as determined by the Commissioner.

Independent Valuation. The independent valuation of the *pro forma* market value of the Conversion Shares, as determined by the Independent Appraiser.

Individual Maximum Purchase Limit. The limitation on the purchase of shares of Holding Company Common Stock established by Section 8.2 hereof, as such limit may be increased pursuant to said Section 8.2.

Information Statement. The information statement required to be sent to the Corporators in connection with the Special Meeting of Corporators.

Local Community. The Massachusetts cities and towns of Amesbury, Newburyport and Salisbury, and the New Hampshire cities and towns of Bedford, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Manchester, Newcastle, Newington, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rye, Seabrook and Stratham.

Majority Ownership Interest. A fraction, the numerator of which is equal to the number of shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock owned by the MHC immediately prior to the completion of the Conversion, and the denominator of which is equal to the total number of shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the Conversion.

Marketing Agent. The broker-dealer responsible for managing the Offering and sale of the Holding Company Common Stock.

Market Maker. A broker-dealer (*i.e.*, any Person who engages directly or indirectly as agent, broker, or principal in the business of offering, buying, selling or otherwise dealing or trading in securities issued by another Person) who, with respect to a particular security: (a)(i) regularly publishes bona fide, competitive bid and offer quotations in a recognized inter-dealer quotation system, or (ii) furnishes bona fide competitive bid and offers quotations on request; and (b) is ready, willing and able to effect transactions in reasonable quantities at the dealer's quoted prices with other brokers or dealers.

Meeting of Stockholders. The special or annual meeting of stockholders of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and any adjournments thereof held to consider and vote upon this Plan.

MHC. Provident Bancorp, the Massachusetts-chartered mutual holding company for the Bank.

Mid-Tier Holding Company. Provident Bancorp, Inc., the Massachusetts corporation which owns 100% of the common stock of the Bank.

Minority Shares. Any outstanding common stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company, or shares of common stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company issuable upon the exercise of options or grant of stock awards, owned by persons other than the Mutual Holding Company.

Minority Stockholder. Any owner of Minority Shares.

Non-Tax-Qualified Employee Benefit Plan. Any defined benefit plan or defined contribution plan which is not qualified under Section 401 of the Code.

Offering. The Subscription Offering, the Direct Community Offering, if any, the Syndicated Community Offering, if any, and the Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering, if any. The term "Offering" does not include Holding Company Common Stock issued in the Exchange Offering.

Offering Range. The range of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered for sale in the Offering. The Offering Range will be equal to the Estimated Valuation Range multiplied by the Majority Ownership Interest divided by the Subscription Price.

Offering Shares. Shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered and sold in the Offering. Offering Shares do not include Exchange Shares.

Officer. The Chairman of the Board, the President, any officer of the level of vice president or above, the Clerk, the Secretary and the Treasurer of an entity.

Order Form. Any form (together with any cover letter and acknowledgments) sent to any Participant or Person containing among other things a description of the alternatives available to such Person under this Plan and by which any such Person may make elections regarding subscriptions for Offering Shares.

Participant. Any Eligible Account Holder, Supplemental Eligible Account Holder, Tax-Qualified Employee Plan, or any Employee, Officer, Director, Trustee or Corporator of the MHC, the Mid-Tier Holding Company or the Bank.

Person. An individual, corporation, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust (including Individual Retirement Accounts, SEPs and Keogh Accounts), unincorporated organization, government entity or political subdivision thereof or any other entity.

Plan. This Plan of Conversion as it may hereafter be amended in accordance with its terms.

Qualifying Deposit. The aggregate balances of all Deposit Accounts of an Eligible Account Holder as of the close of business on the Eligibility Record Date or of a Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) as of the close of business on the Supplemental Eligibility Record Date (if required), as the case may be, *provided* that, in either case, such aggregate balance is not less than \$50. In determining the aggregate balance, any Deposit Account having a negative balance on the Eligibility Record Date or Supplemental Eligibility Record Date shall be disregarded.

Range Maximum. The number of Offering Shares that is 15% above the midpoint of the Offering Range.

Range Minimum. The number of Offering Shares that is 15% below the midpoint of the Offering Range.

Regulations. The regulations of the Division regarding mutual-to-stock conversions of mutual holding companies and the regulations of the FRB (to the extent deemed applicable by the FRB).

Resident. Any Person who occupies a dwelling within the Local Community, has a present intent to remain within the Local Community for a period of time, and manifests the genuineness of that intent by establishing an ongoing physical presence within the Local Community together with an indication that such presence within the Local Community is something other than merely transitory in nature. To the extent the Person is a corporation or other business entity, the principal place of business or headquarters of such Person must be in the Local Community. To the extent a Person is a personal benefit plan, the circumstances of the beneficiary shall apply with respect to this definition. In the case of all other benefit plans, circumstances of the trustee shall be examined for purposes of this definition. The MHC may utilize deposit or loan records or such other evidence provided to it to make a determination as to whether a Person is a resident. In all cases, however, such a determination shall be in the sole discretion of the MHC. A Participant must be a “resident” of the Local Community for purposes of determining whether such Person “resides”, or is “residing”, in the Local Community as such term is used in this Plan.

Savings Account. Any withdrawable account, except a Demand Account, a tax and loan account, a note account, a United States Treasury general account, or a United States Treasury time deposit-open account.

SEC. The Securities and Exchange Commission.

Special Meeting of Corporators. The Special Meeting of Corporators called for the purpose of voting on the Plan, which may be the Annual Meeting of Corporators.

Stock Holding Company. The stock-form holding company that will (a) be a Maryland corporation known as Provident Bancorp, Inc., (b) issue Holding Company Common Stock in the Conversion and (c) own 100% of the common stock of the Bank upon consummation of the Conversion.

Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account. The account established by the Stock Holding Company representing the liquidation interests received by Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any) in connection with the Conversion in exchange for their interests in the MHC immediately prior to the Conversion.

Stockholder. Any owner of the outstanding common stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company, including the MHC.

Subscription Offering. The offering of Holding Company Common Stock for subscription by Persons holding subscription rights pursuant to the Plan.

Subscription Price. The price per Offering Share to be paid by Participants and others in the Offering. The Subscription Price will be determined by the Board of Trustees of the MHC and the Board of Directors of the Stock Holding Company and fixed prior to the commencement of the Subscription Offering.

Supplemental Eligible Account Holder. Any Person (other than Officers, Directors, Trustees, or Corporators of the MHC and the Bank and their Associates) holding a Qualifying Deposit on the Supplemental Eligibility Record Date (if established).

Supplemental Eligibility Record Date. If the Eligibility Record Date is more than 15 months prior to the date of the latest amendment to the Application filed prior to approval of the Application by the Commissioner, a supplemental record date shall be established for determining who qualifies as a Supplemental Eligible Account Holder. If required, the Supplemental Eligibility Record Date shall be August 31, 2018.

Syndicated Community Offering. The offering, at the sole discretion of the Holding Company, of Offering Shares not subscribed for in the Subscription Offering and the Direct Community Offering, to members of the general public through a syndicate of broker-dealers.

Tax-Qualified Employee Plan. Any defined benefit plan or defined contribution plan (including the ESOP, any stock bonus plan, profit-sharing plan, 401(k) plan or other plan) of the Bank, the Stock Holding Company, the MHC or any of their Affiliates, which, with its related trusts, meets the requirements to be qualified under Section 401 of the Code.

Trustees. The trustees of the MHC.

Voting Record Date. The date fixed by the Board of Directors of the Mid-Tier Holding Company for determining eligibility to vote at the Meeting of Stockholders.

ARTICLE 3.
General Procedure for Conversion

3.1. **Preconditions to Conversion.** The Conversion is expressly conditioned upon prior occurrence of the following:

3.1.1 Approval of the Plan by the affirmative vote of a majority of the total votes of the MHC's Corporators and a majority of the MHC's Independent Corporators (who shall constitute not less than 60% of all Corporators) eligible to be cast at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called for such purpose.

3.1.2 Approval of the Plan by (i) two-thirds of the total votes eligible to be cast by Stockholders at the Meeting of Stockholders, and (ii) a majority of the total votes eligible to be cast by Minority Stockholders at the Meeting of Stockholders.

3.1.3 Issuance of the Exchange Shares.

3.1.4 Prior receipt of the private letter rulings or opinions of counsel set forth in Section 3.2 of this Plan.

3.1.5 Approval by the Commissioner of the Application, including the Plan.

3.1.6 Approval by the FRB of the FRB Applications.

3.2. **Submission of Plan to Commissioner and FRB.** Upon approval by at least two-thirds of all Trustees of the MHC, the Plan will be submitted to the Commissioner as part of the Application, and to the FRB as part of the FRB Applications, together with a copy of the proposed Information Statement and all other material required by the Regulations, for approval or non-objection, as applicable, by the Commissioner and the FRB. The MHC must also receive either private letter rulings from the Internal Revenue Service and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue or opinions of its counsel as to the federal income tax consequences of the Conversion and of its tax accountants as to the Massachusetts income tax consequences of the Conversion, in either case substantially to the effect that the Conversion will not result in a taxable reorganization of the MHC, the Mid-Tier Holding Company, the Bank, the Stock Holding Company or (provided the subscription rights have no value) the Bank's depositors under the Code, or Massachusetts law. Upon a determination by the Commissioner that the Application is complete, the MHC will publish and post public announcements and notices of the Application as required by the Commissioner and the Regulations. The MHC, the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Stock Holding Company will also publish any notice required in connection with the Holding Company Application and any other applications required to complete the Conversion.

3.3. **Special Meeting of Corporators to Approve the Plan.** Following approval of the Plan by the Commissioner, the Special Meeting of Corporators shall be scheduled in accordance with the MHC's Bylaws. The Plan (as may be revised in response to comments received from the Commissioner and the FRB), and any information required pursuant to the Regulations, will be submitted to the Corporators for their consideration and approval at the Special Meeting of Corporators. The MHC will mail to each Corporator a copy of the Information Statement not less than seven (7) days before the Special Meeting of Corporators. Following approval of the Plan by the Corporators, the MHC intends to take such steps as may be appropriate pursuant to applicable laws and regulations to effect the Conversion.

3.4. **Completion of Conversion and Offering.** The Board of Trustees of the MHC, and the Boards of Directors of the Mid-Tier Holding Company, the Stock Holding Company and the Bank will take all necessary steps to complete the Conversion and the Offering, including the timely filing of all necessary applications to appropriate regulatory authorities, and the filing with the SEC of a registration statement to register the sale and/or issuance of Conversion Shares and preliminary proxy materials, applications and other information in connection with the solicitation of Stockholder approval of this Plan.

3.5. **Bank Articles of Organization and Bylaws.** The current Articles of Organization and Bylaws of the Bank are to be amended to add the Bank Liquidation Account.

3.6. **Conversion Procedures.**

3.6.1 The Conversion will be effected in any manner selected by the Board of Trustees of the MHC that is consistent with the purposes of this Plan and applicable laws and regulations. The choice of which method to use to effect the Conversion will be made by the Board of Trustees of the MHC immediately prior to the consummation of the Conversion, subject to any applicable approvals required of Bank Regulators.

3.6.2 Approval of the Plan by the Board of Trustees and Corporators of the MHC shall also constitute (a) approval of the formation of the Stock Holding Company as set forth herein, (b) approval by the MHC (on its own behalf and as the sole shareholder of the Mid-Tier Holding Company) of a combination, by merger or otherwise, as provided herein, of the MHC with and into the Mid-Tier Holding Company with the Mid-Tier Holding Company being the surviving entity and whereby the existing outstanding shares of capital stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company held by the MHC will be canceled and all persons holding liquidation rights in the MHC will constructively receive liquidation rights in the Mid-Tier Holding Company in exchange for their liquidation rights in the MHC, (c) approval by the Mid-Tier Holding Company of the combination, by merger or otherwise, of the Mid-Tier Holding Company with and into the Stock Holding Company with the Stock Holding Company being the surviving entity and whereby (i) the existing outstanding shares of capital stock of the Stock Holding Company held by the Mid-Tier Holding Company will be canceled, (ii) the former holders of liquidation rights in the MHC who constructively received liquidation rights in the Mid-Tier Holding Company will receive an interest in the Liquidation Account in the Stock Holding Company in exchange for their constructive liquidation rights in the Mid-Tier Holding Company, and (iii) each of the Minority Shares shall be converted into and become the right to receive Holding Company Common Stock based upon the Exchange Ratio, (d) approval by the Bank to constructively issue additional shares of common stock to the Stock Holding Company and to establish the Bank Liquidation Account in exchange for a portion of the net proceeds of the Offering, and (e) approval of any other of the transactions that are necessary to implement the Plan.

3.6.3 As part of the Conversion, each of the Minority Shares outstanding immediately prior to consummation of the Conversion shall automatically, without further action on the part of the holders thereof, be converted into and become the right to receive Holding Company Common Stock based upon the Exchange Ratio. The basis for exchange of Minority Shares for Holding Company Common Stock shall be fair and reasonable. Options to purchase shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock which are outstanding immediately prior to the consummation of the Conversion shall be converted into options to purchase shares of Holding Company Common Stock, with the number of shares subject to the option and the exercise price per share to be adjusted based upon the Exchange Ratio so that the aggregate exercise price remains unchanged, and with the duration of the option remaining unchanged.

3.7. **Conversion to Stock Holding Company.** Upon the consummation of the Conversion, the Stock Holding Company will be authorized to exercise any and all powers, rights and privileges, and will be subject to all limitations applicable to bank holding companies under applicable laws and regulations. The Officers of the Mid-Tier Holding Company immediately prior to the Conversion shall be the Officers of the Stock Holding Company immediately following the Conversion, in each case to serve until their terms of office expire and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Stock Holding Company will own 100% of the common stock of the Bank upon consummation of the Conversion in exchange for a portion of the net proceeds received from the sale of the Offering Shares and in exchange for the establishment of the Bank Liquidation Account.

3.8. **Offer and Sale of Holding Company Common Stock.**

3.8.1 Subject to approval of the Plan by the Corporators, and the receipt of all required regulatory approvals, the Holding Company Common Stock will be offered for sale in a Subscription Offering simultaneously to Eligible Account Holders, Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any), and any Tax-Qualified Employee Benefit Plans in the manner set forth in Article 7 hereof. The Subscription Offering period will run for no less than twenty (20) but no more than forty-five (45) days from the date of distribution of the Subscription Offering materials, unless extended by the MHC with the approval of the Commissioner and the FRB, if required. If feasible, any Offering Shares remaining may then be sold to the general public through a Direct Community Offering as provided in Article 7 hereof, which may be held either subsequent to or concurrently with the Subscription Offering.

3.8.2 If feasible, any Offering Shares remaining unsold after completion of the Subscription Offering and any Direct Community Offering may, in the sole discretion of the Stock Holding Company, be sold in a Syndicated Community Offering or a Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering, or in any manner receiving the required approval of the Bank Regulators and other applicable regulatory agencies that will achieve a widespread distribution of the Holding Company Common Stock. The issuance of Holding Company Common Stock in the Subscription Offering and any Direct Community Offering will be consummated simultaneously on the date the sale of Holding Company Common Stock is consummated in any Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering, and only if the required minimum number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock has been issued. The sale of all shares of Holding Company Common Stock to be sold pursuant to the Plan must be completed within forty-five (45) days after expiration of the Subscription Offering; subject to the extension of such forty-five (45) day period by the Stock Holding Company with the approval of the Commissioner and the FRB, if required. The Stock Holding Company may seek one or more extensions of such forty-five (45) day period if necessary to complete the sale of all shares of Holding Company Common Stock. If all available shares of Holding Company Common Stock are sold in the Subscription Offering and any Direct Community Offering, there will be no Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering and the Conversion will be consummated upon completion of the Subscription Offering or the Direct Community Offering, as the case may be.

ARTICLE 4.
[Reserved]

ARTICLE 5.
Shares to be Offered

5.1. **Holding Company Common Stock.** The Conversion Shares, when issued in accordance with this Plan, shall be fully paid and nonassessable. The total number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock authorized under the Stock Holding Company's Articles of Incorporation will exceed the number of Conversion Shares issued. **HOLDING COMPANY COMMON STOCK WILL NOT BE COVERED BY DEPOSIT INSURANCE.**

5.2. **Independent Valuation, Purchase Price and Number of Shares.**

5.2.1 *Independent Valuation.* An Independent Appraiser shall be employed by the MHC to provide it with an Independent Valuation, which value shall be included in the prospectus (as described in Section 6.1 hereof) filed with the Commissioner, the FRB and the SEC. The Trustees of the MHC shall review the methodology and reasonableness of the Independent Valuation. The Independent Valuation will be made by a written report to the MHC, contain the factors upon which the Independent Valuation was made and conform to procedures adopted by the Commissioner and the FRB. The Independent Valuation of the *pro forma* market value of the Conversion Shares established by the Independent Appraiser shall form the midpoint of the Estimated Valuation Range. The maximum of the Estimated Valuation Range may vary as much as 15% above the midpoint of the Estimated Valuation Range ("Range Maximum") and 15% below the midpoint of the Estimated Valuation Range ("Range Minimum"). The Independent Appraiser shall also present to the MHC at the close of the Subscription Offering a valuation of the *pro forma* market value of the Conversion Shares.

5.2.2 *Subscription Price.* All shares sold in the Offering will be sold at a uniform price per share (the “Subscription Price”), preliminarily set at \$10.00 per share, which price will be definitively determined before the commencement of the Offering. If there is a Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering, the price per share at which the Holding Company Common Stock is sold in such Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering shall be equal to the per share purchase price of the shares sold in the Subscription Offering and the Direct Community Offering.

5.2.3 *Number of Shares.* The Offering Range of Offering Shares to be offered for sale in the Offering will be determined by the Boards of Trustees of the MHC and the Board of Directors of the Stock Holding Company immediately before the commencement of the Subscription Offering based on the Independent Valuation, the Estimated Valuation Range and the Subscription Price. The Independent Valuation, and such number of shares, shall be subject to adjustment thereafter if necessitated by market or financial conditions, with the approval of the Commissioner and the FRB, if necessary. In particular, the total number of shares may be increased by up to 15% above the Range Maximum if the Independent Valuation is increased subsequent to the commencement of the Subscription Offering to reflect changes in market and financial conditions or demand for the Holding Company Common Stock, provided that the resulting aggregate purchase price is not more than 15% above the Range Maximum.

5.2.4 *Increase or Decrease in Number of Shares.* The Offering Range may be increased or decreased by the Stock Holding Company, subject to the following provisions. In the event that the number of Offering Shares ordered is below the Range Minimum, or materially above the Range Maximum, resolicitation of purchasers may be required, *provided, however*, that a resolicitation will not be required if the number of shares increases by up to 15% above the Range Maximum. Any such resolicitation shall be effected in such manner and within such time as the Stock Holding Company shall establish, with the approval of the Commissioner and the FRB, if required.

5.2.5 *Confirmation of Valuation.* Notwithstanding the foregoing, no shares of Holding Company Common Stock will be issued unless, prior to the consummation of the Offering, the Independent Appraiser confirms to the MHC, the Stock Holding Company, the Commissioner and the FRB (if required), that, to the best knowledge of the Independent Appraiser, nothing of a material nature has occurred which, taking into account all relevant factors, would cause the Independent Appraiser to conclude that the aggregate number of Conversion Shares sold in the Offering multiplied by the Subscription Price is incompatible with its estimate of the aggregate consolidated *pro forma* market value of the Stock Holding Company. An increase in the aggregate value of the Offering Shares by up to 15% above the Range Maximum would not be deemed to be material. If such confirmation is not received, the Stock Holding Company may cancel the Offering and the Exchange Offering, extend the Offering and establish a new Subscription Price and/or Estimated Valuation Range, extend, reopen or hold a new Offering and Exchange Offering, or take such other action as the Commissioner and the FRB may permit.

ARTICLE 6.
Subscription Rights and Orders for Common Stock

6.1. **Distribution of Prospectus.** The Offering shall be conducted in compliance with the Regulations and applicable SEC regulations. As soon as practicable after the Stock Holding Company's registration statement (including the prospectus therein) have been declared effective and/or approved for use by the SEC and the Commissioner (and the FRB if required), copies of the prospectus and Order Forms will be distributed to all eligible Participants in the Subscription Offering at their last known addresses appearing on the records of the Bank and the MHC for the purpose of subscribing for shares of Holding Company Common Stock in the Subscription Offering. Prospectuses and Order Forms will also be made available (if and when a Direct Community Offering is held) for use by Persons to whom shares of Holding Company Common Stock are offered in the Direct Community Offering.

6.2. **Order Forms.** Each Order Form will be preceded or accompanied by the prospectus describing the Stock Holding Company, the Bank, the Holding Company Common Stock and the Subscription and Community Offerings. Each Order Form will contain, among other things, the following:

6.2.1 A specified date by which all Order Forms must be received by the Stock Holding Company, which date shall be not less than 20 nor more than 45 days following the date on which the Order Forms are first mailed by the Stock Holding Company, and which date will constitute the expiration of the Subscription Offering, unless extended;

6.2.2 The Subscription Price per share for shares of Holding Company Common Stock to be sold in the Offering;

6.2.3 A description of the minimum and maximum number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock that may be subscribed for pursuant to the exercise of subscription rights or otherwise purchased in the Offering;

6.2.4 Instructions as to how the recipient of the Order Form is to indicate thereon the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock for which such Person elects to subscribe and the available alternative methods of payment therefor;

6.2.5 An acknowledgment that the recipient of the Order Form has received a copy of the prospectus before execution of the Order Form;

6.2.6 A statement indicating the consequences of failing to properly complete and return the Order Form, including a statement to the effect that all subscription rights are nontransferable, will be void at the end of the Subscription Offering, and can only be exercised by delivering to the Stock Holding Company within the Subscription Offering period such properly completed and executed Order Form, together with a payment in the full amount of the purchase price as specified in the Order Form (including, if the MHC so permits, by authorization of withdrawal from a Savings Account or certificate of deposit at the Bank) for the shares of Holding Company Common Stock for which the recipient elects to subscribe in the Subscription Offering; and

6.2.7 A statement to the effect that the executed Order Form, once received by the Stock Holding Company, may not be modified or amended by the subscriber without the consent of the Stock Holding Company.

Notwithstanding the above, the Stock Holding Company reserves the right in its sole discretion to accept or reject orders received on photocopied or faxed Order Forms.

6.3. **Undelivered, Defective, Early or Late Order Form; Insufficient Payment.** In the event Order Forms (a) are not delivered for any reason or are returned undelivered to the Stock Holding Company by the United States Postal Service, (b) are not received by the Stock Holding Company or are received by the Stock Holding Company after the expiration date specified thereon, (c) are defectively filled out or executed, (d) are not accompanied by the full required payment for the shares of Holding Company Common Stock subscribed for (including cases in which Savings Accounts or certificates of deposit from which withdrawals are authorized are insufficient to cover the amount of the required payment), or (e) are not mailed pursuant to a “no mail” order placed in effect by the account holder, the subscription rights of the Person to whom such rights have been granted will lapse as though such Person failed to return the completed Order Form within the time period specified thereon; *provided, however*, that the Stock Holding Company may, but will not be required to, waive any immaterial irregularity on any Order Form or require the submission of corrected Order Forms or the remittance of full payment for subscribed shares by such date as the Stock Holding Company may specify, and all interpretations by the MHC and the Stock Holding Company of terms and conditions of this Plan and of the Order Forms will be final, subject and approval of the Commissioner.

6.4. **Payment for Stock.**

6.4.1 All payments for Holding Company Common Stock subscribed for or ordered in the Offering must be delivered in full to the Stock Holding Company, together with a properly completed and executed Order Form (except in the case of the Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering in which case an Order Form may or may not be required in connection with subscriptions), on or before the expiration date specified on the Order Form, unless such date is extended by the MHC and the Stock Holding Company; *provided, further*, that if any Employee Plan subscribes for shares during the Subscription Offering, such plans will not be required to pay for the shares at the time they subscribe but rather may pay for such shares of Holding Company Common Stock subscribed for by such plans at the Subscription Price immediately prior to consummation of the Offering, *provided, further*, that, in the case of the ESOP, there is in force from the time of its subscription until the consummation of the Offering a loan commitment to lend to the ESOP, at such time, the aggregated Subscription Price of the shares for which it subscribed. Payment for Holding Company Common Stock may also be made by a participant in an Employee Plan (including the Bank’s 401(k) plan) causing funds held for such participant’s benefit by an Employee Plan to be paid over for such purchase to the extent that such plan allows participants or any related trust established for the benefit of such participants to direct that some or all of their individual accounts or sub-accounts be invested in Holding Company Common Stock.

6.4.2 Payment for Holding Company Common Stock shall be made either by personal check, bank draft or money order, or if a purchaser has a Savings Account or certificate of deposit in the Bank (and if the MHC has elected to permit such withdrawals from the type of Savings Account or certificate of deposit maintained by such Person), such purchaser may pay for the shares subscribed for by authorizing the Bank to make a withdrawal from the purchaser's Savings Account or certificate of deposit at the Bank in an amount equal to the aggregate purchase price of such shares. No wire transfers will be accepted without prior approval from the MHC. Any authorized withdrawal from a Savings Account or a certificate of deposit shall be without penalty as to premature withdrawal. If the authorized withdrawal is from a certificate of deposit, and the remaining balance does not meet the applicable minimum balance requirements, the certificate shall be canceled at the time of withdrawal, without penalty, and the remaining balance will earn interest at the passbook rate. Funds for which a withdrawal is authorized will remain in the purchaser's Deposit Account but may not be used by the purchaser pending consummation of the Conversion or expiration of the 45-day period (or such longer period as may be approved by the Commissioner) following termination of the Subscription Offering, whichever occurs first. Upon consummation of the Conversion, the withdrawal will be given effect only to the extent necessary to satisfy the subscription (to the extent it can be filled) at the Subscription Price. Interest will continue to be earned on any amounts authorized for withdrawal until such withdrawal is given effect. Interest on checks, money orders and bank drafts will be paid by the Bank at the Bank's passbook rate. Such interest will be paid from the date payment is received by the Bank until consummation or termination of the Conversion. If for any reason the Conversion is not consummated, all payments made by subscribers in the Conversion will be refunded to them with interest. In case of amounts authorized for withdrawal from Savings Accounts or certificates of deposit, refunds will be made by canceling the authorization for withdrawal.

ARTICLE 7.

Stock Purchase Priorities and Offering Alternatives

7.1. **Priorities for Offering.** All purchase priorities established by this Article 7 shall be subject to the purchase limitations set forth in, and shall be subject to adjustment as provided in, Article 8 of the Plan. In addition to the priorities set forth in this Article 7, the MHC may establish other priorities for the purchase of Holding Company Common Stock, subject to the approval of the Commissioner and of the FRB, if required. The priorities for the purchase of shares in the Conversion are set forth in the following Sections.

7.2. **Certain Determinations.** All interpretations or determinations of whether prospective purchasers are "residents," "Associates," or "Acting in Concert," or whether any purchase conflicts with the purchase limitations in the Plan or otherwise violates any provision of the Plan, and any other interpretations of any and all other provisions of the Plan shall be made by and at the sole discretion of the Stock Holding Company, and may be based on whatever evidence the Stock Holding Company may choose to use in making any such determination. Such determination shall be conclusive, final and binding on all Persons and the Stock Holding Company may take any remedial action, including without limitation rejecting the purchase or referring the matter to the Commissioner for action, as in its sole discretion the Stock Holding Company may deem appropriate.

7.3. **Minimum Purchase; No Fractional Shares.** The minimum purchase by any Person shall be 25 shares (to the extent that shares of Holding Company Common Stock are available for purchase); *provided, however*, that the aggregate purchase price for any minimum share purchase shall not exceed \$500. No fractional shares will be allocated or issued.

7.4. **Overview of Priorities.** In descending order of priority, the opportunity to purchase Holding Company Common Stock shall be given in the Subscription Offering to: (a) Eligible Account Holders; (b) Supplemental Eligible Account Holders, if a Supplemental Eligibility Record Date is established; (c) Tax-Qualified Employee Plans; and (d) Employees, Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators of the MHC or the Bank. Any shares of Holding Company Common Stock that are not subscribed for in the Subscription Offering may be offered for sale, at the discretion of the Stock Holding Company, in a Direct Community Offering and/or a Syndicated Community Offering on terms and conditions and procedures satisfactory to the Stock Holding Company. Alternatively, if feasible, any shares of Holding Company Common Stock not sold in the Subscription Offering or in the Direct Community Offering, if any, may be offered for sale in a Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering subject to such terms, conditions and procedures as may be determined by the MHC and the Stock Holding Company.

7.5. **Priorities For Subscription Offering.**

7.5.1 *First Priority: Eligible Account Holders.* Subject to approval of the Plan by the Corporators and the receipt of approval from the Commissioner, and the FRB if necessary, to offer the Holding Company Common Stock for sale, each Eligible Account Holder shall receive, without payment therefor, nontransferable subscription rights on a first priority basis to subscribe for a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock equal to the *greater* of (a) the quotient obtained by dividing the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit (as such term is defined in Section 8.2 hereof) by the per share Subscription Price, (b) one-tenth of one percent (0.10%) of the shares offered in the Conversion, or (c) 15 times the product (rounded down to the nearest whole number) obtained by multiplying (1) the total number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock to be sold in the Offering by (2) a fraction, of which the numerator is the Qualifying Deposit of the Eligible Account Holder and the denominator is the total amount of Qualifying Deposits of all Eligible Account Holders. If there are insufficient shares available to satisfy all subscriptions of Eligible Account Holders, shares will be allocated to Eligible Account Holders so as to permit each such subscribing Eligible Account Holder to purchase a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock sufficient to make his or her total allocation equal to the lesser of 100 shares or the number of shares subscribed for. Thereafter, unallocated shares of Holding Company Common Stock will be allocated to remaining subscribing Eligible Account Holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled in the same proportion that each such subscriber's Qualifying Deposit bears to the total amount of Qualifying Deposits of all subscribing Eligible Account Holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled. Unless the Bank Regulators permit otherwise, subscription rights to purchase Holding Company Common Stock received by Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators of the MHC and the Bank and the Associates of such persons that are based on their increased deposits in the Bank in the one year preceding the Eligibility Record Date shall be subordinated to the subscription rights of other Eligible Account Holders. To ensure proper allocation of stock, each Eligible Account Holder must list on his or her subscription Order Form all Deposit Accounts in which he or she had an ownership interest as of the Eligibility Record Date.

7.5.2 *Second Priority: Supplemental Eligible Account Holders.* To the extent there are shares remaining after satisfaction of subscriptions by Eligible Account Holders, and if a Supplemental Eligibility Record Date is established, each Supplemental Eligible Account Holder shall receive non-transferable subscription rights to subscribe for a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock equal to the *greater* of (a) the quotient obtained by dividing the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit by the per share Subscription Price, (b) one-tenth of one percent (0.10%) of the shares offered in the Conversion, or (c) 15 times the product (rounded down to the nearest whole number) obtained by multiplying (1) the total number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock to be sold in the Offering by (2) a fraction, of which the numerator is the Qualifying Deposit of the Supplemental Eligible Account Holder and the denominator is the total amount of Qualifying Deposits of all Supplemental Eligible Account Holders. In the event Supplemental Eligible Account Holders subscribe for a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock which, when added to the shares subscribed for by Eligible Account Holders, exceed available shares, the available shares of Holding Company Common Stock will be allocated among subscribing Supplemental Eligible Account Holders so as to permit each subscribing Supplemental Eligible Account Holder to purchase a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock sufficient to make his or her total allocation equal to the lesser of 100 shares or the number of shares subscribed for. Thereafter, unallocated shares will be allocated to each subscribing Supplemental Eligible Account Holder whose subscription remains unfilled in the same proportion that such subscriber's Qualifying Deposit on the Supplemental Eligibility Record Date bears to the total amount of Qualifying Deposits of all subscribing Supplemental Eligible Account Holders whose subscriptions remain unfilled.

7.5.3 *Third Priority: Tax-Qualified Employee Plans.* To the extent there are shares remaining after satisfaction of subscriptions by Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders, if any, the Tax-Qualified Employee Plans shall be given the opportunity to purchase in the aggregate up to 10% of the Holding Company Common Stock issued in the Conversion. In the event that the total number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered in the Conversion is increased to an amount greater than the Range Maximum, the Tax-Qualified Employee Plans shall have a priority right to purchase any such shares exceeding the Range Maximum (up to the aggregate of 10% of Holding Company Common Stock to be issued in the Conversion). The Employee Plans shall not be deemed to be Associates or Affiliates of or Persons Acting in Concert with any Director, Trustee, Officer or Corporator of the MHC, the Stock Holding Company or the Bank. Alternatively, if permitted by the Bank Regulators, the Tax-Qualified Employee Plans may purchase all or a portion of such shares in the open market after the completion of the Conversion.

7.5.4. *Fourth Priority: Employees, Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators.* To the extent there are shares remaining after satisfaction of subscriptions by Eligible Account Holders, Supplemental Eligible Account Holders, if any, and any Tax-Qualified Employee Plans, each Employee, Officer, Director, Trustee and Corporator of the MHC or the Bank shall receive non-transferable subscription rights to subscribe for Offering Shares offered in the Conversion in an amount equal to the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit; *provided, however*, that shares purchased under this Section 7.5.4 shall be aggregated with shares purchased under the preceding priority categories for purposes of the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit. The aggregate number of Offering Shares that may be purchased by Employees, Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators in the Conversion shall be limited to 25% of the total number of Offering Shares sold in the Offering (including shares purchased by Employees, Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators under this Section 7.5.4 and under the preceding priority categories, but not including shares purchased by the ESOP). In the event that Employees, Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators subscribe under this Section 7.5.4 for more Offering Shares than are available for purchase by them, the Offering Shares available for purchase will be allocated by the Stock Holding Company among such subscribing Persons on an equitable basis, such as by giving weight to the period of service, compensation and position of the individual subscriber and the amount of the order.

7.6. Priorities for Direct Community Offering.

7.6.1 Any shares of Holding Company Common Stock not subscribed for in the Subscription Offering may be offered for sale in a Direct Community Offering. This will involve an offering of all unsubscribed shares of Holding Company Common Stock directly to the general public. The Direct Community Offering, if any, shall commence concurrently with, during or promptly after the Subscription Offering. The Stock Holding Company may use broker-dealers or an investment banking firm or firms on a best efforts basis to assist in selling the unsubscribed shares in the Subscription and Direct Community Offering. The Stock Holding Company may pay a commission or other fee to such broker-dealers or investment banking firms as to the shares sold in the Subscription and Direct Community Offering and may also reimburse such firm or firms for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the sale. The Holding Company Common Stock will be offered and sold in the Direct Community Offering in accordance with the Regulations, so as to achieve the widest distribution of the Holding Company Common Stock. In making the Direct Community Offering, first preference will be given to natural persons (including trusts of natural persons) residing in the Local Community. No Person may subscribe for or purchase more than the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit of Holding Company Common Stock in the Direct Community Offering. The Stock Holding Company, in its sole discretion, may reject subscriptions, in whole or in part, received from any Person under this Section 7.6.

7.6.2 In the event of an oversubscription for shares in the Direct Community Offering, available shares will be allocated (to the extent shares remain available) first to cover orders of natural Persons residing in the Local Community and second to the general public, so that each such Person may receive 100 shares, and thereafter, on a *pro rata* basis to such Persons based on the amount of their respective subscriptions or on such other reasonable basis as may be determined by the Stock Holding Company. If oversubscription does not occur among natural Persons residing in the Local Community, orders accepted in the Direct Community Offering shall be filled up to a maximum not to exceed 2% of the Holding Company Common Stock, and thereafter remaining shares shall be allocated on an equal number of shares basis per order until all orders have been filled or all shares are allocated. The Bank may use deposit or loan records or such other evidence provided to it to determine whether a Person is a Resident of the Local Community. In all cases, however, such a determination shall be in the sole discretion of the Stock Holding Company.

7.6.3 If:

(i) aggregate subscriptions for shares totaling at least the Range Minimum are not received in the Subscription Offering and Direct Community Offering, and the Stock Holding Company, in its sole discretion, determines that neither a Syndicated Community Offering nor a Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering is in the best interests of the Stock Holding Company; *or*

(ii) aggregate subscriptions and orders totaling at least the Range Minimum are not received in the Subscription Offering, Direct Community Offering and the Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering;

then the Stock Holding Company may, in its sole discretion, apply unsubscribed / unordered Holding Company Common Stock in any manner that facilitates the completion of the Conversion; subject to any applicable approvals required of Bank Regulators.

7.7. Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering.

7.7.1 Any shares of Holding Company Common Stock not sold in the Subscription Offering or in the Direct Community Offering, if any, may be offered for sale to the general public by a selling group of broker-dealers in a Syndicated Community Offering, subject to terms, conditions and procedures as may be determined by the Stock Holding Company in a manner that is intended to achieve the widest distribution of the Holding Company Common Stock subject to the rights of the Stock Holding Company to accept or reject in whole or in part all orders in the Syndicated Community Offering. No Person may purchase in the Syndicated Community Offering more than the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit of Holding Company Common Stock. It is expected that any Syndicated Community Offering will commence as soon as practicable after termination of the Direct Community Offering, if any. The Syndicated Community Offering shall be completed within 45 days after the expiration of the Subscription Offering, unless such period is extended as provided herein. The commission in the Syndicated Community Offering shall be determined by a marketing agreement between the Stock Holding Company and the Marketing Agent. Such agreement shall be filed with the FRB (if required), the Division and the SEC.

7.7.2 Alternatively, if feasible, any shares of Holding Company Common Stock not sold in the Subscription Offering or in the Direct Community Offering, if any, may be offered for sale in a Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering subject to such terms, conditions and procedures as may be determined by the MHC and the Stock Holding Company, subject to the right of the Stock Holding Company to accept or reject in whole or in part any orders in the Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering. Provided the Subscription Offering has begun, the Holding Company may begin the Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering at any time.

7.7.3 If for any reason a Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering of unsubscribed shares of Holding Company Common Stock cannot be effected or is not deemed to be advisable, and any shares remain unsold after the Subscription Offering and the Direct Community Offering, if any, the Stock Holding Company may seek to make other arrangements for the sale of the remaining shares in order to meet the Range Minimum. Such other arrangements will be subject to the approval of the Commissioner and the FRB, if required, and to compliance with applicable state and federal securities laws.

ARTICLE 8.

Additional Limitations on Purchases

8.1. **General.** Purchases of Holding Company Common Stock in the Conversion will be subject to the purchase limitations set forth in this Article 8.

8.2. **Individual Maximum Purchase Limit.** This Section 8.2 sets forth the “Individual Maximum Purchase Limit.” No Person, through one or more qualifying Deposit Accounts, or Persons exercising subscription rights through a single qualifying Deposit Account held jointly, may purchase in the Offering (including the Subscription Offering, the Direct Community Offering and the Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering) more than \$500,000 of Holding Company Common Stock, except that: (a) the Stock Holding Company may, in its sole discretion and without further notice to or solicitation of subscribers or other prospective purchasers, (i) increase such Individual Maximum Purchase Limit to up to 5% of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered in the Offering or (ii) decrease such Individual Maximum Purchase Limit to no less than one-tenth of one percent (0.10%) of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered in the Conversion; and (b) Tax-Qualified Employee Plans may purchase up to 10% of the Conversion Shares issued in the Conversion (including shares issued in the event of an increase in the Range Maximum of 15%). If the Stock Holding Company increases the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit (as permitted by this Section 8.2), subscribers in the Subscription Offering who ordered the previously-effective maximum amount will be, and certain other large subscribers in the sole discretion of the Stock Holding Company may be, given the opportunity to increase their subscriptions up to the then applicable limit. Requests to purchase additional shares of Holding Company Common Stock under this provision will be determined by the Stock Holding Company, in its sole discretion. In the event that the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit is increased to 5% of the number of Offering Shares, such limitation may be further increased to 9.99% of the Offering Shares; *provided*, that orders for Holding Company Common Stock exceeding 5% of the Offering Shares shall not exceed in the aggregate 10% of the Offering Shares. Requests to purchase additional shares of the Holding Company Common Stock in the event that the purchase limitation is so increased will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Stock Holding Company in its sole discretion.

8.3. **Group Maximum Purchase Limit.** This Section 8.3 sets forth the “Group Maximum Purchase Limit.” No Person and his or her Associates or group of Persons Acting in Concert, may purchase in the Offering (including the Subscription Offering, the Direct Community Offering and the Syndicated Community Offering or Firm Commitment Underwritten Offering) more than \$1,500,000 of Holding Company Common Stock, except that: (a) the Stock Holding Company may, in its sole discretion and without further notice to or solicitation of subscribers or other prospective purchasers, (i) increase such Group Maximum Purchase Limit to up to 5% of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered in the Offering or (ii) decrease such Group Maximum Purchase Limit to no less than one-tenth of one percent (0.10%) of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock offered in the Conversion; and (b) Tax-Qualified Employee Plans may purchase up to 10% of the Conversion Shares issued in the Conversion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the Stock Holding Company increases the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit (as permitted by Section 8.2) to a number that is in excess of the Group Maximum Purchase Limit established by this Section 8.3, the Group Maximum Purchase Limit shall automatically be increased so as to be equal to the Individual Maximum Purchase Limit, as adjusted. The maximum number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock that may be subscribed for or purchased in all categories of the Offering by any Person or Participant together with any Associate or group or Persons Acting in Concert, combined with Exchange Shares received by any such Person or Participant together with any Associate or group of Persons Acting in Concert, shall not exceed 9.9% of the Conversion Shares; *provided*, that this limitation shall not apply to the Employee Plans.

8.4. **Purchases by Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators.** The aggregate number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock to be purchased in the Offering by Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators of the MHC and the Bank (and their Associates) shall not exceed 25% of the total number of shares of Offering Shares.

8.5. **Special Rule for Tax-Qualified Employee Plans.** Shares of Holding Company Common Stock purchased by any individual participant (“Plan Participant”) in a Tax-Qualified Employee Plan using funds therein pursuant to the exercise of subscription rights granted to such Participant in his individual capacity as an Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall not be deemed to be purchases by a Tax-Qualified Employee Plan for purposes of calculating the maximum amount of Holding Company Common Stock that Tax-Qualified Employee Plans may purchase pursuant to this Plan, if the individual Plan Participant controls or directs the investment authority with respect to such account or subaccount.

8.6. **Illegal Purchases.** Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, no Person shall be entitled to purchase any Holding Company Common Stock to the extent such purchase would be illegal under any federal law or state law or regulation or would violate regulations or policies of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. The Stock Holding Company and/or its agents may ask for an acceptable legal opinion from any purchaser as to the legality of such purchase and may refuse to honor any purchase order if such opinion is not timely furnished.

8.7. **Rejection of Orders.** The Stock Holding Company has the right in its sole discretion to reject any order submitted by a Person whose representations the Stock Holding Company believes to be false or who it otherwise believes, either alone or Acting in Concert with others, is violating, circumventing, or intends to violate, evade or circumvent the terms and conditions of the Plan.

8.8. **Subscribers in Non-Qualified States or in Foreign Countries.** The Stock Holding Company will make reasonable efforts to comply with the securities laws of any state in the United States in which its depositors reside, and will only offer and sell the Holding Company Common Stock in states in which the offers and sales comply with such states' securities laws. However, no Person will be offered or allowed to purchase any Holding Company Common Stock under the Plan if he or she resides (a) in a foreign country or (b) in a state of the United States with respect to which any of the following apply: (i) a small number of Persons otherwise eligible to purchase shares under the Plan reside in such state; (ii) the offer or sale of shares of Holding Company Common Stock to such Persons would require the Stock Holding Company or its Employees to register, under the securities laws of such state, as a broker or dealer or to register or otherwise qualify its securities for sale in such state; or (iii) such registration or qualification would be impracticable for reasons of cost or otherwise.

8.9. **No Offer to Transfer Shares.** Before the consummation of the Conversion, no Person shall offer to transfer, or enter into any agreement or understanding to transfer the legal or beneficial ownership of any subscription rights or shares of Holding Company Common Stock, except pursuant to the Plan. The following shall not constitute impermissible transfers under this Plan. Any Person having subscription rights in his individual capacity as an Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) may exercise such subscription rights by causing a tax-qualified plan to make such purchase using funds allocated to such Person in such tax-qualified plan if such individual plan participant controls or directs the investment authority with respect to such account or subaccount. A tax-qualified plan that maintains an Eligible Deposit Account in the Bank as trustee for or for the benefit of a Person who controls or directs the investment authority with respect to such account or subaccount ("Beneficiary") may, in exercising its subscription rights, direct that the Holding Company Common Stock be issued in the name of such individual Beneficiary in his or her individual capacity.

8.10. **Confirmation by Purchasers.** Each Person ordering Holding Company Common Stock in the Conversion will be deemed to confirm that such purchase does not conflict with the purchase limitations in the Plan.

ARTICLE 9.
Post Offering Matters

9.1. **Stock Purchases After the Conversion.** For a period of three years after the Conversion, no Officer or Director of the Stock Holding Company or the Bank, or his or her Associates, may purchase, without the prior written approval of the Commissioner and the FRB, if required, any Holding Company Common Stock except from a broker-dealer registered with the SEC, provided that the foregoing shall not apply to (a) negotiated transactions involving more than 1% of the outstanding Holding Company Common Stock, or (b) purchases of stock made by and held by or otherwise made pursuant to any Employee Plan of the Bank or the Stock Holding Company even if such stock is attributable to Officers, Directors or their Associates.

9.2. **Resales of Stock by Management Persons.** Holding Company Common Stock purchased in the Conversion by Officers, Directors, Trustees and Corporators of the Bank, the Mid-Tier Holding Company, the Stock Holding Company or the MHC may not be resold for a period of at least one year following the date of purchase, except in the case of death or substantial disability, as determined by the Commissioner, of such person, or upon the written approval of the Commissioner.

9.3. **Stock Certificates.** Shares of Holding Company Common Stock will be issued in book entry form. Stock certificates will not be issued. Appropriate instructions shall be issued to the Stock Holding Company's transfer agent with respect to applicable restrictions on transfers of stock set forth in Section 9.2. Any shares of stock issued as a stock dividend, stock split or otherwise with respect to such restricted stock shall be subject to the same restrictions as apply to the restricted stock.

9.4. **Restriction on Financing Stock Purchases.** The Stock Holding Company and the Bank will not knowingly make any loans or grant any lines of credit for the purpose of purchasing Holding Company Common Stock in the Conversion; *provided, however*, that the Stock Holding Company, or a subsidiary thereof, may loan funds to the ESOP for the purchase of up to 10% of the Conversion Shares issued in the Conversion.

9.5. **Stock Benefit Plans.**

9.5.1 As a result of the Conversion, the Holding Company shall be deemed to have ratified and approved all employee stock benefit plans maintained by the Bank and the Mid-Tier Holding Company and shall have agreed to issue (and reserve for issuance) Holding Company Common Stock in lieu of common stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company pursuant to the terms of such benefit plans. Upon consummation of the Conversion, the Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock held by such benefit plans shall be converted into Holding Company Common Stock based upon the Exchange Ratio. Also upon consummation of the Conversion, (i) all rights to purchase, sell or receive Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock and all rights to elect to make payment in Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock under any agreement between the Bank or the Mid-Tier Holding Company and any Director, Officer or Employee thereof or under any plan or program of the Bank or the Mid-Tier Holding Company, shall automatically, by operation of law, be converted into and shall become an identical right to purchase, sell or receive Holding Company Common Stock and an identical right to make payment in Holding Company Common Stock under any such agreement between the Bank or the Mid-Tier Holding Company and any Director, Officer or Employee thereof or under such plan or program of the Bank, and (ii) rights outstanding under all stock option plans shall be assumed by the Holding Company and thereafter shall be rights only for shares of Holding Company Common Stock, with each such right being for a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock based upon the Exchange Ratio and the number of shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock that were available thereunder immediately prior to consummation of the Conversion, with the price adjusted to reflect the Exchange Ratio but with no change in any other term or condition of such right.

9.5.2 The Board of Directors of the Bank and/or the Stock Holding Company are permitted under the Regulations, and may decide, to adopt one or more stock benefit plans for the benefit of the Employees, Officers and Directors of the Bank and Stock Holding Company, including an ESOP, stock award plans and stock option plans, which will be authorized to purchase Holding Company Common Stock and grant options for Holding Company Common Stock. However, only the Tax-Qualified Employee Plans will be permitted to purchase Holding Company Common Stock in the Conversion subject to the purchase priorities set forth in the Plan. Pursuant to the Regulations, the Stock Holding Company may authorize the Tax-Qualified Employee Plans, including the ESOP, to purchase up to 10% of the Holding Company Common Stock to be issued in the Conversion. The Bank or the Stock Holding Company may make scheduled discretionary contributions to one or more Tax-Qualified Employee Plans to purchase Holding Company Common Stock or to purchase issued and outstanding shares of Holding Company Common Stock or authorized but unissued shares of Holding Company Common Stock subsequent to the completion of the Conversion; *provided, however*, that such contributions do not cause the Bank to fail to meet any of its regulatory capital requirements. This Plan specifically authorizes the grant and issuance by the Stock Holding Company of (i) awards of Holding Company Common Stock after the Conversion pursuant to one or more stock recognition and award plans in an amount equal to up to 4% of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock issued in the Conversion, (ii) options to purchase a number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock in an amount equal to up to 10% of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock issued in the Conversion, and shares of Holding Company Common Stock issuable upon exercise of such options, and (iii) at the closing of the Conversion or at any time thereafter, Holding Company Common Stock in an amount equal to 8% of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock issued in the Conversion to the ESOP and an amount equal to up to 2% of the number of shares of Holding Company Common Stock issued in the Conversion to the Bank's 401(k) plan. Shares awarded to the Tax Qualified Employee Plans or pursuant to the stock recognition and award plans, and shares issued upon exercise of options may be authorized but unissued shares of the Holding Company Common Stock, or shares of Holding Company Common Stock purchased by the Stock Holding Company or such plans in the open market. Such limitations shall only apply if the stock recognition and award plans or stock option plans are adopted one year or less following the completion of the Offering. No stock recognition and award plans or stock option plans have yet been adopted by the Board of the Stock Holding Company, and no such plans will be submitted for the approval of the Stock Holding Company's stockholders at a meeting held earlier than six months after completion of the Conversion.

9.6. **Market for Holding Company Common Stock.** If at the close of the Conversion the Stock Holding Company has more than 300 shareholders of any class of stock, the Stock Holding Company shall use its best efforts to:

9.6.1 Encourage and assist a Market Maker to establish and maintain a market for that class of stock;

9.6.2 List that class of stock on a national or regional securities exchange, including the Nasdaq Stock Market; and

9.6.3 Register the Holding Company Common Stock with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act, and undertake not to deregister such Holding Company Common Stock for a period of three years thereafter.

9.7. **Liquidation Accounts.**

9.7.1 The Bank shall, at the time of the Conversion, in exchange for at least 50% of the net proceeds of the Offering, establish a Bank Liquidation Account in an amount equal to the MHC's total equity as set forth in the latest consolidated statement of financial condition contained in the final Prospectus distributed in connection with the Conversion. The function of the Bank Liquidation Account is to establish a priority on liquidation for Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any). Following the Conversion, the Bank Liquidation Account will be maintained for the benefit of the Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any) who continue to maintain Deposit Accounts with the Bank. Each Eligible Account Holder and Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall, with respect to each Deposit Account, hold a related inchoate interest in a portion of the Bank Liquidation Account balance, in relation to each Deposit Account balance at the Eligibility Record Date or Supplemental Eligibility Record Date (if established), as the case may be, or to such balance as it may be subsequently reduced, as hereinafter provided. The initial Bank Liquidation Account balance shall not be increased, and shall be subject to downward adjustment to the extent of any downward adjustment of any subaccount balance of any Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) in accordance with 209 CMR 33.05(12). In addition, the Stock Holding Company shall, at the time of the merger of the Mid-Tier Holding Company into the Stock Holding Company, also establish a Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account in an amount equal to the product of (i) the Majority Ownership Interest and (ii) the Mid-Tier Holding Company's total equity as set forth in the latest consolidated statement of financial condition contained in the final Prospectus distributed in connection with the Conversion, plus the value of the net assets of the MHC as reflected in the latest statement of financial condition of the MHC prior to the effective date of the Conversion (excluding its ownership of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock). The Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account also shall be maintained for the benefit of the Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any) who continue to maintain their Deposit Accounts at the Bank. Except as otherwise provided in this Section 9.7, the existence of the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account shall not operate to restrict the use or application of any of the net worth accounts of the Stock Holding Company.

9.7.2 In the unlikely event of a complete liquidation of (i) the Bank or (ii) the Bank and the Stock Holding Company (and only in such event), following all liquidation payments to creditors (including those to depositors to the extent of their Deposit Accounts) each Eligible Account Holder and Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall be entitled to receive a liquidating distribution from the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account, in the amount of the then-adjusted subaccount balances for his or her Deposit Accounts then held, before any liquidating distribution may be made to any holders of the Stock Holding Company's capital stock. No merger, consolidation, reorganization, or purchase of bulk assets with assumption of Deposit Accounts and other liabilities, or similar transactions in which the Stock Holding Company and/or the Bank is not the surviving institution, shall be deemed to be a complete liquidation for this purpose. In such transactions, the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account shall be assumed by the surviving holding company or institution.

9.7.3 In the unlikely event of a complete liquidation of (i) the Bank or (ii) the Bank and the Stock Holding Company (and only in such event), following all liquidation payments to creditors of the Bank (including those to depositors to the extent of their Deposit Accounts), at a time when the Bank has a positive net worth and the Stock Holding Company does not have sufficient assets (other than the stock of the Bank) at the time of liquidation to fund the obligations under the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account, the Bank with respect to the Bank Liquidation Account shall immediately pay directly to each Eligible Account Holder and Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) an amount necessary to fund the Stock Holding Company's remaining obligation under the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account, before any liquidation distribution may be made to any holders of the Bank's capital stock and without making such amount subject to the Stock Holding Company's creditors. Each Eligible Account Holder and Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall be entitled to receive a distribution from the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account, in the amount of the then adjusted subaccount balance for his Deposit Account then held, before any distribution may be made to any holders of the Stock Holding Company's capital stock.

9.7.4 In the event of a complete liquidation of the Stock Holding Company where the Bank is not also completely liquidating, or in the event of a sale or other disposition of the Stock Holding Company apart from the Bank, each Eligible Account Holder and Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall be treated as surrendering such Person's rights to the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account and receiving from the Stock Holding Company an equivalent interest in the Bank Liquidation Account. Each such holder's interest in the Bank Liquidation Account shall be subject to the same rights and terms as if the Bank Liquidation Account were the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account (except that the Stock Holding Company shall cease to exist).

9.7.5 The initial subaccount balance for a Deposit Account held by an Eligible Account Holder and/or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall be determined by multiplying the opening balance in the Bank Liquidation Account by a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of such Eligible Account Holder's or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder's Qualifying Deposit and the denominator of which is the total amount of all Qualifying Deposits of all Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders. For Deposit Accounts in existence on both dates, separate subaccounts shall be determined on the basis of the Qualifying Deposits in such Deposit Accounts on such record dates. Such initial subaccount balance shall not be increased by additional Deposits, but shall be subject to downward adjustment as described below. The initial subaccount balance in the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account for a Deposit Account held by an Eligible Account Holder and/or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) shall be determined in the same manner as their interest in the Bank Liquidation Account is determined.

9.7.6 If, at the close of business on the last day of any period for which the Stock Holding Company has prepared audited financial statements subsequent to the effective date of the Conversion, the deposit balance in the Deposit Account of an Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) is less than the lesser of: (a) the balance in the Deposit Account at the close of business on the last day of any period for which the Stock Holding Company has prepared audited financial statements subsequent to the Eligibility Record Date or Supplemental Eligibility Record Date if established), or (b) the amount in such Deposit Account as of the Eligibility Record Date or Supplemental Eligibility Record Date (if established), then the subaccount balance for such Deposit Account shall be adjusted by reducing such subaccount balance, in an amount proportionate to the reduction in the balance of such Deposit Account. In the event of such downward adjustment, the subaccount balance shall not be subsequently increased, notwithstanding any subsequent increase in the deposit balance of the related Deposit Account. If any such Deposit Account is closed, the related subaccount shall be reduced to zero. For purposes of this Section 9.7, a time account shall be deemed to be closed upon its maturity date regardless of any renewal thereof. A distribution of each subaccount balance in the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account may be made only in the event of a complete liquidation of the Stock Holding Company subsequent to the Conversion and only out of funds available for such purpose after payment of all creditors.

9.7.7 The creation and maintenance of the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account shall not operate to restrict the use or application of any of the equity accounts of the Stock Holding Company or the Bank, except that neither the Stock Holding Company nor the Bank shall declare or pay a cash dividend on, or repurchase any of, its capital stock if the effect thereof would cause its net worth to be reduced below (i) the amount required for the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account or the Bank Liquidation Account, as applicable, or (ii) the regulatory capital requirements of the Stock Holding Company (to the extent applicable) or the Bank. Neither the Stock Holding Company nor the Bank shall be required to set aside funds in connection with its obligations hereunder relating to the Liquidation Account or the Bank Liquidation Account, as applicable. Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any) do not retain any voting rights in either the Stock Holding Company or the Bank based on their liquidation subaccounts.

9.7.8 The amount of the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account shall equal at all times the amount of the Bank Liquidation Account, and in no event will any Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) be entitled to a distribution exceeding such holder's subaccount balance in the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account or Bank Liquidation Account. A distribution to an Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) from the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account will extinguish the right of the Eligible Account Holder or Supplemental Eligible Account Holder (if any) to receive a distribution from the Bank Liquidation Account.

9.7.9 For the three-year period following the completion of the Conversion, the Stock Holding Company will not without prior approval of the Commissioner and the FRB: (i) sell or liquidate the Stock Holding Company, or (ii) cause the Bank to be sold or liquidated. Upon the written request of the FRB and, if necessary, the Commissioner, the Stock Holding Company shall, or upon the prior written approval of the FRB and, if necessary, the Commissioner, the Stock Holding Company may, at any time after two years from the completion of the Conversion, transfer the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account to the Bank, at which time the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account shall be assumed by the Bank and the interests of Eligible Account Holders and Supplemental Eligible Account Holders (if any) will be solely and exclusively established in the Bank Liquidation Account. In the event such transfer occurs, the Stock Holding Company shall be deemed to have transferred the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account to the Bank and such Liquidation Account shall be subsumed into the Bank Liquidation Account and shall not be subject in any manner or amount to the claims of the Stock Holding Company's creditors. Approval of the Plan by the Corporators shall constitute approval of the transactions described herein.

9.8. **Repurchase of Stock.** Based upon facts and circumstances following the Conversion and subject to applicable regulatory and accounting requirements, the Board of Directors of the Stock Holding Company may determine to repurchase stock in the future. Such facts and circumstances may include but not be limited to: (a) market and economic factors such as the price at which the Holding Company Common Stock is trading in the market, the volume of trading, the attractiveness of other investment alternatives in terms of the rate of return and risk involved in the investment, the ability to increase the book value and/or earnings per share of the remaining outstanding shares, and the opportunity to improve the Stock Holding Company's return on equity; (b) the avoidance of dilution to stockholders by not having to issue additional shares to cover the exercise of stock options or the purchase of shares by the ESOP in the event the ESOP is unable to acquire shares in the Subscription Offering, or to fund any stock plans adopted after the consummation of the Conversion; and (c) any other circumstances in which repurchases would be in the best interests of the Stock Holding Company and its shareholders.

9.9. **Conversion Expenses.** The Regulations require that the expenses of the Conversion must be reasonable. The MHC will use its best efforts to assure that the expenses incurred by the MHC and the Stock Holding Company in effecting the Conversion will be reasonable.

9.10. **Public Inspection of Conversion Application.** The MHC and the Bank will maintain a copy of the non-confidential portion of the Application in the main banking office of the Bank and such copy will be available for public inspection.

9.11. **Enforcement of Terms and Conditions.** Each of the MHC and the Stock Holding Company shall have the right to take all such action as they, in its sole discretion, may deem necessary, appropriate or advisable in order to monitor and enforce the terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions contained in the Plan and the terms, conditions and representations contained in the Order Forms, including, but not limited to, the right to require any subscriber or purchaser to provide evidence, in a form satisfactory to the MHC and the Stock Holding Company, of such Person's eligibility to subscribe for or purchase shares of the Holding Company Common Stock under the terms of the Plan and the absolute right (subject only to any necessary regulatory approvals or concurrence) to reject, limit or revoke acceptance of any subscription or order and to delay, terminate or refuse to consummate any sale of Holding Company Common Stock that it believes might violate, or is designed to, or is any part of a plan to, evade or circumvent such terms, conditions, limitations, restrictions and representations. Any such action shall be final, conclusive and binding on all Persons, and the MHC, the Stock Holding Company, the Bank and their Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, Officers, Employees, Corporators and agents shall be free from any liability to any Person on account of any such action.

9.12. **Voting Rights in Converted Stock Holding Company.** Following the Conversion, the holders of the capital stock of the Stock Holding Company shall have exclusive voting rights in the Stock Holding Company.

9.13. **Restrictions on Acquisition of Bank and Stock Holding Company.**

9.13.1 The Articles of Organization of the Bank may contain a provision stipulating that no person, except the Holding Company, for a period of three years following the closing date of the Conversion, may directly or indirectly acquire or offer to acquire the beneficial ownership of more than 10% of any class of equity security of the Bank, without the prior written approval of the Commissioner. In addition, such Articles of Organization may also provide that for a period of three years following the closing date of the Conversion, shares beneficially owned in violation of the above-described Articles of Organization provision shall not be entitled to vote and shall not be voted by any person or counted as voting stock in connection with any matter submitted to stockholders for a vote.

9.13.2 For a period of three years from the date of consummation of the Conversion, no person, other than the Stock Holding Company, shall directly or indirectly offer to acquire or acquire the beneficial ownership of more than 10% of any class of equity security of the Bank without the prior written consent of the FRB. Nothing in this Plan shall prohibit the Stock Holding Company from taking actions permitted under 12 C.F.R. 239.63(f).

9.13.3 The Articles of Incorporation of the Stock Holding Company may contain a provision stipulating that in no event shall any record owner of any outstanding shares of Holding Company Common Stock who beneficially owns in excess of 10% of such outstanding shares be entitled or permitted to any vote with respect to any shares held in excess of 10%. In addition, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Stock Holding Company may contain, in addition to any other permissible provisions, provisions which provide for, or prohibit, as the case may be, staggered terms of the directors, noncumulative voting for directors, limitations on the calling of special meetings, a fair price provision for certain business combinations and certain notice requirements.

9.13.4 For the purposes of this Section 9.13:

- (1) the term “person” includes an individual, a firm, a corporation or other entity;
- (2) the term “offer” includes every offer to buy or acquire, solicitation of an offer to sell, tender offer for, or request or invitation for tenders of, a security or interest in a security for value;
- (3) the term “acquire” includes every type of acquisition, whether effected by purchase, exchange, operation of law or otherwise; and
- (4) the term “security” includes non-transferable subscription rights issued pursuant to a plan of conversion as well as a “security” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 77b(a)(1).

ARTICLE 10. Miscellaneous

10.1. **Interpretation of Plan.** All interpretations of the Plan and application of its provisions to particular circumstances by the MHC and Stock Holding Company shall be final, subject to the authority of the Commissioner and the FRB. When a reference is made in this Plan to Sections or Exhibits, such reference shall be to a Section of or Exhibit to the Plan unless otherwise indicated. The recitals hereto constitute an integral part of the Plan. References to Sections include subsections, which are part of the related Section (*e.g.*, a section numbered “Section 5.5.1” would be part of “Section 5.5” and references to “Section 5.5” would also refer to material contained in the subsection described as “Section 5.5.1”). The table of contents and headings contained in the Plan are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of the Plan. Whenever the words “include”, “includes” or “including” are used in the Plan, they shall be deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation”.

10.2. **Amendment or Termination of the Plan.** If deemed necessary or desirable, the terms of the Plan may be substantively amended by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Trustees as a result of comments from regulatory authorities at any time prior to approval of the Plan by the Commissioner and the FRB and at any time thereafter with the concurrence of the Commissioner and the FRB. If amendments to the Plan are made after the Special Meeting of Corporators, no further approval of the Corporators will be necessary unless otherwise required by the Commissioner or the FRB. The Plan may be terminated by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion, at any time prior to the Special Meeting of Corporators and at any time thereafter with the concurrence of the Commissioner and the FRB. The Plan will terminate if the sale of all shares of Holding Company Common Stock is not completed within twenty-four months from the date of approval of the Plan by the Board of Trustees.

Dated: June 5, 2019

Exhibit 1.1

**FORM OF
AGREEMENT OF MERGER BETWEEN
PROVIDENT BANCORP
AND PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC.,
A MASSACHUSETTS CORPORATION**

THIS AGREEMENT OF MERGER (the “MHC Merger Agreement”) dated as of _____, 2019, is made by and between Provident Bancorp, a Massachusetts mutual holding company (the “MHC”), and Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation (the “Mid-Tier Holding Company”). Capitalized terms have the respective meanings given them in the Plan of Conversion (the “Plan”) of the MHC, unless otherwise defined herein.

RECITALS:

1. The MHC is a Massachusetts mutual holding company that owns _____% of the common stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company.
2. The Mid-Tier Holding Company is a Massachusetts corporation that owns 100% of the common stock of The Provident Bank, a Massachusetts-chartered savings bank.
3. The board of directors of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the board of Trustees of the MHC have approved this MHC Merger Agreement whereby the MHC shall merge with and into the Mid-Tier Holding Company with the Mid-Tier Holding Company as the resulting corporation (the “MHC Merger”), and have authorized the execution and delivery of this MHC Merger Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and mutual agreements contained herein, the parties hereto have agreed as follows:

1. **Merger.** At and on the Effective Date of the MHC Merger, the MHC will merge with and into the Mid-Tier Holding Company with the Mid-Tier Holding Company as the resulting entity (“Resulting Corporation”) whereby the shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock held by the MHC will be canceled and persons having liquidation interests in the MHC will constructively receive liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company in exchange for their liquidation interests in the MHC.
2. **Effective Date.** The MHC Merger shall not be effective until and unless: (i) the Plan is approved by the Division of Banks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; (ii) the Plan is approved by a majority of the total votes of the MHC’s Corporators and a majority of the MHC’s Independent Corporators (who shall constitute not less than 60% of all Corporators) eligible to be cast at the Special Meeting of Corporators; (iii) the Plan and this MHC Merger Agreement are approved by two-thirds of the votes eligible to be cast by the Stockholders of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and a majority of the votes eligible to be cast by Minority Stockholders; and (iv) the Articles of Merger shall have been filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with respect to the MHC Merger. Approval of the Plan by the MHC’s Corporators shall constitute approval of this MHC Merger Agreement by the MHC’s Corporators.

3. **Name.** The name of the Resulting Corporation shall be Provident Bancorp, Inc.
4. **Offices.** The main office of the Resulting Corporation shall be 5 Market Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913.
5. **Directors and Officers.** The directors and officers of the Mid-Tier Holding Company immediately prior to the Effective Date shall be the directors and officers of the Resulting Corporation after the Effective Date.
6. **Rights and Duties of the Resulting Corporation.** At the Effective Date, the MHC shall be merged with and into the Mid-Tier Holding Company with the Mid-Tier Holding Company as the Resulting Corporation. The business of the Resulting Corporation shall be that of a Massachusetts corporation as provided in its Articles of Organization. All assets, rights, interests, privileges, powers, franchises and property (real, personal and mixed) of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the MHC shall be transferred automatically to and vested in the Resulting Corporation by virtue of the MHC Merger without any deed or other document of transfer. The Resulting Corporation, without any order or action on the part of any court or otherwise and without any documents of assumption or assignment, shall hold and enjoy all of the properties, franchises and interests, including appointments, powers, designations, nominations and all other rights and interests as the agent or other fiduciary in the same manner and to the same extent as such rights, franchises, and interests and powers were held or enjoyed by the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the MHC. The Resulting Corporation shall be responsible for all of the liabilities, restrictions and duties of every kind and description of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the MHC immediately prior to the MHC Merger, including liabilities for all debts, obligations and contracts of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the MHC, matured or unmatured, whether accrued, absolute, contingent or otherwise and whether or not reflected or reserved against on balance sheets, books of accounts or records of the Mid-Tier Holding Company or the MHC. All rights of creditors and other obligees and all liens on property of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the MHC shall be preserved and shall not be released or impaired.
7. **Rights of Stockholders.** At the Effective Date, the shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock held by the MHC will be canceled and persons having liquidation interests in the MHC will constructively receive liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company in exchange for their liquidation interests in the MHC.
8. **Other Terms.** The Plan is incorporated herein by this reference and made a part hereof to the extent necessary or appropriate to effect and consummate the terms of this MHC Merger Agreement and the Conversion.

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the MHC have caused this MHC Merger Agreement to be executed as of the date first above written.

Provident Bancorp
(a Massachusetts mutual holding company)

ATTEST:

Kimberly Scholtz, Secretary

By: _____
David P. Mansfield
President and Chief Executive Officer

Provident Bancorp, Inc.
(a Massachusetts corporation)

ATTEST:

Kimberly Scholtz, Clerk

By: _____
David P. Mansfield
President and Chief Executive Officer

Exhibit 1.2

**FORM OF
AGREEMENT OF MERGER BETWEEN
PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC., A MASSACHUSETTS CORPORATION AND
PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC., A MARYLAND CORPORATION**

THIS AGREEMENT OF MERGER (the “Mid-Tier Merger Agreement”), dated as of _____, 2019, is made by and between Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation (the “Mid-Tier Holding Company”), and Provident Bancorp, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the “Holding Company”). Capitalized terms have the respective meanings given them in the Plan of Conversion of Provident Bancorp (the “Plan”) unless otherwise defined herein.

RECITALS:

1. The Mid-Tier Holding Company is a Massachusetts corporation that owns 100% of the common stock of The Provident Bank, a Massachusetts-chartered savings bank (the “Bank”).
2. The Holding Company has been organized as a first-tier stock subsidiary of the Mid-Tier Holding Company.
3. The boards of directors of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company have approved this Mid-Tier Merger Agreement whereby the Mid-Tier Holding Company will be merged with and into the Holding Company with the Holding Company as the resulting corporation (the “Mid-Tier Merger”), and have authorized the execution and delivery of this Mid-Tier Merger Agreement.
4. Immediately prior to the Mid-Tier Merger, Provident Bancorp, a Massachusetts mutual holding company (the “MHC”) and the owner of _____% of the capital stock of the Mid-Tier Holding Company, merged with and into the Mid-Tier Holding Company with the Mid-Tier Holding Company as the resulting entity (the “MHC Merger”), whereby the shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company held by the MHC were cancelled and persons having liquidation interests in the MHC constructively received liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company in exchange for their liquidation interests in the MHC.
5. As a result of the Mid-Tier Merger, the Bank will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Holding Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and mutual agreements contained herein, the parties hereto have agreed as follows:

1. **Merger.** At and on the Effective Date of the Mid-Tier Merger, the Mid-Tier Holding Company will merge with and into the Holding Company with the Holding Company as the resulting corporation (the “Resulting Corporation”), whereby the Bank will become the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Holding Company. As part of the Mid-Tier Merger, persons who had liquidation interests in the MHC who constructively received liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company as part of the MHC Merger will exchange the liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company that they constructively received for interests in the Liquidation Account and the stockholders of the Mid-Tier Holding Company (Minority Stockholders immediately prior to the Conversion) will exchange their shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company Common Stock for Holding Company Common Stock in the Exchange Offering pursuant to the Exchange Ratio.

2. **Effective Date.** The Mid-Tier Merger shall not be effective until and unless: (i) the Plan is approved by the Division of Banks of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; (ii) the Plan and this Mid-Tier Merger Agreement are approved by the Mid-Tier Holding Company as the sole stockholder of the Holding Company; (iii) the Plan and this Mid-Tier Merger Agreement are approved by two-thirds of the votes eligible to be cast by the Stockholders of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and a majority of the votes eligible to be cast by Minority Stockholders; and (iv) Articles of Merger shall have been filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation with respect to the Mid-Tier Merger.

3. **Name.** The name of the Resulting Corporation shall be Provident Bancorp, Inc.

4. **Offices.** The main office of the Resulting Corporation shall be 5 Market Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913.

5. **Directors and Officers.** The directors and officers of the Holding Company immediately prior to the Effective Date shall be the directors and officers of the Resulting Corporation after the Effective Date.

6. **Rights and Duties of the Resulting Corporation.** At the Effective Date, the Mid-Tier Holding Company shall merge with the Holding Company, with the Holding Company as the Resulting Corporation. The business of the Resulting Corporation shall be that of a Maryland corporation as provided in its Articles of Incorporation. All assets, rights, interests, privileges, powers, franchises and property (real, personal and mixed) of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company shall be transferred automatically to and vested in the Resulting Corporation by virtue of the Mid-Tier Merger without any deed or other document of transfer. The Resulting Corporation, without any order or action on the part of any court or otherwise and without any documents of assumption or assignment, shall hold and enjoy all of the properties, franchises and interests, including appointments, powers, designations, nominations and all other rights and interests as the agent or other fiduciary in the same manner and to the same extent as such rights, franchises, and interests and powers were held or enjoyed by the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company. The Resulting Corporation shall be responsible for all of the liabilities, restrictions and duties of every kind and description of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company immediately prior to the Mid-Tier Merger, including liabilities for all debts, obligations and contracts of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company, matured or unmatured, whether accrued, absolute, contingent or otherwise and whether or not reflected or reserved against on balance sheets, books of accounts or records of the Mid-Tier Holding Company or the Holding Company. The stockholders of the Holding Company shall possess all voting rights with respect to the shares of stock of the Resulting Corporation. All rights of creditors and other obligees and all liens on property of the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company shall be preserved and shall not be released or impaired.

7. **Rights of Stockholders.** At the Effective Date, persons who had liquidation interests in the MHC who constructively received liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company in exchange for their liquidation interests in the MHC as part of the MHC Merger, will exchange their liquidation interests in the Mid-Tier Holding Company for interests in the Stock Holding Company Liquidation Account, and the stockholders of the Mid-Tier Holding Company (Minority Stockholders immediately prior to the Conversion) will exchange their shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company Common Stock for Holding Company Common Stock in the Exchange Offering pursuant to the Exchange Ratio.

8. **Other Terms.** The Plan is incorporated herein by this reference and made a part hereof to the extent necessary or appropriate to effect and consummate the terms of this Mid-Tier Merger Agreement and the Conversion.

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Mid-Tier Holding Company and the Holding Company have caused this Mid-Tier Merger Agreement to be executed as of the date first above written.

Provident Bancorp, Inc.
(a Massachusetts corporation)

ATTEST:

Kimberly Scholtz, Secretary

By: _____
David P. Mansfield
President and Chief Executive Officer

Provident Bancorp, Inc.
(a Maryland corporation)

ATTEST:

Kimberly Scholtz, Secretary

By: _____
David P. Mansfield
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Section 3: EX-99.1 (EXHIBIT 99.1)

Exhibit 99.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David P. Mansfield
President and Chief Executive Officer
Telephone: (603) 334-1250

PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC. ANNOUNCES ADOPTION OF PLAN OF CONVERSION FOR SECOND-STEP STOCK OFFERING

Amesbury, Massachusetts, June 5, 2019 — Provident Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) (Nasdaq:PVBC), the holding company for The Provident Bank (the “Bank”), announced today that its Board of Directors, together with the Board of Trustees of Provident Bancorp (the “MHC”), has adopted a Plan of Conversion.

Pursuant to the Plan of Conversion, the Company will reorganize into a new fully public stock holding company structure and will conduct a second-step stock offering of new shares of common stock.

As part of the conversion, the Bank will become a wholly owned subsidiary of a new holding company, which will also be named Provident Bancorp, Inc. Shares of common stock of the Company held by persons other than the MHC will be converted into shares of common stock of the new holding company pursuant to an exchange ratio generally intended to preserve the percentage ownership interests of such persons. Shares of Company common stock owned by the MHC will be canceled and the amount of the MHC’s ownership interest in the Company will be sold through the second-step stock offering. In the stock offering, depositors of the Bank with qualifying deposits as of May 31, 2018, will have first priority to purchase the new shares of common stock.

The conversion and offering will have no impact on depositors, borrowers or other customers of the Bank. The transactions contemplated by the Plan of Conversion are subject to approval by the Company’s stockholders (including approval by a majority of the shares held by persons other than the MHC), the incorporators of the MHC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks.

A prospectus or proxy statement/prospectus, as applicable, and other materials containing detailed information relating to the Plan of Conversion, details of the offering, and business and financial information about the Company will be sent to stockholders of the Company and depositors of the Bank following regulatory approval.

This release is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy common stock. The offer is made only by the prospectus when accompanied by a stock order form. The shares of common stock of the new holding company are not savings accounts or savings deposits, may

lose value and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency or the Depositors Insurance Fund.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained herein constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements may be identified by words such as “may,” “will,” “would,” “intend,” “believe,” “expect,” “plan,” “estimate,” “anticipate,” “continue,” or similar terms or variations on those terms, or the negative of those terms. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Company management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements as a result of numerous factors. Factors that could cause such differences to exist include, but are not limited to: the failure to obtain the approval of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve or the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks for the proposed conversion and related stock offering, delays in obtaining such approvals, or adverse conditions imposed in connection with such approvals; those related to the real estate and economic environment, particularly in the market areas in which the Company operates; fiscal and monetary policies of the U.S. Government; changes in government regulations affecting financial institutions, including regulatory compliance costs and capital requirements; fluctuations in the adequacy of loan loss reserves; decreases in deposit levels necessitating increased borrowing to fund loans and investments; operational risks including, but not limited to, cybersecurity, fraud and natural disasters; the risk that the Company may not be successful in the implementation of its business strategy; changes in prevailing interest rates; credit risk management; asset-liability management; and other risks described in the Company’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which are available at the SEC’s website, www.sec.gov.

The Company wishes to caution readers not to place undue reliance on any such forward looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. The Company wishes to advise readers that the factors listed above or other factors could affect the Company's financial performance and could cause the Company's actual results for future periods to differ materially from any opinions or statements expressed with respect to future periods in any current statements. The Company does not undertake and specifically disclaims any obligation to publicly release the results of any revisions, which may be made to any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events.

About Provident Bancorp, Inc.

Provident Bancorp, Inc. is the holding company for The Provident Bank. The Bank is an innovative, commercial bank that finds solutions for its business and private clients. The Bank is committed to strengthening the economic development of the regions it serves, by working closely with businesses and private clients and delivering superior products and high-touch services to meet their banking needs. The Bank has offices in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. All deposits are insured in full through a combination of insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. For additional information, visit www.theprovidentbank.com.