

Dan Miller and Joe Chiariello to Join The First National Bank of Ottawa

Ottawa, Ill. November 14, 2018 - First Ottawa Bancshares, Inc. (OTC Pink: FOTB: the "Company") and The First National Bank of Ottawa (the "Bank") announced today that Dan Miller and Joe Chiariello have been appointed to the Board of Directors of both the Company and the Bank. Mr. Miller was also elected as Chairman of the Board of the Bank.

Mr. Miller was a founder, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director of the former American Chartered Bank. Mr. Chiariello was a senior commercial banking group head of the former American Chartered Bank.

"We are extremely proud to have Mr. Miller join our executive leadership as Chairman of the Board of The First National Bank of Ottawa. Through Mr. Miller's leadership American Chartered Bank became a preeminent commercial bank in Chicagoland, and his experience will be invaluable as we expand our market footprint." said Michael Reagan, Chairman of the Company.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Chiariello will make an aggregate \$10 million investment in the Company subject to approval by the Federal Reserve. The Company intends to strategically deploy the capital investment to grow the assets of the Bank with an emphasis in commercial and industrial clients in Chicago and its suburbs.

"As we surveyed the banking landscape for business partners, our emphasis was on culture. In order to be successful, we had to find an organization that values its clients and realizes the importance of the employee in delivering outstanding service. In First Ottawa Bancshares, we found a high quality institution with exceptional people and strong performance characteristics that fully embraces our vision." said Dan Miller.

"I look forward to partnering with Dan Miller as we make a commitment to Chicagoland business owners. Dan earned his reputation with bankers and business owners as one of the finest leaders of our banking generation. Joe Chiariello brings a wealth of experience to our team and a multitude of loyal clients who will appreciate the opportunity to partner with Joe in his enhanced capacity as a director." said Steven Gonzalo, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and the Bank.

American Chartered Bancorp, Inc. was acquired by MB Financial, Inc in August, 2016. MB Financial, Inc. announced in May 2018 that it will merge with Fifth Third Bancorp of Cincinnati, OH.

"The recent acquisitions of many of the finest commercial banks in Chicago by national and international mega banks has disrupted the banking landscape and created a vacuum for successful business owners with under \$50 million in annual sales. Business owners who

are disappointed by the mega banks that cannot be bothered by 'small' customers will find a very experienced team of bankers excited to partner for their success at our Bank." said Joe Chiariello.

About First Ottawa Bancshares, Inc.

First Ottawa Bancshares, Inc is a community-based bank holding company headquartered in Ottawa, Illinois and is the sole shareholder of The First National Bank of Ottawa. As of September 30, 2018, The First National Bank of Ottawa had total assets of approximately \$315 million. In 2018, The First National Bank of Ottawa celebrated 153 years of continuous service, making it one of the most senior banks in the United States.

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