

DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 12, 2016

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-16(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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5) Total fee paid:

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount Previously Paid:

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2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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3) Filing Party:

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4) Date Filed:

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April 12, 2016

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company"), which will be held on May 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, at Giando on the Water, 400 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11211.

The attached Notice of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement describe the business to be transacted at the Annual Meeting. The Directors and several officers of the Company, as well as a representative of Crowe Horwath LLP, the accounting firm appointed by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors to be the Company's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2016, will be present at the Annual Meeting.

The Company's Board of Directors has determined that an affirmative vote on each matter to be considered at the Annual Meeting is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders and unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" each of these matters.

Please complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card promptly, whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting. Your vote is important regardless of the number of shares you own. Voting by proxy will not prevent you from voting in person at the Annual Meeting, but will assure that your vote is counted if you are unable to attend. If you are a shareholder whose shares are not registered in your own name, you will need additional documentation from your record holder to attend and vote personally at the Annual Meeting. Examples of such documentation include a broker's statement, letter or other document confirming your ownership of the Company's shares.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and employees, we thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Vincent F. Palagiano  
Chairman of the Board  
and Chief Executive Officer

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Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.  
209 Havemeyer Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11211  
(718) 782-6200

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
To Be Held on May 26, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Annual Meeting") will be held at Giando on the Water, 400 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11211, on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, to consider and vote upon the following:

1. Election of four Directors for terms of three years each;
2. Ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2016;
3. Approval, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers;
4. Transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of the date hereof, management is not aware of any other such business.

The Board of Directors has fixed March 29, 2016 as the record date for the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on that date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. A list of such shareholders will be available for inspection by any shareholder for any lawful purpose germane to the Annual Meeting at the Company's corporate headquarters at 209 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211 at any time during regular business hours for 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors  
Lance J. Bennett  
Secretary

Brooklyn, New York  
April 12, 2016

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR SHARES BE REPRESENTED REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF SHARES YOU OWN. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS URGES YOU TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND DATE THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. RETURNING THE PROXY CARD WILL NOT PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on May 26, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

General

This Proxy Statement and accompanying proxy card are being furnished to the shareholders of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company") in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Company's Board of Directors from holders of the shares of the Company's issued and outstanding common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 26, 2016 (the "Annual Meeting") at Giando on the Water, 400 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11211 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. The Company is a Delaware corporation and operates as a unitary savings and loan holding company for The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh (the "Bank"). This Proxy Statement, together with the enclosed proxy card, is first being mailed to shareholders on or about April 12, 2016.

Record Date

The Company's Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 29, 2016 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting (the "Record Date"). Accordingly, only holders of record of shares of Common Stock at the close of business on March 29, 2016 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. There were 37,399,150 shares of Common Stock outstanding on the Record Date. The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of at least a majority of the total number of shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting

The notice of meeting, Proxy Statement, annual report and sample proxy card are available for review at [www.materials.proxyvote.com/253922](http://www.materials.proxyvote.com/253922). The notice of meeting, Proxy Statement and annual report are also available on the Company's website at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com).

Voting Rights

Each holder of Common Stock on the Record Date will be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting for each share of record held on the Record Date (other than Excess Shares as defined below). As provided in the Company's Certificate of Incorporation, record holders (other than any compensation plan maintained by the Company and certain affiliates) of Common Stock who beneficially own in excess of 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock (such shares in excess of 10% referred to herein as "Excess Shares") shall be entitled to cast only one-hundredth of one vote per share for each Excess Share. A person or entity is deemed to beneficially own shares owned by an affiliate or associate as well as by persons acting in concert with such person or entity. The Company's Certificate of Incorporation authorizes a majority of the Board of Directors to interpret the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation governing Excess Shares, and to determine, on the basis of information known to them after reasonable inquiry, all facts necessary to ascertain compliance with the Excess Shares provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, including, without limitation, (i) the number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by any person or purported owner, (ii) whether a person or purported owner is an affiliate or associate of, or is acting in concert with, any other person or purported owner, and (iii) whether a person or purported owner has an

agreement or understanding with any other person or purported owner as to the voting or disposition of any shares of Common Stock.

You may vote your shares by marking and signing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, by telephone or internet by following the instructions stated on the Proxy Card or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. All properly executed proxies received by the Company on or before the close of voting on May 26, 2016 will be voted in accordance with the instructions indicated thereon. If no instructions are given, executed proxies will be voted FOR election of each of the four nominees for Director, FOR ratification of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2016, FOR the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, and FOR each other proposal identified in the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

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Management is not aware of any matters other than those set forth in the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders that may be brought before the Annual Meeting. If any other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote the shares represented by all properly executed proxies on such matters in such manner as shall be determined by a majority of the Company's Board of Directors.

If you are a shareholder whose shares are not registered in your own name, you will need appropriate documentation from your shareholder of record to vote personally at the Annual Meeting. Examples of such documentation include a broker's statement, letter or other document that will confirm your ownership of the Common Stock.

#### Vote Required

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting. The holders of Common Stock may not vote their shares cumulatively for the election of Directors. With respect to the election of the four nominees for Director, shares as to which the "WITHHOLD AUTHORITY" box has been selected for either all or some of the nominees will be counted as being present for the matter but not as voting "for" the election of the respective nominee(s). Therefore, the proxy represented by these shares will have the same effect as voting against the respective nominee(s). In contrast, shares underlying broker non-votes will not be counted as present and entitled to vote and will have no effect on the vote on Proposal 1.

Proposals 2 and 3 require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the number of votes eligible to be cast by the holders of Common Stock represented, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Shares as to which the "ABSTAIN" box has been selected on the Proxy Card with respect to Proposals 2 and 3 will be counted as present and entitled to vote and will have the effect of a vote against these proposals. In contrast, shares underlying broker non-votes will not be counted as present and entitled to vote and will have no effect on the vote on Proposals 2 and 3.

Although the advisory vote on the compensation of executive officers is non-binding as provided by law, the Company's Board of Directors will review the results of the vote and consider them in making future determinations concerning executive compensation.

#### Revocability of Proxies

A proxy may be revoked at any time before it is voted by filing a written revocation of the proxy with the Company's Secretary at 209 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211 or by submitting a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. A proxy also may be revoked by attending and voting at the Annual Meeting, only if a written revocation is filed with the Secretary prior to the voting of such proxy.

#### Solicitation of Proxies

The Company will bear the costs of soliciting proxies from its shareholders. In addition to the use of mail, proxies may be solicited by officers, Directors or employees of the Company or the Bank by telephone or other forms of communication. The Company will also request persons, firms and corporations holding shares in their names or in the names of their nominees, which are beneficially owned by others, to send proxy materials to, and obtain proxies from, such beneficial owners, and will reimburse such holders for reasonable expenses incurred in connection therewith. In addition, the Company has retained Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. to assist in the solicitation of proxies. The cost of such solicitation, which will be comprised of reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expense, will be paid by the Company.

#### Interests of Directors and Management in Certain Proposals

Shareholders will be asked to cast a non-binding advisory vote on Proposal No. 3 regarding compensation to the Company's named executive officers, and the results of such advisory vote may influence future compensation decisions. The Board was aware of these interests and took them into account in recommending that the shareholders vote in favor of Proposal No. 3.

#### Director Attendance at Annual Meetings

The Company considers Board attendance at shareholder meetings a priority. It is the policy of the Company that Directors exercise their best efforts to attend every meeting. All eleven Directors attended the annual meeting held in 2015.

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

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## Principal Shareholders of the Company

The following table sets forth certain information as to persons known to the Company to be the beneficial owner of in excess of 5% of the shares of Common Stock as of March 29, 2016. Management knows of no person, except as listed below, who beneficially owned more than 5% of the Common Stock as of March 29, 2016. Except for the column titled "Percent of Class," and as otherwise indicated, the information provided in the table was obtained from filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Addresses provided are those listed in the filings as the address of the person authorized to receive notices and communications. For purposes of the table below and the table set forth under "Security Ownership of Management," in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of any shares of Common Stock (1) over which he or she has or shares, directly or indirectly, voting or investment power, and (2) of which he or she has the right to acquire beneficial ownership at any time within 60 days after March 29, 2016. As used herein, "voting power" includes the power to vote, or direct the voting of, Common Stock and "investment power" includes the power to dispose, or direct the disposition, of such shares. Unless otherwise noted, each beneficial owner has sole voting and sole investment power over the shares beneficially owned.

Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
Common Stock	The Employee Stock Ownership Plan Trust of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and Certain Affiliates (the "ESOP Trust") 209 Havemeyer Street Brooklyn, NY 11211	2,861,584(1)	7.7%
Common Stock	Compensation Committee of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (includes the 2,861,584 ESOP Trust shares reflected above) 209 Havemeyer Street Brooklyn, NY 11211	3,641,259(2)	9.7%
Common Stock	Blackrock, Inc. 40 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10022	3,228,780(3)	8.6%
Common Stock	The Vanguard Group 100 Vanguard Boulevard Malvern, PA 19355	2,329,363(4)	6.2%
Common Stock	Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746	2,030,850 (5)	5.4%
Common Stock	First Trust Portfolios L.P. 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, Illinois 60187	1,876,317 (6)	5.0%

(1) The Employee Stock Ownership Plan of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. and Certain Affiliates (the "ESOP") filed a Schedule 13G with the SEC on February 11, 2016. The ESOP is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee"). The ESOP's assets are held in the ESOP Trust, for which Pentegra Trust Company (formerly RS Group Trust Company) serves as trustee (the "ESOP Trustee"). The ESOP Trust purchased these shares with funds borrowed from the Company and placed them in a suspense account for release and allocation to participants' accounts in installments. As of March 29, 2016, 2,080,042 shares held by the ESOP Trust were allocated. The terms of the ESOP provide that, subject to the

ESOP Trustee's fiduciary responsibilities under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), the ESOP Trustee will vote, tender or exchange shares of Common Stock held in the ESOP Trust in accordance with instructions received from the participants. The ESOP Trustee will vote allocated shares as to which no instructions are received and any shares that have not been allocated to participants' accounts in the same proportion as allocated shares with respect to which the ESOP Trustee receives instructions are voted, subject to fiduciary duties of the ESOP Trustee. The ESOP Trustee will tender or exchange any shares in the suspense account or that otherwise have not been allocated to participants' accounts in the same proportion as allocated shares with respect to which the ESOP Trustee receives instructions are tendered or exchanged, subject to fiduciary duties of the ESOP Trustee. With respect to allocated shares as to which no instructions are received, the ESOP Trustee will be deemed to have received instructions not to tender or exchange such shares. Each member of the Compensation Committee disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. See footnote 2 for a discussion of the voting and investment powers of the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee filed a Schedule 13G with the SEC on February 11, 2016. The Compensation Committee serves certain administrative functions for the ESOP and The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh 401(k) Plan [the "401(k) Plan"]. In addition, the Compensation Committee serves as trustee for 223,894 unvested restricted stock awards granted to certain officers of the Company or Bank under either the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan or the Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan (the "2013 Equity and Incentive Plan"). Shares indicated in the table as beneficially owned by the Compensation Committee include all shares (2) indicated in the table as beneficially owned by the ESOP Trust. The Compensation Committee has the authority to direct the ESOP Trustee with respect to the investment of the ESOP's assets (including the acquisition or disposition of both allocated and unallocated shares) in the absence of a tender offer, but has no voting power with respect to any shares. With respect to the ESOP, ERISA, in limited circumstances, may confer upon the ESOP Trustee the power and duty to control the voting and tendering of Common Stock allocated to the accounts of participating employees and beneficiaries who fail to exercise their voting and/or tender rights. Each member of the Compensation Committee disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.

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Blackrock, Inc. ("Blackrock") filed a Schedule 13G on January 26, 2016 related to the former holdings of Barclay's Private Bank and Trust Limited ("Barclays"), of which Blackrock assumed ownership in December 2009. The (3) shares are held in various trust accounts for the economic benefit of former Barclay's customers who are the beneficiaries of those accounts. The Schedule 13G states that Blackrock has sole voting power over 3,155,950 shares and dispositive powers over 3,228,780 shares of Common Stock.

The Vanguard Group filed a Schedule 13G/A on February 11, 2016. The shares are primarily held in various trust (4) accounts for the economic benefit of customers who are the beneficiaries of those accounts. The Vanguard Group has sole voting power over 43,552 of the shares, and sole dispositive power over up to 2,288,211 shares and shared dispositive powers over up to 41,152 shares.

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP filed a Schedule 13G on February 9, 2016. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP is a registered investment company, and serves as an investment manager or sub-advisor to certain other registered (5) investment companies, comingled funds, group trusts and separate accounts, and could possess voting and/or investment powers over the Common Stock. The Schedule 13G states that Dimensional Fund Advisors LP has sole voting power over up to 1,914,197 shares, and sole dispositive power over up to 2,030,650 shares.

First Trust Portfolios L.P. filed a Schedule 13G on February 5, 2016. First Trust Portfolios L.P. acts as sponsor of (6) certain unit investment trusts which hold shares of Common Stock. The Schedule 13G states that First Trust Portfolios L.P. has sole voting and dispositive powers over none of the shares, shared voting power over 91,745 shares, and shared dispositive power over up to 1,876,317 shares.

Security Ownership of Management

The following table sets forth information with respect to the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by each of the Company's Directors and the principal executive officer, principal financial officer and four most highly compensated executive officers (other than the principal executive and principal financial officers) of the Company or Bank (the "Named Executive Officers"), and all of the Company's Directors and executive officers as a group, as of the Record Date. As a result of the insignificant differential in their compensation, Messrs. Harris and Mitchell are both included in this Proxy Statement as Named Executive Officers. Except as otherwise indicated, each person and each group shown in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares of Common Stock indicated.

The Company's Anti Hedging and Pledging and Insider Trading Policies prohibit Directors and senior officers from pledging Common Stock as collateral for any loan.

Title of Class	Name of Beneficial Owner	Position	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (1)(2)(3)	Percent of Class Outstanding	Vested Stock Options Included in Beneficial Ownership Total	Other Non-Beneficial Ownership (4)
Common	Vincent F. Palagiano	Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO")	863,872 (5)	2.3%	150,000	351,935
Common	Michael P. Devine	Director, Vice Chairman of the Board (14)	550,346 (6)	1.5	37,209	239,822

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Common	Kenneth J. Mahon	Director, President and Chief Operating Officer ("COO")(15)	380,665	(7)	1.0	24,459	133,359
Common	Anthony Bergamo	Director	170,599	(8)	*	18,333	—
Common	George L. Clark, Jr.	Director	271,223	(9)	*	23,333	—
Common	Steven D. Cohn	Director	94,780	(10)	*	19,312	—
Common	Patrick E. Curtin	Director	97,046	(11)	*	10,000	—
Common	Robert C. Golden	Director	26,865		*	2,444	—
Common	Kathleen M. Nelson	Director	18,548		*	2,444	—
Common	Joseph J. Perry	Director	74,031		*	33,177	—
Common	Omer S.J. Williams	Director	69,422		*	37,202	—
Common	Michael Pucella	Executive Vice President ("EVP") and Chief Accounting Officer ("CAO") (Principal Financial Officer)	104,926		*	20,164	48,901
Common	Daniel J. Harris	EVP and Chief Lending Officer ("CLO")	42,448	(12)	*	14,134	5,060
Common	Terence J. Mitchell	EVP and Chief Retail Officer ("CRTO")	60,156	(13)	*	28,318	4,282
All Directors and executive officers as a group (18 persons)			4,739,514		12.7%	430,740	835,872

\* Less than one percent

- (1) See "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management – Principal Shareholders of the Company" for a definition of "beneficial ownership." The figures shown include ESOP shares held in trust that have been allocated to individual accounts as follows: Mr. Palagiano, 60,940 shares; Mr. Devine, 60,940 shares; Mr. Mahon, 60,940 shares; Mr. Pucella, 54,184 shares; Mr. Harris, 5,896 shares, Mr. Mitchell, 4,123 shares, and all Directors and executive officers as a group, 322,091 shares [the non-employee Directors (the "Outside Directors") do not participate in the ESOP]. Such persons have voting power (subject to the legal duties of the ESOP Trustee) but no investment power, except in limited circumstances, as to such shares. The figures shown for the Named Executive Officers do not include any portion of the 781,542 ESOP shares held in trust that have not been allocated to any individual's account and as to which the Named Executive Officers may be deemed to share voting power with other ESOP participants. The figure shown for all Directors and executive officers as a group includes 781,542 shares as to which the members of the Compensation Committee (consisting of Messrs. Williams, Bergamo, and Clark, and Ms. Nelson) may be deemed to have sole investment power, except in limited circumstances, thereby causing each such Compensation Committee member to be deemed a beneficial owner of such shares. Each member of the Compensation Committee disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares and, accordingly, such shares are not attributed to the members of the Compensation Committee individually. In addition, the figure shown for all Directors and executive officers as a group includes 835,872 shares held in trust (the "BMP Trust") for the benefit of the Named Executive Officers and other officers under the Benefit Maintenance Plan of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "BMP"). The BMP Trust, as directed by the Company, exercises voting and investment power over these shares (See "Compensation – Executive Compensation – Compensation Plans – BMP"). The figures shown include shares held pursuant to the 401(k) Plan that were allocated as of the Record Date to individual accounts as follows: Mr. Mahon, 148,203 shares, and all Directors and executive officers as a group, 184,462 shares. Outside Directors do not participate in the 401(k) Plan. Such persons have sole voting power and sole investment power as to such shares [See "Compensation – Executive Compensation – Compensation Plans – 401(k) Plan"].
- (2) Other non-beneficial ownership amounts represent shares that are held in trust for the benefit of the respective Named Executive Officers under the BMP. The Named Executive Officers have investment risk, but neither voting nor investment power with respect to these shares. However, since the Company maintains full voting and dispositive powers over these shares, they are included in the 4,739,514 total beneficial ownership amount for the full Directors and executive officers group (see footnote 2 above).
- (3) Includes 652,932 shares as to which Mr. Palagiano may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (4) Includes 431,161 shares as to which Mr. Devine may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (5) Includes 128,720 shares as to which Mr. Mahon may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (6) Includes 149,125 shares as to which Mr. Bergamo may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (7) Includes 84,375 shares as to which Mr. Clark may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (8) Includes 72,327 shares as to which Mr. Cohn may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (9) Includes 83,905 shares as to which Mr. Curtin may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (10) Includes 11,000 shares as to which Mr. Harris may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (11) Includes 14,347 shares as to which Mr. Mitchell may be deemed to share voting and investment power.
- (12) Prior to January 1, 2016, Mr. Devine was a Director, Vice Chairman of the Board and President. He retired as President effective December 31, 2015.
- (13) Prior to January 1, 2016, Mr. Mahon was a Director, Senior Executive Vice President ("SEVP") and COO.

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## PROPOSAL 1

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

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#### General

The Company's Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide for the election of Directors by the shareholders. For this purpose, the Company's Board of Directors is divided into three classes, each class to be as nearly equal in number as possible. The terms of office of the members of one class expire, and a successor class is to be elected, at each annual meeting of shareholders. The Company currently has eleven Directors.

Vincent F. Palagiano, Patrick E. Curtin, Omer S.J. Williams, and Kathleen M. Nelson, whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting, have been nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors to be re-elected at the Annual Meeting for a term expiring at the annual meeting to be held in 2019, or when their successors are otherwise duly elected and qualified.

Each nominee has consented to being named in this Proxy Statement and to serve, if elected. In the event that any nominee for election as a Director at the Annual Meeting is unable or declines to serve, which the Board of Directors has no reason to expect, the persons named in the proxy card will vote with respect to a substitute nominee designated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors, unless the shareholder has elected to "withhold authority" with respect to all nominees.

#### Information as to Nominees and Continuing Directors

In March 2016, the Board determined that all of its current Directors with the exception of Messrs. Palagiano, Devine, Mahon and Curtin were independent pursuant to its Policy Regarding Director Independence (the "Director Independence Policy") and National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Rule 5605(a)(2) ["Rule 5605(a)(2)"]. Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon were not independent

because they were officers of the Company, Mr. Devine was not independent because he was a previous officer of the Company within the past five years, and Mr. Curtin was deemed not independent because he was a member of a law firm providing various legal services to the Company or its subsidiaries. See, "Transactions with Certain Related Persons." The Director Independence Policy is available on the Company's website at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com) by clicking "About Us," then "Investor Relations," and then "Governance Documents" within the "Investor Relations" menu.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and selecting nominees for election by the Company's shareholders. The Nominating Committee is authorized to retain search firm(s) to assist in the identification of candidates. The Nominating Committee is not limited to a specific process in identifying candidates and will consider potential nominees from various sources, including recommendations from shareholders as well as Directors and officers of the Company. Individuals recommended by shareholders are evaluated in a manner identical to other potential nominees.

The Nominating Committee has adopted general criteria for nomination to the Board which establish the minimum qualifications and experience to be examined in determining candidates for election. Pursuant to the general criteria, Directors should possess personal and professional ethics, integrity and values; be committed to representing the long-term interests of the Company's shareholders and other constituencies; possess the ability to (a) exercise sound business judgment, (b) work with others as an effective group, and (c) commit adequate time to their responsibilities; be independent as defined in applicable law, the Director Independence Policy and the Company's Code of Business Ethics and be able to impartially represent the interests of the Company's shareholders and other constituencies; possess experience and expertise relevant to the business of the Company; and possess such other knowledge, experience or skills as required or which may be useful considering the composition of the Board, the operating requirements of the Company and the long-term interests of the shareholders. The nomination guidelines promote Board diversity to respond to business needs and shareholder interests.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to each nominee for election as a Director and each Director whose term does not expire at the Annual Meeting ("Continuing Director"). There are no arrangements or understandings between the Company and any Director or nominee pursuant to which such person was selected as a Director or nominee. For information with respect to security ownership by Directors, see "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management – Security Ownership of Management."

		Director Term		
	Age(1)	Since(2)	Expires	Position(s) Held with the Company and the Bank
Nominees				
Vincent F. Palagiano	75	1978	2016	Director, Chairman of the Board and CEO
Patrick E. Curtin	70	1986	2016	Director
Kathleen M. Nelson	70	2011	2016	Director
Omer S. J. Williams	75	2006	2016	Director
Continuing Directors				
Michael P. Devine	69	1980	2018	Director, Vice Chairman of the Board (3)
Anthony Bergamo	69	1986	2018	Director
George L. Clark, Jr.	75	1980	2017	Director
Steven D. Cohn	67	1994	2017	Director
Robert C. Golden	69	2011	2017	Director
Kenneth J. Mahon	65	2002	2017	Director, President and COO(3)
Joseph J. Perry	49	2005	2018	Director

(1) As of March 29, 2016.

(2) Includes service as a Director or Trustee with the Bank prior to the Company's incorporation on December 12, 1995.

(3) Prior to January 1, 2016, Mr. Devine served as Vice Chairman of the Board and President, and Mr. Mahon served as SEVP and COO.

The principal occupation, business experience and current public company directorships, as well as public company directorships held at any time during the past five years, of each of the nominees and Continuing Directors is listed below. The information is as of March 29, 2016, and includes affiliations with the Bank and its principal operating subsidiaries.

Nominees for Election as Director

Vincent F. Palagiano has served as Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Company since its formation in 1995 and of the Bank since 1989. He has served as a Trustee or Director of the Bank since 1978. In addition, Mr. Palagiano has served on the Boards of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York since January 2012, the Institutional Investors Capital Appreciation Fund from 1996 to 2006, and The Community Bankers Association of New York from 2001 to 2005. Mr. Palagiano joined the Bank in 1970 as an appraiser and has also served as President of both the Company and the Bank, and as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating

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Officer and Chief Lending Officer of the Bank. Prior to 1970, Mr. Palagiano served in the real estate and mortgage departments at other financial institutions and title companies. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Palagiano should serve as a Director of the Company.

Patrick E. Curtin has served as a Director of the Company since its formation in 1995 and as a Trustee or Director of the Bank since 1986. Prior to his retirement on December 31, 2015, Mr. Curtin served as a senior member in the law firm of Conway Farrell Curtin & Kelly, P.C. ("Conway Farrell") in New York, New York, and represented the Bank in loan closings, litigation and various other matters for over 35 years. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Curtin should serve as a Director of the Company.

Kathleen M. Nelson was elected to the Boards of Directors of both the Company and the Bank in March 2011. Ms. Nelson currently serves as managing principal of Bay Hollow Associates, a commercial real estate advisory firm that she co-founded in 2009, as well as President of KMN Associates, LLC, a commercial real estate consulting firm she founded that provides consulting services to mixed-use and commercial retail real estate developers or owners. Ms. Nelson also served in the mortgage and real estate division of TIAA-CREF from 1968 through 2004, retiring as the Managing Director and Group leader of the division. Ms. Nelson currently serves on the Board of Directors and Executive and Audit Committees of CBL & Associates Properties, Inc., a publicly traded Real Estate Investment Trust focused on shopping center properties, as well as on the Board of Directors and Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees of Apartment Investment and Management Co., a publicly traded owner and manager of rental apartments. Ms. Nelson is also a member of the advisory boards of Castagna Realty Company, the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, the Anglo American Real Property Institute, and an unaffiliated Board member of the JP Morgan U.S. Real Estate Income and Growth Fund. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Ms. Nelson should serve as a Director of the Company.

Omer S.J. Williams has served as a Director of both the Company and Bank since July 2006. Mr. Williams is an attorney, Senior Counsel to the law firm of Alston & Bird LLP. He was previously Counsel to SNR Denton (US) LLP and prior to that a partner at Thacher Proffitt & Wood LLP ("Thacher"), where he served as both Chairman of the firm's Executive Committee and Managing Partner of the firm from 1991 to 2003. Thacher's partners determined to dissolve the firm as of December 31, 2008, and Mr. Williams served as Chairman of Thacher's dissolution committee until dissolution was completed in 2012. Mr. Williams has more than 48 years of experience in banking, corporate and financial institution law, including corporate structure, securities and mortgage finance issues. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Williams should serve as a Director of the Company.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AS DIRECTORS.**

#### Continuing Directors

Michael P. Devine has served as a Director of the Company since its formation in 1995 and as a Trustee or Director of the Bank since 1980. Mr. Devine has served as Vice Chairman of the Boards of both the Company and Bank since February 2014. He served as President of both the Company and Bank from January 1, 1997 to his retirement on December 31, 2015. Mr. Devine also served as COO of the Company from its inception in 1995 to February 2014, and of the Bank from 1989 to February 2014. Prior to Mr. Devine's appointment as President, he served as EVP and Secretary of both the Company and the Bank. Mr. Devine joined the Bank in 1971 and has served as the Internal Auditor, Comptroller and Investment Officer. Prior to 1971, Mr. Devine served as a Senior Accountant with the firm of Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. From August 2001 through September 12, 2008, Mr. Devine served on the Board of Directors of Retirement Systems Group, Inc. From September 2007 through December 2014, Mr. Devine served as Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Board of Trustees of Long Island University. Since March 2009, Mr. Devine has served as a director of Pentegra Retirement Trust. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Devine should serve as a Director of the Company.

Anthony Bergamo has served as a Director of the Company since its formation in 1995 and as a Trustee or Director of the Bank since 1986. Mr. Bergamo is an attorney licensed in New York and New Jersey. His public company Directorships are: Director, Audit Committee Chair and Compensation Committee member of Steel Partners LLP; and Audit Committee Chair, Compensation Committee member and Director of Moduslink Global Solutions Inc. Mr. Bergamo is additionally the Vice Chairman of MB Real Estate, and CEO of Niagara Falls Redevelopment LLC. Until February 2016, Mr. Bergamo served as a Director and Audit Committee Chair of the State of New York Mortgage Agency, and a member of the First Department of the New York State Judicial Screening Committee. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Bergamo should serve as a Director of the Company.

George L. Clark, Jr. has served as a Director of the Company since its formation in 1995 and as a Trustee or Director of the Bank since 1980. Mr. Clark has served as Lead Director of the Boards of both the Company and Bank since 2007. Mr. Clark is

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President of George L. Clark Inc. (Realtors), a New York State licensed real estate firm. Mr. Clark was a director of the Federal National Mortgage Association between 1986 and 1992, and a former Chairman of the New York State Republican Committee. Mr. Clark has been a licensed real estate broker for 55 years. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Clark should serve as a Director of the Company.

Steven D. Cohn has served as a Director of the Company since its formation in 1995 and as a Trustee or Director of the Bank since 1994. Mr. Cohn is the managing partner in the law firm of Goldberg and Cohn LLP, in Brooklyn Heights, New York, and is both a past President of the Brooklyn Bar Association and a delegate to the New York State Bar Association. Mr. Cohn is also an adjunct professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, teaching classes in business law and marketing research. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Cohn should serve as a Director of the Company.

Robert C. Golden was elected to the Boards of Directors of both the Company and the Bank in March 2011. Mr. Golden currently serves as a Manager at Mutual of America Capital Management Corp., a money management firm. From 1997 to 2010, Mr. Golden served as EVP of Corporate Operations and Systems at Prudential Financial, Inc. (previously Prudential Insurance Company of America), where he managed operations, technology infrastructure and communications and administrative services for all of Prudential Financial, Inc.'s subsidiaries. From 1976 through 1997, Mr. Golden served in several capacities at Prudential Securities, Inc., formerly a wholly-owned subsidiary of Prudential Insurance Company of America until majority ownership was sold in 2003, ending his tenure at Prudential Securities as Chief Administrative Officer in charge of operations, technology, systems infrastructure, communications, human resources, administrative services and real estate. Prior to retirement, Mr. Golden was a licensed member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority as a General Securities Representative, including the specialties of Financial and Operations Principal and Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Golden should serve as a Director of the Company.

Kenneth J. Mahon has served as a Director of the Company since 2002 and of the Bank since 1998. Mr. Mahon has served as President of the Company and Bank since January 1, 2016, and as the COO of both the Company and Bank since February 2014. Prior to that, he served as Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of both the Company and the Bank since 1996. Mr. Mahon performed all functions of CFO until Mr. Pucella was appointed principal financial officer on March 27, 2014. Mr. Mahon was named SEVP of both the Company and the Bank in 2013, First EVP of both the Company and the Bank in 2008, and Executive Vice President of both the Company and Bank in 1997. Prior to serving as Executive Vice President, Mr. Mahon served as the Bank's Comptroller and Senior Vice President. Mr. Mahon is a member of the Financial Managers Society, the National Investor Relations Institute and the National Association of Corporate Directors, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. Prior to joining the Bank in 1980, Mr. Mahon served in the financial areas of several New York City metropolitan area savings banks. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Mahon should serve as a Director of the Company.

Joseph J. Perry has served as a Director of both the Company and Bank since September 2005. From January 2004 through August 2005, Mr. Perry served as a Director of Havemeyer Equities, Inc., a previously wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. He is currently a partner at Marcum LLP, a public accounting and consulting firm headquartered in New York, New York, where he has served as the Firm-Wide Partner-in-Charge of Tax Services since 2006 and is a member of the Firm's Executive Committee. Prior to joining Marcum LLP, Mr. Perry was a tax partner at one of the leading "Big 5" accounting firms and provided services to several financial services companies throughout the New York metropolitan area. Mr. Perry is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Public Accountants. This experience and these qualifications led the Board to conclude that Mr. Perry should serve as a Director of the Company.

Board Leadership Structure

The CEO also serves as Chairman of the Board, due, in part, to his extensive tenure with the Company and Bank, which provides unique and vital knowledge regarding their history, strategy, business and operations. In order to enhance Board independence and oversight, the Board has created a lead independent director position. George L. Clark, Jr. is currently the Lead Director. Among other functions, the Lead Director presides at executive sessions of the outside and independent Directors and serves as a liaison between the Chairman of the Board and the independent Directors.

In the ordinary course of business, the Company faces various strategic, operating, compliance, reputational, technological and financial risks. Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risk, while the Board, as a whole and through its standing Committees, is responsible for the oversight of risk management. In its risk oversight role, the Board has the responsibility of satisfying itself that the risk management processes designed and implemented by management are adequate and functioning as designed. To help accomplish this objective, the Board created the Risk Committee in 2011. The purpose of this committee, which meets on a quarterly basis, is to assist the Board with respect to oversight of the Company's risk: identification; measurement; control processes; and ongoing monitoring. Senior management also attends, and presents reports at, all Board meetings. The Chief Risk

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Officer attends all meetings of the Audit and Risk Committees of the Board, and presents risk management activity updates to the Risk Committee quarterly and to the Board monthly.

#### Meetings and Committees of the Company's Board of Directors

The full Board of Directors meets ten times annually and may have additional special meetings upon the request of the Chairman of the Board, President or at least 60% (but not less than five) of the Directors then in office. The Company's full Board of Directors met ten times during the year ended December 31, 2015. During 2015, no incumbent Directors attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate of: (1) the total number of Board meetings conducted during the period for which she or he was a Director, and (ii) the total number of meetings conducted by all committees of the Board on which she or he served during the periods that she or he served.

The Company's Board of Directors has established the following committees:

The Executive Committee consisted of Messrs. Palagiano (Chair), Devine, Bergamo, Clark, Cohn and Curtin in 2015. Effective January 1, 2016, Mr. Mahon replaced Mr. Devine. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to exercise all the powers of the Board in the management of the business and affairs of the Company in the intervals between the meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee meets at the call of the Chairman, President or a majority of the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee conducted no meetings during the year ended December 31, 2015.

The Compensation Committee presently consists, and consisted during 2015, of four independent Directors: Messrs. Williams (Chair), Bergamo, and Clark and Ms. Nelson. The Compensation Committee establishes the compensation of the CEO, approves the compensation of executive management, oversees administration of the process for determining the compensation and benefits of officers and employees of the Bank, recommends Director compensation to the Board and assists the Board in its oversight of the human resources activities of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Compensation Committee utilizes a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm, and outside legal counsel, to assist in performing its duties. The compensation consulting firm is instructed to analyze the Company's performance and executive pay levels. A peer group of public banks and thrifts is used for comparison of both pay level and corporate performance. The Compensation Committee uses this analysis to assist it in understanding market practices and trends and to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of recommended pay-for-performance compensation strategies. The Committee relies on legal counsel to advise on its obligations and rights under applicable corporate, securities and employment laws, to assist in interpreting the Company's obligations under compensation plans and agreements, and to draft plans and agreements to document business decisions. The Committee considers the expectations of executive management with respect to their own compensation, and their recommendations with respect to the compensation of Directors and more junior executive officers.

The Compensation Committee may delegate such of its powers and responsibilities as it deems appropriate to subcommittees of its membership or officers of the Company. The Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a charter, which is available on the Company's website at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com), by initially selecting "About Us" then "Investor Relations" and subsequently selecting "Governance Documents." The Compensation Committee's charter requires that it meet annually and as requested by the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee met three times during the year ended December 31, 2015.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Ms. Nelson (Chair), and Messrs. Cohn and Clark during 2015. Effective January 1, 2016, Mr. Clark assumed the Chair and Mr. Perry replaced Ms. Nelson on the Committee. Messrs. Clark, Cohn and Perry, and Ms. Nelson are all independent as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2). The Nominating Committee identifies and selects nominees for all Directorships, recommends committee memberships to the Board, and establishes criteria for the selection of new Directors to serve on the Board. The Nominating Committee met twice

during 2015. In addition, the Nominating Committee met on March 24, 2016 to, among other matters, select the nominees for election as Directors at the Annual Meeting. In accordance with the Company's Bylaws, provided the Nominating Committee makes such nominations, no nominations for election as Director except those made by the Nominating Committee shall be voted upon at the Annual Meeting unless properly made by a shareholder in accordance with the procedures set forth under "2016 Annual Meeting Stockholder Proposals" in the proxy statement for the annual meeting held in May 2015.

The Nominating Committee operates pursuant to a charter. A current copy of the Nominating Committee charter is available on the Company's website, at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com), by clicking "About Us" then "Investor Relations" and then "Governance Documents" within the "Investor Relations" menu.

The Governance Committee consisted of Messrs. Williams (Chair), Bergamo and Perry in 2015. Effective January 1, 2016, Ms. Nelson replaced Mr. Perry. The Governance Committee develops and recommends to the Board corporate governance principles

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applicable to the Company, and otherwise assumes a leadership role in the corporate governance of the Company. The Governance Committee met twice during 2015.

The Risk Committee consists of Mr. Perry (Chair), Mr. Curtin, Mr. Golden and Ms. Nelson. The Risk Committee assists the Board with respect to oversight of the Company's risk: identification; measurement; control processes; and ongoing monitoring. The Risk Committee operates pursuant to a written charter. A current copy of the charter may be viewed on the Company's website at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com) by clicking "About Us," then "Investor Relations," and then "Governance Documents" within the "Investor Relations" menu. The Risk Committee charter requires that it meet at least four times annually or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Risk Committee met four times during the year ended December 31, 2015.

The Audit Committee consists of Messrs. Bergamo (Chair), Cohn, Golden and Perry. Messrs. Bergamo, Cohn, Golden and Perry are each independent as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) and satisfy the independence criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) of the Exchange Act. The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Bergamo and Perry qualify as Audit Committee financial experts as defined in Item 407(d)(5) of SEC Regulation S-K. The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company to assist the Board in: (1) monitoring the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, (2) monitoring Company compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and internal controls, (3) monitoring the independence and performance of the Company's internal and independent auditors, and (4) maintaining an open means of communication among the independent auditor, senior management, the internal auditors, and the Board. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a written charter. A current copy of the charter may be viewed on the Company's website at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com) by clicking "About Us," then "Investor Relations," and then "Governance Documents" within the "Investor Relations" menu. The Audit Committee charter requires that it meet at least four times annually or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Audit Committee met five times during the year ended December 31, 2015.

The Budget and Planning Committee consists of Messrs. Curtin (Chair), Cohn, Golden, Perry and Williams. The Budget and Planning Committee assists the Board in satisfying its overall responsibility with respect to review and approval of the Company's budget, financial management, capital management and strategic planning. The Budget and Planning Committee met four times during the year ended December 31, 2015.

#### Report of Audit Committee

The following Report of the Company's Audit Committee is provided in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Under rules promulgated by the SEC, the Company is required to provide certain information regarding the activities of its Audit Committee. In fulfillment of this requirement, the Audit Committee, at the discretion of the Board, has prepared the following report for inclusion in the Proxy Statement:

1. The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015 with management;
2. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 16, Communications with Audit Committees;
3. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountant required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communication with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent accountant the independent accountant's independence; and

4. Based on the review and discussions referred to in paragraphs 1 through 3 above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 for filing with the SEC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE OF DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

Anthony Bergamo, Chair  
Steven D. Cohn, Member  
Robert C. Golden, Member  
Joseph J. Perry, Member  
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## Directors' Compensation

Director compensation is established by the Board, based upon the recommendations of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee utilizes a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm and outside legal counsel to assist in performing its duties. The compensation consultant is instructed to analyze the Company's performance and Outside Director pay levels. A peer group of public banks and thrifts is used for comparison of both pay level and corporate performance. The Compensation Committee uses this analysis to assist it in understanding market practices and trends and to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of recommended compensation for its Outside Directors. The Committee also considers the input of executive management with respect to the compensation of its Outside Directors.

Fee Arrangements. Fee arrangements in existence during the year ended December 31, 2015 were summarized as follows:

A \$23,250 semi-annual retainer fee was paid in June 2015 and a \$27,750 semi-annual retainer fee paid in December 2015 to each Director in compliance with the Company's Director Retainer Policy. Effective subsequent to the March 2015 meeting, the semi-annual retainer fee was increased from \$18,750 to its current \$27,750 level and monthly meeting fee payments were discontinued. The \$23,250 payment made in June 2015 reflected service periods earned at both the previous and current levels.

A meeting attendance fee of \$1,500 was paid for meetings attended in January, February and March 2015. Effective subsequent to the March 2015 meeting, per meeting fees were discontinued, as this remuneration was incorporated into the semi-annual retainer fee.

\$1,000 for attendance at Committee meetings conducted on days when the full Board also met. \$1,250 for attendance at Committee meetings conducted on days when the full Board did not meet.

\$10,000 annual retainer fees paid in December to the Chairs of the Audit, Compensation and Risk Committees, provided such Chairs complied with the Company's Director Retainer Policy.

\$10,000 annual retainer fee paid in December to the Lead Director.

\$2,500 annual retainer fee paid in December to the Chair of the Governance Committee.

Directors' Retirement Plan. The Company has adopted the Retirement Plan for Board Members of Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Directors' Retirement Plan"), which provides benefits to each eligible Outside Director commencing on termination of Board service at or after age 65. An eligible Outside Director retiring at or after age 65 will be paid an annual retirement benefit equal to the amount of the aggregate compensation for services as a Director (excluding stock compensation) paid to him or her for the 12-month period immediately prior to termination of Board service, multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of years of service, up to a maximum of 10, as an Outside Director (including service as a Director or trustee of the Bank or any predecessor) and the denominator of which is 10. An individual who terminates Board service after having served as an Outside Director for 10 years may elect to begin collecting benefits under the Directors' Retirement Plan at or after attainment of age 55, however, the annual retirement benefits will be reduced pursuant to an early retirement reduction formula to reflect the commencement of benefit payments prior to age 65. An Outside Director may elect to have benefits distributed in any one of the following forms: (i) a single life annuity; (ii) a 50% or 100% joint and survivor annuity; or (iii) a single life annuity with a 5, 10, or 15 year guaranteed term. In the event that an Outside Director dies prior to the commencement of earned benefit payments under the Directors' Retirement Plan, a 50% survivor annuity will automatically be paid to his or her surviving spouse, unless the decedent has elected otherwise. This plan was frozen effective March 31, 2005. Only four of the eight active Outside Directors are eligible to participate in the Directors' Retirement Plan.

2001 Stock Option Plan. The Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. 2001 Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors, Officers and Employees (the "2001 Stock Option Plan") was adopted by the Company's Board of Directors and subsequently approved by its shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2001. The 2001 Stock Option Plan reached its ten year anniversary in November 2011, and future awards are no longer permitted thereunder.

2004 Stock Incentive Plan. The Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2004 Stock Incentive Plan") was initially adopted by the Company's Board of Directors and subsequently approved by its shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2004. Amendment Number One to the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan was adopted by the Company's Board of Directors in March 2008 and subsequently approved by its shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2008. The 2004 Stock Incentive Plan reached its ten year anniversary in May 2014, and future awards are no longer permitted thereunder.

2013 Equity and Incentive Plan. The 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan was adopted by the Company's Board of Directors and subsequently approved by the Company's shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2013. The 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan provides the Company with the flexibility to make equity compensation available to Outside Directors, officers (including the CEO) and other employees of the Company or its subsidiaries, and to offer cash-based incentive compensation in a tax-efficient manner to officers (including the CEO) and employees. At December 31, 2015, up to 858,489 shares of Common Stock were eligible for award grants to

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Directors, officers and employees of the Company under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the eight Outside Directors were each granted 3,141 restricted stock awards under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan, all of which vest to the respective recipients on May 1, 2016.

Director Stock Purchase Plan. In 2013, the Company established the Dime Community Bancshares, Inc. Director Stock Purchase Plan (the "DSPP"). The DSPP permits Outside Directors to receive, in the form of Common Stock, all or any portion of Board, Committee Chair or Lead Director retainers that are otherwise payable in cash. Any election must be made during a period when open market trading by the Outside Director is permitted, and can only be changed or revoked during a similar period. All elections and changes are subject to Compensation Committee approval. Elections are limited to a specific calendar year, and, therefore, must be renewed and approved by the Compensation Committee each year. Under the DSPP, cash compensation is converted into shares of Common Stock based on the closing price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq National Stock Market on the date on which the cash compensation would otherwise be paid.

The following table sets forth information regarding compensation earned by each Outside Director during the year ended December 31, 2015:

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Name	Fees Earned and Paid in Cash (1)	Fees Earned and Paid in Stock (2)	Stock Awards (3)	Change in	All Other Compensation(5)	Total
				Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings(4)		
Anthony Bergamo	\$75,500	\$—	\$50,000	\$ —	\$ 1,706	\$127,206
George L. Clark, Jr.	75,750	—	50,000	—	1,706	127,456
Steven D. Cohn	73,550	—	50,000	—	1,706	125,256
Patrick E. Curtin	69,550	—	50,000	—	1,706	121,256
Robert C. Golden	20,050	51,000	50,000	—	1,706	122,756
Kathleen M. Nelson	70,550	—	50,000	—	1,706	122,256
Joseph J. Perry	67,500	10,000	50,000	—	1,706	129,206
Omer S. J. Williams	76,250	—	50,000	—	1,706	127,956

(1) Includes cash retainer payments, meeting fees, and committee and/or chairperson fees earned during the year.

For Mr. Golden, amount represents an election under the DSPP to receive his semi-annual retainer in the form of Common Stock. The amount reflects the aggregate values on the June 25, 2015 and December 22, 2015 grant dates, computed as 1,332 shares multiplied by a value of \$17.45 per share on June 25, 2015 (the Common Stock closing price on that date), and 1,590 shares multiplied by a value of \$17.45 per share on December 22, 2015 (the Common Stock closing price on that date). For Mr. Perry, amount represents an election under the DSPP to receive his 2015 Risk Committee Chair retainer in the form of Common Stock. The amount reflected is the value on the December 22, 2015 grant date, computed as 573 shares multiplied by a value of \$17.45 per share (the Common Stock closing price on that date).

Represents the value of the award on the April 30, 2015 grant date, computed as 3,141 shares multiplied by an award value of \$15.92 per share (the Common Stock closing price on April 30, 2015). All of these award shares vest on May 1, 2016.

(4)

Includes for each individual the increase (if any) for the year in the present value of the individual's accrued benefit (whether or not vested) under each tax-qualified actuarial or defined benefit plan calculated by comparing the present value of each individual's accrued benefit under each such plan in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 715 as of the plan's measurement date in such fiscal year to the present value of the individual's accrued benefit as of the plan's measurement date in the prior fiscal year. The Outside Directors do not participate in any plan under which they can earn nonqualified deferred compensation.

- (5) Amount represents dividends paid on unvested restricted stock awards that were granted on April 30, 2014 and April 30, 2015.

Executive Officers

The following individuals are executive officers of the Company and/or the Bank, holding the offices set forth opposite their names:

Name	Position Held (3)
Vincent F. Palagiano	Chairman of the Board and CEO
Kenneth J. Mahon	President and COO (1)
Daniel J. Harris	EVP and CLO
Terence J. Mitchell	EVP and CRTO
Lance J. Bennett	EVP, General Counsel and Secretary
Timothy B. King	EVP and Chief Risk Officer ("CRIO")
Timothy K. Lenhoff	EVP and Chief Technology Officer
Michael Pucella	EVP and CAO(2)
Roberto S. Volino	EVP and Chief Investment Officer

(1) Prior to January 1, 2016, Mr. Mahon served as SEVP and COO.

(2) Mr. Pucella serves as Principal Financial Officer of the Company and Bank in this capacity.

(3) Mr. Devine served as President until his retirement on December 31, 2015.

The executive officers are elected annually and hold office until their respective successors have been elected and qualified, or until death, resignation or removal by the Board of Directors. The Company and Bank have entered into Employment Agreements with Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon (the "Employment Agreements") which set forth the terms of their employment. Mr. Devine had Employment Agreements with the Company and Bank, which terminated upon his retirement on December 31, 2015. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – 6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package – Other Elements of the Executive Compensation Package - Potential Payments Upon Termination and Change of Control."

Biographical information of the executive officers who are not Directors of the Company or Bank is set forth below.

Lance J. Bennett, age 64, has been with the Bank and Company since 2002, and has over 27 years of banking experience. Mr. Bennett was hired as Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of both the Company and Bank, and was promoted to First Vice President of both the Company and Bank in 2004, Senior Vice President of both the Company and Bank in 2007, and EVP of both the Company and Bank in 2011. He currently serves as General Counsel and Secretary of both the Company and Bank, responsible for all legal matters as well as corporate governance. He additionally oversees the corporate insurance functions of both the Company and Bank.

Daniel J. Harris, age 59, has served as EVP and CLO of the Bank since January 2008. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Harris served as EVP & Chief Credit Officer at Hudson Valley Bank, a commercial bank and financial services company, and CEO of Lowestloan.com; a nationwide mortgage banker. Prior to those roles, Mr. Harris held senior positions at Credit Re Mortgage Capital, The Greater New York Savings Bank and Dollar Dry Dock Bank. Mr. Harris earned a Juris Doctor from St. John's University and previously practiced law, with a specialty in real estate, as an employee of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. as well as two New York law firms.

Timothy B. King, age 57, has over 33 years of banking experience, and has been with the Bank since 1983. Mr. King was promoted to Treasurer of the Bank in 1989, Vice President of the Bank in 1993, Treasurer of the Company at its inception in 1995, First Vice President of both the Company and Bank in 1997, Senior Vice President of both the

Company and the Bank in 1999 and EVP of both the Company and the Bank in 2008. In 2002, Mr. King was named the Chief Investment Officer of both the Company and Bank, overseeing the securities investment function of both entities. In March 2011, Mr. King was named the CRIO of both the Company and the Bank, in charge of oversight of all risk management functions of both entities.

Timothy K. Lenhoff, age 58 joined the Bank in October 2014, as the EVP and Chief Technology Officer. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Lenhoff served as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Columbia Bank from 2007 to 2014. During a 23 year career with BISYS and Open Solutions from 1983 to 2007, he held a variety of senior management roles where he directed client service, product management, training and implementation activities supporting banking institutions across the United States. Mr. Lenhoff has over 31 years of experience in the banking and technology industry. Mr. Lenhoff currently oversees the management, planning, implementation, and infrastructure and network security protocol for all information technology utilized by the Bank.

Terence J. Mitchell, age 63, has been an EVP and the CRTO of the Bank since December 2010. Mr. Mitchell oversees all retail banking operations, including Dime Direct (the Bank's call center), Marketing, Deposit Operations, Alternative Investments and

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Facilities. Mr. Mitchell was most recently EVP and Senior Market Leader for Sovereign Bank's New York and New Jersey metropolitan division. Prior to that, he served at Independence Community Bank for 33 years, rising to the position of EVP and President of Consumer Banking. Mr. Mitchell has served on the Boards of numerous not-for-profit organizations in the Brooklyn community.

Michael Pucella, age 62, was promoted to Comptroller of the Bank in 1989 and of the Company at its inception in 1995, Vice President of both the Company and Bank in 1996, First Vice President of both the Company and Bank in 1997, Senior Vice President of both the Company and the Bank in 1999, and EVP of both the Company and Bank in 2009. He currently serves as the CAO of both the Company and Bank, responsible for financial reporting, budgeting, corporate planning and tax administration. In March 2014, Mr. Pucella was named the Company's principal financial officer. Mr. Pucella has been with the Bank since 1981, and has over 41 years of banking experience. He additionally oversees the Human Resources functions of the Company and Bank.

Roberto S. Volino, age 44, has been with the Bank since 1999, and has over 21 years of experience with banking or related financial institutions. Mr. Volino began his career with the Bank as a securities portfolio analyst, and received several promotions prior to being named Vice President and Treasurer of the Bank in 2007. He was subsequently promoted to First Vice President and Treasurer of the Bank in 2009, and to his current title of EVP and Chief Investment Officer of the Bank in 2014 and the Holding Company in 2015. Mr. Volino currently oversees the asset and liability management activities of both the Holding Company and Bank, which includes both investment and funding strategies, as well as management of liquidity and capitalization reserves. Mr. Volino also oversees the loan servicing, operations support, financial forecasting and electronic funds transfer activities of both the Company and Bank.

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

### Introduction

The names and titles of the Company's Named Executive Officers for the year ended December 31, 2015 were as follows:

Name	Title
Vincent F. Palagiano	Chairman of the Board and CEO
Michael P. Devine <sup>1</sup>	Vice Chairman of the Board and President
Kenneth J. Mahon <sup>2</sup>	SEVP and COO
Michael Pucella	EVP and CAO (Principal Financial Officer)
Daniel J. Harris <sup>3</sup>	EVP and CLO
Terence J. Mitchell <sup>3</sup>	EVP and CRTO

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Devine retired as President effective December 31, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Mahon was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer effective January 1, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> As a result of the insignificant differential in their compensation, Messrs. Harris and Mitchell are both included in this Proxy Statement as Named Executive Officers.

Set forth below are: (i) a description of the Company's decision making process for compensating the Named Executive Officers, (ii) a discussion of the background and objectives of the Company's compensation programs for the Named Executive Officers, and (iii) a description of the material elements of the compensation of each of the Named Executive Officers.

The descriptions of compensation plans, programs and individual arrangements referred to in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis that are governed by written documents are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of their governing documents. Other than broad-based plans applicable to substantially all salaried employees, these documents have been filed as exhibits to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended

December 31, 2015 and are incorporated herein by this reference.

The goals of the executive compensation program are to enable the Company to attract, develop and retain strong executive officers capable of maximizing the Company's performance for the benefit of its shareholders. The Company's executive compensation philosophy is, consistent with prudent banking business practices, to provide competitive target compensation opportunities with actual amounts earned commensurate with its financial performance and the generation of long-term value for shareholders through dividends and stock price appreciation. To accomplish these goals, the Company sets a base salary to provide a reasonable level of predictable base income and near- and long-term performance-based compensation to provide the Named Executive Officers with clear opportunities to increase the value of their compensation by positive contribution to stockholder interests. The pay elements are intended to balance an appropriate mix of risk and return. Annual incentive awards are designed to provide incentives to encourage efforts to attain near-term goals which do not encourage excessive risk taking. Longer term incentive and stock awards are structured to align the executive's interests with those of the Company's shareholders and serve to retain executives over the long term.

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1. 2015 Corporate Highlights

Net income was \$44.8 million, or \$1.23 per diluted share, compared to \$44.2 million, or \$1.23 per diluted share during the year ended December 31, 2014.

The Company met its loan growth target, achieving 14% growth.

Asset quality remained solid, with non-performing assets ending the year at 0.06%, down from 0.16% at December 31, 2014.

Returns of 0.96% on average assets and 9.40% on average equity ranked in the top quartile compared to the peer group used to compare both executive pay levels and Company performance.

2. 2015 Executive Compensation Highlights

Compensation levels and practices remained consistent with prior years. With the exception of Mr. Mahon, base salary increases for the Named Executive Officers did not exceed 3.0%. Mr. Mahon's 2015 salary increase was 11.0% as a result of an increase in his responsibilities.

For most participants, both annual and long-term target award opportunities were increased slightly from their 2014 levels, reflecting a growth in forecasted earnings for 2015.

As discussed above, actual net income and diluted earnings per share equaled or slightly exceeded 2014 levels. Based upon this performance, slightly higher annual and long-term incentives were achieved in 2015.

The mixture of compensation in the form of base salary, annual incentives and long-term incentives remained substantially intact.

The Compensation Committee continued to use a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm in fulfilling its compensation oversight role.

There was no change in the peer group utilized to benchmark the Company's corporate performance and compensation practices.

3. Say on Pay Results.

At the Company's 2015 annual shareholders meeting, approximately 97.0% of the votes by shareholders were cast in favor of a non-binding resolution to approve Named Executive Officer compensation. The Compensation Committee regarded the results of this vote as supportive of its approach to Named Executive Officer compensation and, therefore did not change its executive compensation policies or decisions as a consequence of the shareholder vote. The Company continues to offer an annual say-on-pay vote.

4. Significant Compensation Practices and Policies

The Company's significant compensation practices and policies are summarized as follows:

WHAT THE COMPANY DOES

<p>Pay for performance: Significant portions of the Named Executive Officer compensation are delivered through variable compensation plans where payouts are contingent on Company performance relative to pre-established goals.</p> <p>Use of multiple performance measures: Both the annual incentive and cash-based, multi-year long-term incentive plans use multiple performance measures to reflect a holistic assessment of performance.</p> <p>Clawback policy: The Company has adopted a policy to recoup payments to Named Executive Officers in the event of financial restatements.</p> <p>Negative discretion: The Compensation Committee may exercise negative discretion to reduce the formulaic pay-for-performance compensation.</p>	<p>Balance of short-term and sustained results: The Company uses a balanced approach to annual and long-term incentives that reinforces performance without encouraging inappropriate risk taking.</p> <p>Minimum stock ownership and retention guidelines: The Company has adopted stock ownership and retention guidelines to further align the interests of the Named Executive Officers with those of shareholders.</p> <p>Pay caps on cash-based awards: The Company uses pay caps at the individual or overall plan funding levels to mitigate risk.</p> <p>Hedging and pledging of Company stock by executive officers or Outside Directors is prohibited.</p>
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WHAT THE COMPANY DOES NOT DO

<p>No single trigger change of control payments.</p> <p>No "gross-up" reimbursement for income tax liabilities associated with equity award vesting and/or pass through dividends on unvested equity award shares.</p>	<p>No excessive perquisites.</p> <p>No repricing of underwater stock options.</p>
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5. Linkage Between Pay and Performance

Significant Portion of Annual Compensation is Performance-Linked. A substantial portion (approximately 50% in the case of the CEO) of the total annual compensation of each Named Executive Officer is linked to the achievement of corporate performance objectives. The following bar graph reflects the breakdown of each Named Executive Officer's total compensation, including the approximate target portion, that is performance linked as either cash-based Long-Term Incentive awards ("Cash LTI") or Annual Incentive compensation.

- (1) Base salary reflects the amounts discussed in "6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package Base Salary."
- (2) Equity LTI, which is not considered to be performance-based, reflects the amounts discussed in "6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package Long-Term Incentives."
- (3) Cash LTI, which is considered to be performance-based, reflects the amounts discussed in "6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package Long-Term Incentives."
- (4) Annual Incentive, which is considered to be performance-based, reflects the amounts discussed in "6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package Annual Incentives."

Peer Group. In making executive compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee seeks to maintain a strong linkage between pay and corporate performance, both in absolute terms and in relation to a designated peer group. The Compensation Committee uses the same peer group both to form its determination of the competitiveness of its compensation practices and to assess corporate performance. Please see "7. Material Policies and Procedures - Benchmarking and Survey Data" for further discussion of the peer group.

Performance Assessment at December 31, 2015. For 2015, the Compensation Committee reviewed the following performance measures over 1- and 3-year periods on both an absolute basis and relative to members of its designated peer group:

Performance Measure(1)	1-Year Period Ending December 31, 2015		3-Year Period Ending December 31, 2015	
	Absolute Performance	Percentile Rank(2)	Absolute Performance	Percentile Rank(2)
Performance Measures Linked to Compensation Awards				
Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") (3)	11.18%	25 <sup>th</sup> to 50 <sup>th</sup>	40.14%	25 <sup>th</sup> to 50 <sup>th</sup>
Core Earnings Per Share ("Core EPS")(4)	N/A	N/A	\$3.30	N/A
Reported Return on Average Equity ("ROAE")	9.40%	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	9.94%	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Non-interest expense as a percentage of average assets	1.34	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	1.44	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Return on Average Assets ("ROAA")	0.96	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	1.03	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Reported Earnings Per Share ("EPS") (5)	\$1.23	N/A	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Measures Reviewed in Determining Compensation Awards				
EPS Growth Rate	-%	25 <sup>th</sup> to 50 <sup>th</sup>	5.1%	Below 25 <sup>th</sup>
Core EPS Before Credit Costs(6)	\$1.07	N/A	N/A	N/A
Return on Average Risk Weighted Assets (or comparable measure)	1.28%	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>	1.38%	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Cash Return on Average Equity	10.08	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	10.68	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Efficiency Ratio	48.52	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	46.99	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Non-performing assets to total assets	0.06	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	0.18	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Net charge-offs to average loans	(0.03)	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	(0.01)	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Tangible capital to tangible assets	8.98	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>	8.98	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>

(1) Please refer to the Appendix for a discussion of the definition and/or computation of these performance measures.

(2) In all instances, a higher percentile ranking is more favorable regardless of whether the preferred underlying performance measure is a lower value.

While TSR is a key measure, the Compensation Committee recognizes that this metric may be influenced by external factors unrelated to the Company's fundamentals and that percentile rank relative to peers may be distorted (3) when the peer group is small and when peer group members experience high or low stock values at the beginning or end of the measurement period. The Compensation Committee therefore additionally considers the Company's relative TSR performance over 5- and 10-year periods in its review.

Given the nature of the computation of this measure, comparable measures for the peer group cannot readily be (4) determined. As a result, percentile rank is not presented. This measure is not analyzed by the Compensation Committee for the one-year period.

Reported EPS is not a metric that can readily be compared between companies due to the difference in capital structures of each company. The Company instead reviews its periodic percentage change in Reported EPS in (5) comparison to the peer group, as the periodic percentage change in Reported EPS is deemed a more suitable comparative measure.

(6) Given the nature of the computation of this measure, comparable measures for the peer group cannot readily be determined. As a result, percentile rank is not presented. This measure is not analyzed by the Compensation

Committee for the three-year period.

Viewing all of the performance measures in the aggregate, the Compensation Committee regarded the Company's performance to be well above the peer group medians for both the one- and three-year periods reviewed. As described later, the results of this performance significantly impacted the ultimate payouts to the Named Executive Officers.

In making recommendations to the Compensation Committee, management also considers the Company's performance related to broader peer groups. SNL Financial, L.C., a highly respected firm that provides business intelligence for the financial services sector, annually publishes performance rankings for the largest 100 savings banks based upon total assets derived from the following metrics: 1) ROAA; 2) return on average tangible equity; 3) median three-year growth in tangible book value; 4) efficiency ratio; 5) non-performing loans to total loans; and 5) net charge-offs to average loans. For the most recent five years, the Company's performance in the SNL ranking was as follows:

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Year Ended December 31,	Rank (1)
2010	5 <sup>th</sup> best
2011	4 <sup>th</sup> best
2012	5 <sup>th</sup> best
2013	4 <sup>th</sup> best
2014	4 <sup>th</sup> best

- (1) Since these rankings are published in May of each year based upon the results of the prior fiscal year, rankings for performance during the year ended December 31, 2015 have not published.

The Company is also one of approximately 200 banking institutions included in the Russell 2000 Index, an index in which inclusion is derived primarily from aggregate market capitalization. Management also considered the Company's performance relative to the banking institutions that are members of the Russell 2000. The Company's relative one-year and three year performance for the period ended December 31, 2015 compared to the Russell 2000 index member banks was as follows:

Performance Measure	One-Year Percentile Rank	Three-Year Percentile Rank
ROAA	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>
ROAE	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>
Efficiency Ratio	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Non-performing assets to total assets	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>
Net charge-offs to total loans	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>	Above 75 <sup>th</sup>

#### 6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package

The Company's 2015 compensation program for Named Executive Officers consisted of three key elements:

- Base salary to provide a reasonable level of recurring income;
- Annual incentives to motivate the Named Executive Officers to achieve short-term operating objectives; and
- Long-term incentives designed to retain talented employees and provide an incentive to maximize shareholder return in the longer term.

The Company additionally provides certain retirement plans, termination benefits, fringe benefits and perquisites, in some instances for a large group of employees and in others limited to one or more executives.

**Base Salary.** The Company seeks to pay competitive base salaries by establishing a median pay level approach (See "7. Material Policies and Procedures – Benchmarking and Survey Data" for further detail regarding the methods used to that end). Executive base salary levels are generally reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted as appropriate. The Company desires to compensate executives fairly while being sensitive to managing fixed costs.

For 2015, the Compensation Committee considered prevailing market conditions, individual contributions, and Company performance, and with the input of a competitive compensation review conducted by a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm, recommended a 2.1% increase in base salary from \$710,000 to \$725,000 for Mr. Palagiano, a 3.0% increase in base salary from \$307,500 to \$316,725 for Mr. Pucella and a 3.0% increase in base salary from \$345,425 to \$355,788 for both Messrs. Harris and Mitchell. In 2015, Mr. Mahon's salary was increased by 11.0%, from \$450,400 to \$500,000, as part of a multi-year strategy to adjust his base pay in consideration of the increase in his position responsibilities.

**Annual Incentives.** Under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Named Executive Officers may be awarded the opportunity to earn an annual cash payment based on the degree of achievement of pre-determined, formulaic performance measures. These award opportunities are referred to as the Annual Incentive Plan ("AIP"). For 2015, the Company used a goal attainment approach to determine annual incentive payments for the Named Executive Officers. Under this approach, maximum annual incentive award opportunities of \$532,500 \$378,000 and \$337,500 were established for Messrs. Palagiano, Devine and Mahon, respectively, for threshold achievement of any of three key measures, and threshold, target and maximum bonus opportunities were established for the remaining executive

officers, including Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell, to provide competitive target cash compensation opportunities. Target represented the payout level for performance at expectation. A

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threshold opportunity for performance below which no award was paid was set at 50% of target and a maximum payout of 150% of target was set to reward superior performance.

The award opportunities were then linked with performance goals established early in 2015 to assist the Company in meeting its growth and profitability objectives for 2015, which were rooted in the formal capital planning reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors (the "Capital Plan").

For Mr. Palagiano, Mr. Devine and Mr. Mahon, performance for purposes of 2015 annual incentives was largely assessed on three significant corporate financial measures ("corporate measures"): ROAA, as adjusted for the after-tax impact of significant income or expense items that were deemed non-recurring in nature ("Core ROA") (weighted 25%), Non-interest expense to average assets (weighted 25%) and Reported EPS (weighted 50%). Target levels of performance were set as follows:

- Reported EPS – The \$1.23 Reported (diluted) EPS earned during the year ended December 31, 2014
- Core ROA - The Company's median value of 1.04% achieved during the 10 fiscal years ended December 31, 2014;
- Non-interest expense as a percentage of average assets - The Company's median value of 1.43% achieved in during the 10 fiscal years ended December 31, 2014; and

Results of the corporate measures relative to the pre-established objectives were used to determine preliminary payout levels at the end of 2015. To balance incentives to achieve financial results against the need to discourage excessive risk-taking, the Compensation Committee also considered Company performance on supplemental measures, including efficiency ratio, non-performing assets (in dollars and as a percentage of average total assets), net charge-offs (in dollars and as a percentage of average loans) and capital ratios, relative to historical and peer results. The Compensation Committee may exercise judgment to adjust the payout levels from the preliminary amounts based on its review of performance of supplemental or other relevant measures, but may not increase the payouts to Messrs. Palagiano, Devine or Mahon above the pre-established maximums.

2015 Performance measure results relative to goals were as follows:

Key Measures (1)	Weight	Threshold	Target	Superior	Result	Result as an Interpolated Percentage of the Target	Weighted Result
Reported EPS	50 %	\$ 0.92	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.54	\$ 1.23	100.0 %	50.00 %
Core ROA	25 %	0.78 %	1.04 %	1.30 %	0.92 %	76.9 %	19.23 %
Non-interest expense to average assets	25 %	1.79 %	1.43 %	1.07 %	1.34 %	112.5 %	28.13 %
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>97.35 %</b>

(1) Please refer to the Appendix for a discussion of the computation of the key measures.

The Compensation Committee, in consideration of overall financial results and the aforementioned supplemental measures, approved payment amounts to Mr. Palagiano of \$345,000 (97.4% of target payout, and 99.8% of payment calculation); Mr. Devine of \$245,000 (97.4% of target payout, and 99.8% of payment calculation); and Mr. Mahon of \$219,000 (97.4% of target payout, and 100.0% of payment calculation).

For Messrs. Harris, Mitchell and Pucella, performance of the corporate measures noted above determined 50% of their annual incentive opportunity. The remaining 50% was derived from their performance on pre-established individual strategic goals, deemed highly valuable to the Company's successful achievement of its 2015 growth and profitability objectives. Based upon the combined performance relative to their respective corporate and individual target incentive opportunities, approved annual incentive payments of \$145,000 were made to Mr. Harris and Mr. Mitchell (116.4% of their respective aggregate target award opportunities) and \$120,000 to Mr. Pucella (108.2% of his target

award opportunity). The bonuses paid to Messrs. Harris and Mitchell, and to a lesser extent Mr. Pucella, were favorably impacted by superior performance achieved during 2015 on certain loan and deposit strategic goals that impacted the calculated individual performance component of their respective incentive opportunities. The aggregate bonus paid to all executives totaled 104.1% of the target payout and 99.0% of the payment calculation. For the performance period ended December 31, 2015, the aggregate AIP payment made to the Company's Named Executive Officers was 2.7% of total recorded net income, compared to 3.0% in 2014.

Long-Term Incentives. The Compensation Committee believes that long-term incentives ("LTI") in the form of restricted stock awards or stock options are, in most cases, an effective method of aligning executive rewards with the creation of value for shareholders through stock appreciation. The Company also uses the Cash LTI which enhances overall pay for performance since the

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value earned relates directly to the Company's performance on selected key metrics. Considering Mr. Palagiano's already significant stock ownership, the Committee provides his long-term incentives solely from the Cash LTI. The LTI for each of the Named Executive Officers, other than Mr. Palagiano, are generally provided 50% in the form of restricted stock awards and 50% in the form of the Cash LTI.

In consideration of the Company's performance for the year ended December 31, 2014, the Compensation Committee recommended, and the Board granted, LTI awards to the Named Executive Officers as indicated in the following chart, after considering the nationally recognized compensation consulting firm's assessment of comparable practices at the 2014 peer group as well as Company and individual performance, the 2014 operating environment and competitive market conditions.

Executive	Total Target LTI	LTI Allocation		Cash LTI Opportunity			Restricted Stock Award Grant
		Cash LTI	Restricted Stock Awards	Threshold	Target	Maximum	
Vincent F. Palagiano	\$400,000	100%	-	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$600,000	-
Michael P. Devine	250,000	50%	50%	62,500	125,000	187,500	\$125,000
Kenneth J. Mahon	250,000	50%	50%	62,500	125,000	187,500	125,000
Michael Pucella	123,523	50%	50%	30,881	61,761	92,643	61,761
Daniel J. Harris	149,431	50%	50%	37,358	74,715	112,073	74,715
Terence J. Mitchell	149,431	50%	50%	37,358	74,715	112,073	74,715

All of the restricted stock award grants in the table above were made effective April 30, 2015, vest over four years and had a grant date fair value of \$15.92 per restricted stock share. The Company intends to make selective equity awards in the future as part of its ongoing competitive executive compensation program. Please refer to Note 14 of the Company's financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 for information on the calculation of these award values.

With regard to the Cash LTI opportunity, each Named Executive Officer can earn either a target payout, representing 50% of his total long-term incentive award value, and which is paid for performance at expectation, a threshold payout level (50% of the target payout), which is paid for a baseline level of acceptable performance to receive any award, or a maximum payout (150% of the target payout) which is paid for exceptional performance.

The period for measurement of the Cash LTI opportunity awarded in 2015 is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017, and the criteria and weights for payment for this performance period are as follows:

Performance Goal	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Criteria Weight in Determining Payout	
TSR (percentile rank in peer group)	40 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	74 <sup>th</sup>	50	%
Cumulative Core EPS(1)	\$ 2.99	\$ 3.52	\$ 4.05	25	%
Average Annualized Reported ROAE	7.31	8.60%	9.89%	25	%

(1) Please refer to the Appendix for a discussion of the computation of Cumulative Core EPS.

The Compensation Committee does not have discretion to increase the size of the payout or to award compensation if the goals are not met, but may exercise negative discretion considering the Company's performance relative to peers and other relevant factors. Payment will be made in cash in the first quarter of 2018 if the Named Executive Officer is

employed on December 31, 2017. If the Named Executive Officer's employment terminates prior to that date due to death, disability or retirement, the Company's obligation will be prorated for performance as of the date of termination and paid at the end of the performance period unless the Compensation Committee determines otherwise. The Compensation Committee may provide for immediate payout in the case of death. In the event of a change of control, performance will be assessed through the change of control date and prorated payment made as soon as possible after that date. If the actual performance results cannot be calculated, the target will be used.

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A similar LTI arrangement implemented in 2013 for the 3-year period ended December 31, 2015 was settled in March 2016. The established performance goals, actual achievement levels and LTI earned for the measurement period are shown in the following table:

Performance Goal	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Actual	Achievement (% of Target)(1)	Weighted Achievement(1)
TSR (percentile rank in peer group) (2)	40 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	74 <sup>th</sup>	36 <sup>th</sup>	-	-%
Cumulative Core EPS (3)	\$2.62	\$2.91	\$3.20	\$3.30	150.00%	37.50%
Average Annualized Reported ROAE	6.79%	7.99%	9.19%	9.91%	150.00%	37.50%
Total Payout						75.00%

(1) The Weighted Achievement is calculated as the Achievement (% of Target) multiplied by the weighting of the respective performance goal in determining the payout amount. In accordance with the plan, TSR was provided a 50% weighting, while Cumulative Core EPS and Average Annualized Reported ROAE were each provided a 25% weighting. See "Compensation – Compensation Plans - Long Term Cash Incentive Payment Plan" for a further discussion of the applicable provisions of the plan.

(2) The peer group was developed, as of December 31, 2012, by a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm, and consisted of the following: Flushing Financial Corp., Investors Bancorp, Inc., Kearny Financial Corp, OceanFirst Financial Corporation, Oritani Financial Corp., Provident Financial, Signature Bank, Sterling Bancorp, Sun Bancorp, Inc., TrustCo Bank Corp and Valley National Bancorp

(3) Please refer to the Appendix for a discussion of the computation of Cumulative Core EPS.

The payment made to each Named Executive Officer in March 2016 for settlement of this Cash LTI was as follows:

Name	Weighted Achievement %	Payment Upon Settlement
Vincent F. Palagiano	75.0	\$335,475
Michael P. Devine	75.0	105,000
Kenneth J. Mahon	75.0	70,200
Michael Pucella	75.0	43,875
Daniel J. Harris	75.0	53,078
Terence J. Mitchell	75.0	51,188

The Compensation Committee, in its effort to align the program with shareholder interests, weights TSR as 50% of the criteria in determining payouts of the long-term incentives for the Named Executive Officers. Despite the Company's strong financial performance on an absolute basis and compared to its peer group and expanded peer groups, in recent periods, its TSR has lagged the same peer groups. Long-term incentive compensation reflected this circumstance, as recent payments to the Named Executive Officers have been limited and contain no payments relative to TSR.

Other Elements of the Executive Compensation Package.

The Company's compensation program for Named Executive Officers consisted of the following additional elements: Retirement Plan – The Bank maintains the Retirement Plan of The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh (the "Retirement Plan"), a noncontributory, tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan for eligible employees; however, all participant benefits under the Retirement Plan were frozen in effective April 1, 2000, and no benefits have been accrued under the Retirement Plan since that date.

401(k) Plan – The Bank maintains the 401(k) Plan, which is a tax-qualified defined contribution plan permitting salaried employees with at least one year of service to make pre-tax salary deferrals under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"). Each participant receives a fully vested contribution of 3% of "covered compensation" as defined in the 401(k) Plan, up to applicable Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") limits. The 3% contribution was required through 2006, after which it became discretionary.

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**ESOP** – The Company maintains a tax-qualified employee stock ownership plan ("ESOP") for the benefit of eligible employees. The ESOP enables employees to acquire an ownership interest in the Company and accumulate additional retirement benefits. All of the Company's and Bank's salaried employees are eligible to become participants in the ESOP after one year of employment.

**BMP** – The Bank maintains a Benefit Maintenance Plan ("BMP"), which provides eligible employees with benefits that would be due under the Retirement Plan, ESOP and 401(k) Plan, if such benefits were not limited under the Code. Effective April 1, 2000, Retirement Plan benefit accruals were frozen, thus eliminating related benefit accruals under the BMP. Increases in present value are reported in the Summary Compensation Table under the column Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings.

In December 2010, the Compensation Committee approached Messrs. Palagiano, Devine and Mahon with a proposal to amend the terms of their respective Employment Agreements. The proposed changes included computing bonus-related severance payments with reference to recent rather than highest historical bonuses, reducing the severance compensation multiple from five years of annual compensation in certain cases to three years in all cases, eliminating a supplemental retirement benefit payable on termination following a change in control and replacing the executive's right to a "single trigger" of the payment obligations on a change of control (i.e., the "right to walk" and receive severance pay), with a "double trigger" requiring either termination without cause or resignation with good reason. At that time, the estimated value of the Employment Agreements under a change of control (plus discharge) aggregated \$45.4 million, pre-tax.

The Employment Agreements constitute contracts between the Company and the executives. In order to be binding upon the executives, any amendments require that the executives receive adequate consideration in return for the modifications. The Board offered \$7.0 million, in the aggregate, to the three executives, to be earned over a 5-year period beginning with the year ended December 31, 2011, under defined conditions, including that of providing continuing services to the Company over the earn-out period ("BMP Annual Service Credits"). In February 2011, the executives agreed to the changes, and the initial BMP Annual Service Credit installment was made to the BMP. Although the Company undertook the entire contractual obligation for the BMP Annual Service Credits in 2011, SEC reporting rules require that they be reported in the Summary Compensation Table ratably as they are credited to the executives' BMP accounts.

The BMP Annual Service Credits, which total \$1.4 million annually on a pre-tax basis, are not considered "performance based" compensation. However, by amending the existing Employment Agreements, the Company reduced the maximum potential payment obligation of the three Employment Agreements by an estimated \$28.2 million at the time of the amendments.

The final BMP Annual Service Credit was made in 2015.

**2013 Equity and Incentive Plan** – The Company's Board of Directors has adopted the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan, which was approved by the Company's shareholders at their 2013 annual meeting. The 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan provides the Company with the flexibility to make equity compensation available to Outside Directors, officers (including the CEO) and other employees of the Company or its subsidiaries, and continue to offer cash- and performance-based incentive compensation in a tax-efficient manner to officers (including the CEO) and employees. Under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan, up to 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock were originally eligible for award grants to either to Directors, Named Executive Officers or other officers and employees of the Company. As of December 31, 2015, 858,489 shares remained eligible for future grant under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan. Equity awards made to Named Executive Officers typically vest over a four-year period, and, in the case of stock options, are not permitted to be re-priced subsequent to grant.

**Perquisites** – Certain Named Executive Officers are provided with modest perquisites, including use of a Company car and professional financial planning and tax preparation services. The Company provides these benefits in kind; however, the Compensation Committee considers the cost of these items in establishing the other elements of compensation. The Company provides these benefits because they are usual and customary in the industry.

Potential Payments Upon Termination and Change of Control – The Company believes it is in its best interests to provide severance benefits to the Named Executive Officers in the event of their termination of employment under certain circumstances. Specifically, Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon are, and until December 31, 2015 Mr. Devine was (together Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon are referred to herein as the "Senior Executives"), entitled to severance benefits upon their termination of employment by the Company without cause, resignation for good reason, or termination of employment and a change of control. Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell (the "Contract Employees") have change of control agreements that provide severance benefits payable only upon a change of control and termination of their employment by the Bank or its successors without cause or their

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resignation for good reason, in each case, within certain periods following or preceding a change of control. The Company and Bank have determined that these types of protections are required in order to retain talented and qualified executive officers. The Compensation Committee has determined that a more comprehensive employment agreement with change of control triggers is necessary to retain the Senior Executives.

Employment Agreements and Change in Control Agreements. Consistent with the practices of other financial institutions of similar size and business mix in the greater New York metropolitan area, the Company and Bank have entered into employment or change in control severance agreements with each of their executive officers. The Company considers these arrangements important retention devices. They also provide a measure of financial security for executive officers so that, when faced with the prospect of a negotiated or unsolicited merger opportunity, they can focus on the business of the Company with reduced personal distractions. The Company periodically reviews the terms of these agreements against the publicly disclosed terms and conditions of contracts at other institutions and compares their projected costs to those disclosed for similar contracts in the merger proxy statements in recent financial institution mergers. The Employment Agreements were amended and restated in 2011 to reflect the most recent such review.

Employment Agreements with the Senior Executives. At December 31, 2015, the Company and Bank were parties to the Employment Agreements with each of the Senior Executives. These Employment Agreements establish the respective duties and compensation of the Senior Executives and are intended to ensure that both the Company and Bank can maintain a stable and competent management base. The continued success of the Company and Bank depend to a significant degree on the skills and competence of the Senior Executives.

The Employment Agreements provide for three-year terms. The Bank's Employment Agreements provide that, on each anniversary date, the Bank's Board of Directors may agree, after conducting a performance evaluation of the Senior Executive, to extend his Employment Agreement for an additional year, so that the remaining term shall be three years. The Bank's Employment Agreements with Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon have been extended to a December 31, 2018 expiration date. The Company's Employment Agreements provide for automatic daily extensions unless written notice of non-renewal is provided by the Board of Directors or the Senior Executive, in which event the Employment Agreement shall end on the third anniversary of such notice. Mr. Devine's Employment Agreements with both the Company and Bank terminated effective as of his December 31, 2015 retirement as a Senior Executive.

The Employment Agreements provide for termination by the Bank or the Company at any time for cause as defined in the Employment Agreements. In the event that either the Company or Bank chooses to terminate a Senior Executive other than for cause, or a Senior Executive resigns from the Bank or Company for "good reason" as defined in the Employment Agreements, the Senior Executive or, in the event of death, his beneficiary, would be entitled to a lump sum cash payment in an amount equal to the remaining base salary and bonus payments (based upon current target or highest of his last three bonus payments, whichever is greater) due to the Senior Executive and the additional contributions or benefits that would have been earned under any employee benefit plans during the remaining term of the Employment Agreement and payments that would have been made under any non-equity incentive compensation plan during the remaining term of the Employment Agreement. The Senior Executive would also have the right to receive a lump sum cash payment of benefits to which he would have been entitled under the BMP. Both the Bank and Company would also continue the Senior Executive's life, health and disability insurance coverage for the remaining term of the Employment Agreement. For purposes of the Employment Agreements, "good reason" generally means: (i) assignment of duties inconsistent with the Senior Executive's status or a substantial adverse alteration in the nature or status of responsibilities or a requirement to report to a different position, (ii) reduction in annual base salary (unless mandated at the initiation of applicable regulatory authority), (iii) failure to pay compensation or deferred compensation within seven days of when due unless inadvertent, immaterial or cured after notice, (iv) failure to continue in effect compensation plans material to total compensation (or substitute plans) with respect to the Senior Executive, (v) failure to continue to provide certain benefits or materially maintain benefits (unless mandated at the initiation of applicable regulatory authority), (vi) failure of the Bank to obtain satisfactory agreement from a successor to assume and agree to perform the Employment Agreements, (vii) any purported termination by the Bank not for cause or disability, (viii) a relocation of the Senior Executive's principal place of employment outside of the New York metropolitan area, or (ix) a material breach of the Employment Agreements, unless cured within 30 days.

Payments to the Senior Executives under the Bank's Employment Agreements are guaranteed by the Company in the event that payments or benefits are not paid by the Bank. The Company will make all payments under its own Employment Agreements. To the extent that payments under the Company's and Bank's Employment Agreements are duplicative, payments due under the Company's Employment Agreements would be offset by amounts actually paid by the Bank. Each Senior Executive would be entitled to reimbursement of certain costs incurred in interpreting or enforcing the Employment Agreements up to \$50,000.

Cash and benefits paid to a Senior Executive under the Employment Agreements together with payments under other benefit plans following a change of control of the Bank or Company may constitute an "excess parachute" payment under Section 280G of the

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Code, resulting in the imposition of a 20% excise tax on the recipient and the denial of the deduction for such excess amounts to the Company and the Bank. The Company's Employment Agreements include a provision indemnifying each Senior Executive on an after-tax basis for any "excess parachute" excise taxes ("280G Indemnity").

Employee Retention Agreements with the Contract Employees. The Bank has, jointly with the Company, entered into Employee Retention Agreements ("Retention Agreements") with the Contract Employees. The purpose of the Retention Agreements is to secure the Contract Employees' continued availability and attention to the Bank's affairs, relieved of distractions arising from the possibility of a change of control, as defined in the Retention Agreements. The Retention Agreements do not impose an obligation on the Bank to continue the Contract Employees' employment, but provide for a period of assured compensation (the "Assurance Period") following a change of control. The Retention Agreements provide for Assurance Periods of three years. The Retention Agreements expire as of December 31, 2018, which may be extended by the Bank.

If, during the Assurance Period, or prior to commencement of the Assurance Period but within three months of and in connection with a change of control (as defined in the Retention Agreements), a Contract Employee is discharged without "cause" (as defined in the Retention Agreements) or voluntarily resigns within ninety days following a: (i) failure to appoint or elect the Contract Employee to the same position in which he was serving; (ii) material failure, after notice, to vest in the Contract Employee his responsibilities on the day before the Assurance Period commenced (or the functions, duties and responsibilities of a more senior office to which he may be appointed); (iii) failure of the Bank to cure a material breach of the Retention Agreement after notice; (iv) reduction in compensation or a material reduction in benefits; or (v) relocation of the Contract Employee's principal place of employment which results in certain adverse commuting increases, the Contract Employee (or, in the event of his death, his estate) would be entitled to, subject to certain restrictions: (a) continued group life, health, accident and long-term disability insurance benefits for the unexpired Assurance Period, (b) a lump sum cash payment equal to the remaining base salary (present value) and bonus payments the Contract Employee would have earned during the unexpired Assurance Period, and (c) any additional contributions and benefits that the Contract Employee would have earned under the Bank's or the Company's employee benefit plans during the unexpired Assurance Period.

The cash and benefits paid under the Retention Agreements, together with payments under other benefit plans following a change of control, may constitute an "excess parachute" payment under Section 280G of the Code, resulting in the imposition of a 20% excise tax on the recipient and the denial of the deduction for such excess amounts to the Company and Bank under Section 4999 of the Code. The Retention Agreements of Mr. Pucella and Mr. Harris include a 280G Indemnity.

#### 7. Material Policies and Procedures

**Benchmarking and Survey Data.** The Compensation Committee utilizes legal counsel and a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm, to assist in performing its duties. The Committee relies on legal counsel to advise on its obligations and rights under applicable corporate, securities and employment laws, to assist in interpreting the Company's obligations and rights under compensation plans and agreements, and to draft plans and agreements to document business decisions. The consulting firm annually analyzes the Company's executive pay levels, by each of the three key elements cited and in total, and the Company's performance.

The Company utilizes a comparison group of peer savings or commercial banks when making certain compensation decisions. The table below shows how the peer group was chosen and how it is used:

#### HOW THE PEER GROUP IS CHOSEN

The Company approximates the median total asset size of the peer group.

The peer group members operate in the Company's marketplace.

The Company receives the opinion of a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm regarding the appropriateness of the peer group.

The Company approximates the median market capitalization of the peer group.

The peer group has a similar overall business model to the Company.

#### HOW THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE USES THE PEER GROUP

For input in developing base salary ranges, annual incentive targets and LTI award ranges

To benchmark share ownership guidelines.

To assess the competitiveness of total direct compensation awarded to senior executives.

To validate whether executive compensation programs are aligned with Company performance.

As an input in designing compensation plans, benefits and perquisites.

The peer group utilized in both 2014 and 2015 was comprised of the following companies:

Company Name	Total Assets (1)	Market Capitalization(1)	City and State of Corporate Headquarters
Astoria Financial Corp.	\$15.08	\$ 1.60	Lake Success, NY
Flushing Financial Corporation	5.70	0.62	Lake Success, NY
Investors Bancorp Inc.	20.89	4.17	Short Hills, NJ
Kearny Financial Corporation	4.24	1.04	Fairfield, NJ
Northfield Bancorp, Inc.	3.20	0.73	Woodbridge, NJ
OceanFirst Financial Corporation	2.59	0.35	Toms River, NJ
Oritani Financial Corporation	3.35	0.71	Township of Washington, NJ
Provident Financial Services Inc.	8.91	1.32	Jersey City, NJ
Sterling Bancorp	11.96	2.11	Montebello, NY
Sun Bancorp Inc.	2.21	0.39	Vineland, NJ
TrustCo Bank Corporation	4.73	0.58	Glenville, NY
Valley National Bancorp	21.61	2.50	Wayne, NJ
Median	5.22	0.89	
Dime Community Bancshares, Inc.	5.03	0.65	Brooklyn, NY

(1)As of December 31, 2015. Amount is in billions.

The Compensation Committee uses this analysis to assist it in understanding market practices and trends and to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of recommended performance-linked compensation strategies. Generally, the Compensation Committee endorses a median pay level approach, with actual pay commensurate with relative performance. To that end, the flexibility provided by the AIP permits the Compensation Committee to take market conditions into account each year.

Role of Executive Officers in Determining Executive Compensation. The Compensation Committee determines the compensation for all executive officers, however, considers the views of the CEO, President, and COO in making

compensation decisions for their subordinates.

Corporate Governance

Stock Ownership and Retention Requirement - The Company has a policy that requires Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon, and, until his retirement on December 31, 2015 required Mr. Devine, to own shares of Common Stock with an aggregate value at least equal to 500% of his annual rate of base salary, and requires Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell, and all other executive officers, to own shares of Common Stock with an aggregate value at least equal to 100% of their annual rate of base salary. The stock ownership requirement is phased in ratably over five years for newly appointed executive officers. Shares owned directly and in vested retirement accounts, share units in vested accounts under the Company's BMP and unvested restricted stock awards count toward this limit.

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Unexercised stock options do not count toward this requirement. The following table indicates the stock ownership requirement applicable to each Named Executive Officer as well as the stock ownership of each as of the Record Date:

Name	Stock Ownership Requirement (# of Shares)	Stock Ownership Counted Toward Requirement (# of Shares)
Vincent F. Palagiano	202,854	1,065,807
Michael P. Devine (1)	156,688	752,959
Kenneth J. Mahon	153,890	489,565
Michael Pucella	18,564	131,638
Daniel J. Harris	22,093	33,374
Terence J. Mitchell	20,470	36,120

(1) For Mr. Devine, the stock ownership requirement listed was as of December 31, 2015 (his final day of employment as the Company's President).

The Company's policy further requires that each executive officer who is not in full compliance with the Company's stock ownership guidelines must retain 100% of the net shares (after taxes and acquisition costs) acquired through stock option exercises and restricted stock vesting until he or she attains full compliance with the ownership guidelines.

**Clawback Policy** - The Company has adopted a policy permitting it to seek recovery of certain performance-based compensation in the event of a financial restatement due to the Company's material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements of the federal securities laws. In the event of such a restatement, performance-based compensation paid during the prior three years will be reviewed to determine if the right to, or amount of, such compensation was based on the achievement of performance goals derived from the financial statements and if so, whether the right to, or amount of, such compensation would be different based on the financial restatement. If, based on this review, an overpayment has occurred, the Company may require the recipient to repay the excess amount. This policy applies to the Company's and Bank's executive officers.

**Restrictions on Hedging and Pledging** – Policies have been adopted prohibiting hedging and pledging of company stock.

#### Impact of Accounting and Tax Treatment.

**Section 162(m)** – Section 162(m) of the Code imposes a \$1,000,000 annual limit per executive officer on the Company's federal tax deduction for certain types of compensation paid to the Named Executive Officers other than the CFO. It has been the Compensation Committee's practice to structure the compensation and benefit programs offered to the Named Executive Officers with a view to maximizing the tax deductibility of amounts paid. However, in structuring compensation programs and making compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee considers a variety of factors, including the Company's tax position, the materiality of the payments and tax deductions involved, and the need for flexibility to address unforeseen circumstances. After considering these factors, the Compensation Committee may decide to authorize payments all or part of which would be nondeductible for federal tax purposes. It is anticipated that any compensation for 2015 that is rendered non-deductible by this limit will not have a material effect. Payments made on account of a change of control under the agreements described above might include non-deductible payments.

**Sections 4999 and 280G** – Section 4999 of the Code imposes a 20% excise tax on certain "excess parachute payments" made to "disqualified individuals." Under section 280G of the Code, such excess parachute payments are also nondeductible to the Company. If payments that are contingent on a change of control to a disqualified individual (which includes the Named Executive Officers) exceed three times the individual's "base amount," they constitute "excess parachute payments" to the extent they exceed one time the individual's base amount.

Pursuant to their Employment Agreements or Retention Agreements, the Company or Bank will reimburse Messrs. Palagiano, Mahon, Pucella and Harris for the amount of the excise tax, if any, and make an additional gross-up payment so that, after payment of the excise tax and all income and excise taxes imposed on the reimbursement and gross-up payments, Messrs. Palagiano, Mahon, Pucella and Harris each would retain approximately the same net after-tax amounts under the Employment Agreement or Retention Agreement that he would have retained if there was no excise tax. Neither the Bank nor the Company is permitted to claim a federal income tax deduction for the portion of the change of control payment that constitutes an excess parachute payment, the excise tax reimbursement payment or the gross-up payment.

Accounting Consideration – The Compensation Committee is informed of the financial statement implications of the elements

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of the Named Executive Officer compensation program. However, the probable contribution of a compensation element to the objectives of the Company's Named Executive Officer compensation program and its projected economic cost, which may or may not be reflected on the Company's financial statements, are the primary drivers of Named Executive Officer compensation decisions.

Risk. The Company's compensation program is designed to mitigate risk by: (1) providing non-performance-based salaries, retirement and fringe benefits that permit executives to pay living expenses and plan for the future without reliance on incentives, (2) incorporating cash incentives to reward current successes, in relation to forecast performance derived from the Capital Plan, and (3) including long-term incentives in the form of restricted stock and cash, as well as maintaining stock ownership and retention guidelines, to sustain focus on long-term shareholder value. The Compensation Committee exercises substantial discretion in awarding annual incentives, including a retrospective assessment of management's performance in light of prevailing business conditions, to discourage excessive focus on formulaic goals. This retrospective assessment includes, in addition to financial measures, consideration of indicators of business prudence such as credit quality and capital ratios. Management stock ownership and retention requirements and equity-based retirement benefits provided through the Company's tax-qualified ESOP and related BMP assure that management retains a significant financial interest in the long-term performance of the Common Stock, and sensitivity to the potential long-term effects of short-term business strategies, throughout their tenure with the Company. The Company believes these features recognize a balance between the need to accept risk exposure in the successful operation of its business and the need to identify and prudently manage such risks.

In addition to assisting with the competitive review of executive compensation, a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm has been engaged to assist the Compensation Committee in conducting a risk review of the Company's incentive compensation programs. Based upon its review, the compensation consultant indicated its belief that the incentive plans place a proper balance of reinforcing performance while not encouraging inappropriate risk taking behavior.

#### Compensation Committee Report

1. The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management; and
2. Based on the review and discussions referred to in paragraph 1 above, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE OF  
DIME COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

Omer S.J. Williams (Chair)  
Anthony Bergamo, Member  
George L. Clark, Jr., Member  
Kathleen M. Nelson, Member

#### Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

There are no interlocks, as defined under the rules and regulations of the SEC, between the Company and the current members of the Compensation Committee and corporations with respect to which they are affiliated, or otherwise.

#### Compensation Consultant Conflicts of Interest

The Compensation Committee has considered whether the work performed by its independent compensation consultant during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 raised any conflict of interest issues within the meaning of

Item 407(e)(1)(iv) of regulation S-K and has determined that it did not.

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## COMPENSATION

## Executive Compensation

The following table provides information about the compensation paid for services rendered in all capacities by the Named Executive Officers.

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Positions	Year	Salary(3)	Stock Awards (4)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation(5)		Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings(6)(8)	All Other Compensation(7)	Total	Total Excluding the Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings(8)
				Annual Incentive Award	Long-Term Cash Incentive Award				
Vincent F. Palagiano, Chairman of the Board and CEO	2015	\$725,000	\$—	\$345,000	\$335,475	\$279,559	\$791,511	\$2,476,545	\$2,196,986
	2014	710,000	—	388,500	335,475	1,571,906	718,441	3,724,322	2,152,416
	2013	710,000	—	400,000	253,664	79,521	718,585	2,161,770	2,082,249
Michael P. Devine, Vice Chairman of the Board and President(9)	2015	560,000	\$125,000	245,000	230,000 <sup>(9)</sup>	128,004	634,889	1,922,893	1,794,889
	2014	560,000	\$125,000	291,000	105,000	912,010	639,727	2,632,737	1,720,727
	2013	560,000	140,000	300,000	—	—	645,507	1,645,507	1,645,507
Kenneth J. Mahon, President and COO(1)	2015	500,000	125,000	219,000	70,200	—	404,016	1,318,216	1,318,216
	2014	450,400	120,000	238,500	70,200	271,459	382,520	1,533,079	1,261,620
	2013	426,400	93,600	200,000	—	—	370,336	1,090,336	1,090,336
Michael Pucella, EVP and CAO(2)	2015	316,725	61,761	120,000	43,875	—	63,171	605,532	605,532
	2014	307,500	53,000	140,000	43,875	140,162	60,451	744,988	604,826
Daniel J. Harris	2015	355,788	74,715	145,000	53,078	—	66,129	694,710	694,710



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EVP and CLO	2014	345,425	64,500	140,000	53,078	—	63,022	666,025	666,025
	2013	345,425	70,770	140,000	—	—	56,638	612,833	612,833
Terence J. Mitchell EVP and CRTO	2015	355,788	74,715	145,000	51,188	—	66,639	693,330	693,330
	2014	336,200 <sup>(10)</sup>	64,500	145,000	51,188	—	53,792	650,680	650,680
	2013	333,125	68,250	140,000	—	—	51,592	592,967	592,967

(1) Prior to January 1, 2016, Mr. Mahon was SEVP and COO.

Mr. Pucella was named the Principal Financial Officer of the Company on March 27, 2014. Mr. Pucella's

(2) summary compensation is presented only for the years in which he has served as the Company's Principal Financial Officer.

(3) Salary represents amount earned for the fiscal year, whether or not actually paid during such year.

The amounts represent the grant date fair market value of the awards determined on the basis of the assumptions and methodology set forth in the notes to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the

(4) Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 11, 2016. The disclosed amount does not reflect the value of dividends paid on unvested restricted stock, which is included in the Summary Compensation Table under the caption "All Other Compensation."

Amount represents cash payments made to the Named Executive Officer under the Cash LTI or the AIP in the respective year. Please refer to "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – 6. Key Elements of the Compensation

(5) Package – Long-Term Incentives" for the determination of the payout shown for 2015. Please also see "Compensation – Compensation Plans – Cash LTI," commencing on page 31 for a discussion of all non-equity incentive awards granted, and "Compensation and Discussion Analysis – 8. Key Elements of the Compensation Package – Annual Incentives" for a discussion of annual incentive awards.

Includes for each Named Executive Officer: (a) the increase (if any) for the fiscal year in the present value of the individual's accrued benefit (whether or not vested) under the Retirement Plan and BMP calculated by comparing the present value of each individual's accrued benefit under both such plans in accordance with FASB ASC Topic

(6) 715 ("ASC Topic 715") as of the plan's measurement date in such fiscal year to the present value of the individual's accrued benefit as of the plan's measurement date in the prior fiscal year, plus (b) the amount of interest accrued on defined contribution deferred compensation balances at a rate in excess of 120% of the applicable federal long-term rate under section 1274(d) of the Code. There were no "above-market earnings" associated with these amounts.

(7) The Named Executive Officers participate in certain group life, health, and disability insurance and medical reimbursement plans not disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table that are generally available to salaried employees and do not discriminate in scope, terms and operation. For 2015, the figure shown for each Named Executive Officer includes the following items exceeding \$10,000 in value:

Name	Life Insurance Premiums	Automobile	401(k) Plan	ESOP Allocation (a)	BMP			Total
			Employer Cash Contribution		Annual Service Credit (b)	BMP (c)	Other(d)	
Vincent F. Palagiano	\$85,497	\$19,760	\$7,950	\$14,482	\$581,155	\$81,327	\$1,340	\$791,511
Michael P. Devine	6,206	10,443	7,950	14,482	525,818	56,529	13,461	634,889
Kenneth J. Mahon	14,675	16,165	7,950	14,482	293,027	46,163	11,554	404,016
Michael Pucella	1,113	12,000	7,950	14,482	—	20,948	6,678	63,171
Daniel J. Harris	805	12,000	7,950	14,482	—	24,424	6,468	66,129
Terence J. Mitchell	1,178	12,000	7,950	14,482	—	24,889	6,140	66,639

(a) The amount reported for ESOP allocation was determined based upon the \$17.49 closing price of the Common Stock on the last trading day of 2015. (See Notes 1 and 14 to the audited consolidated financial statements in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K, which discuss the manner in which ESOP expense is recognized).

(b) Amount shown represents the expense recognized for BMP Annual Service Credits which were funded into the accounts of the respective Named Executive Officers in 2015. Annual Service Credits made under the BMP are not regarded as compensation. As more fully described in "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – 6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package – Other Elements of the Executive Compensation Package – BMP," these amounts represent consideration committed to be paid to certain Named Executive Officers in exchange for modifications to their Employment Agreements.

(c) Amount represents BMP benefits earned during the year ended December 31, 2015 associated with the 401(k) Plan and ESOP. For 2015, the ESOP component was determined based upon the \$17.49 closing price of the Common Stock on the last trading day of 2015.

(d) Amount represents dividends paid on unvested restricted stock awards during 2015 for Messrs. Devine, Mahon, Pucella, Harris and Mitchell, and tax preparation services for Messrs. Palagiano, Devine, Mahon and Pucella.

(8) The Company does not regard amounts reported for 2015 under the caption "Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings" in the Summary Compensation Table as recurring compensation. All of the Company's defined benefit plans have been frozen to future benefits since 2000. The compensation amount associated with Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings therefore results solely from the application of different actuarial valuation assumptions during each period. The 2015 earnings amounts shown in the column entitled "Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings" resulted from reductions in the statutory discount rate assumption of 84 basis points for the Retirement Plan valuation and 61 basis points for the BMP valuation, as well as the Society of Actuaries' recent issuance of new mortality tables projecting longer life expectancies. The amounts in the column entitled "Total Excluding the Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings" represent

total compensation excluding the amounts listed in the column entitled "Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings."

- Mr. Devine retired as President effective December 31, 2015, retaining only the title of Vice Chairman of the
- (9) Board. The 2015 Long-Term Cash Incentive Award amount for Mr. Devine includes the early settlement, due to his retirement, of awards granted to him in 2014 and 2015.
- (10) Amount reflects base salary of \$333,125 earned from January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, and \$345,425 earned from October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

#### Compensation Plans

**Retirement Plan.** The Bank maintains the Retirement Plan, a non-contributory, tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan for eligible employees. All salaried employees at least age 21 who have completed a minimum of one year of service are eligible to participate in the Retirement Plan. The Retirement Plan provides each participant, including Messrs. Palagiano, Devine, Mahon and Pucella, a benefit equal to 2% of the participant's average annual earnings multiplied by the participant's years (and any fraction thereof) of eligible employment (up to a maximum of 30 years). Such benefit is not reduced by a Social Security offset. A participant is fully vested in his or her benefit under the Retirement Plan after five years of service. The Retirement Plan is funded by the Bank on an actuarial basis and all assets are held in trust by the Retirement Plan trustee. Effective April 1, 2000, all participant benefits under the Retirement Plan were frozen, and no benefits have been accrued under the Retirement Plan since that date.

There are currently no benefits earned by the Named Executive Officers under the Retirement Plan.

**401(k) Plan.** The Bank maintains the 401(k) Plan, which is a tax-qualified defined contribution plan permitting salaried employees with at least one year of service to make pre-tax salary deferrals under Section 401(k) of the Code.

Under a 401(k) Plan amendment effective July 1, 2000, the 401(k) Plan annually received the proceeds from a 100% vested cash contribution to all participants in the ESOP in the amount of 3% of "covered compensation" as defined in the 401(k) Plan, up to applicable IRS limits. This contribution, which was guaranteed through December 31, 2006 and has been made on a discretionary basis thereafter, was allocated to eligible participants regardless of their participant contribution level.

The 401(k) Plan permits participating employees to invest all or any part of their 401(k) Plan account balances in Common Stock. Common Stock held by the 401(k) Plan may be newly issued shares or outstanding shares purchased on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. All Common Stock held by the 401(k) Plan is held by an independent trustee and allocated to the accounts of individual participants. Participants control the exercise of voting and investment rights relating to Common Stock held in their accounts.

ESOP. The Company has established, and the Bank has adopted, the ESOP and related trust for the benefit of eligible employees. All salaried employees of the Company and its subsidiaries are eligible to become participants in the ESOP. As of the Record Date, the ESOP held 2,861,584 shares of Common Stock, all of which were purchased during the Company's initial public offering. Of this total, 2,080,042 shares were allocated to individual participant accounts, while 781,542 remained unallocated. In order to fund its purchase of Common Stock, the ESOP borrowed the aggregate purchase price from the Company. Effective July 1, 2000, the loan maturity period was extended by approximately 20 years from June 2006 to June 2026, and it continues to bear interest at the rate of 8% per annum. The loan calls for level annual payments of principal and interest designed to amortize the loan over its term, except that payments in any year may be deferred, in whole or in part, in prescribed circumstances. Prepayments are also permitted.

Shares purchased by the ESOP were pledged as collateral for the loan from the Company and are held in a suspense account until released for allocation among participants in the ESOP as the loan is repaid. The pledged shares are released annually from the suspense account in an amount proportional to the repayment of the ESOP loan for each plan year. The released shares are allocated among the accounts of participants on the basis of the participant's compensation for the calendar year preceding allocation. Benefits generally become vested at the rate of 25% per year after two years of eligible service with 100% vesting after five years of service. Participants become immediately vested upon termination of employment due to death, retirement at age 65, permanent disability or the occurrence of a "change of control," as defined by the ESOP. Forfeitures are utilized to reduce the contribution required by the Bank. Vested benefits may be paid in a single payment of cash or shares of Common Stock or installment payments of cash and are payable upon death, retirement at age 65, disability or separation from service.

BMP. The Bank maintains the BMP, which provides eligible employees with benefits that would be due under the Retirement Plan, ESOP and 401(k) Plan, if such benefits were not limited under the Code. Retirement Plan benefit accruals were frozen effective April 1, 2000, thus eliminating related benefit accruals under the BMP. However, the present value of such benefits continues to increase as the participating Named Executive Officers approach normal retirement age. These increases in present value are reported in the Summary Compensation Table under the column Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings. Messrs. Palagiano, Devine, Mahon and Pucella have previously been, and continue to be, participants in the BMP. Messrs. Harris and Mitchell were eligible to participate in the BMP commencing in 2011 with respect to benefits that would have been earned under the ESOP and 401(k) Plan. The BMP has also been amended to provide the BMP Annual Service Credits to Messrs. Palagiano, Devine and Mahon of \$581,155, \$525,818 and \$293,027, respectively, for each year from 2011 through 2015, subject to their continued employment and/or performance of certain post-employment obligations. Please refer to "Compensation Discussion Analysis - Other Elements of the Executive Compensation Package- BMP" for a further discussion of the BMP Annual Service Credits.

Cash LTI. On March 28, 2013, pursuant to authority granted under the AIP, the Compensation Committee made an incentive award to each of the Named Executive Officers (the "2013 LTIP"). The 2013 LTIP was settled in March 2016, with a total cash payment to the Named Executive Officers of \$658,815, or 75% of the \$878,420 aggregate target payout level. Please refer to Compensation Discussion and Analysis for further information regarding the calculation of this payment.

On March 27, 2014, pursuant to authority granted under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee made an incentive award to each of the Named Executive Officers. Threshold, target and maximum award opportunities are eligible to be earned based on performance relative to three performance goals measured over the

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period beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016. The award will be paid in full on or before March 31, 2017. The three performance measures and their relative weights are as follows:

Goal	Weight	Threshold	Target	Maximum
TSR (percentile rank in peer group)	50%	40th Percentile	50th Percentile	74th Percentile
Cumulative Core EPS	25%	\$2.78	\$3.09	\$3.40
ROAE	25%	6.73%	7.92%	9.10%

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The following table summarizes the potential payouts under this incentive award for each Named Executive Officer at the time of the grant:

Name	Threshold Payout	Target Payout	Maximum Payout
Vincent F. Palagiano	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000
Michael P. Devine	62,500	125,000	187,500
Kenneth J. Mahon	60,000	120,000	180,000
Michael Pucella	26,500	53,000	79,500
Daniel J. Harris	32,250	64,500	96,750
Terence J. Mitchell	32,250	64,500	96,750

On March 26, 2015, pursuant to authority granted under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee made an incentive award to each of the Named Executive Officers; the 2015 AIP. Threshold, target and maximum award opportunities are eligible to be earned based on performance relative to three performance goals measured over the period beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017. The award will be paid in full on or before March 31, 2018. The three performance measures and their relative weights are as follows:

Goal	Weight	Threshold	Target	Maximum
		40th	50th	74th
TSR (percentile rank in peer group)	50 %	Percentile	Percentile	Percentile
Cumulative Core EPS	25 %	\$ 2.99	\$ 3.52	\$ 4.05
ROAE	25 %	7.31 %	8.60 %	9.89 %

The following table summarizes the potential payouts under this incentive award for each Named Executive Officer at the time of the grant:

Name	Threshold Payout	Target Payout	Maximum Payout
Vincent F. Palagiano	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000
Michael P. Devine	62,500	125,000	187,500
Kenneth J. Mahon	62,500	125,000	187,500
Michael Pucella	30,881	61,762	92,643
Daniel J. Harris	37,358	74,715	112,073
Terence J. Mitchell	37,358	74,715	112,073

**2001 Stock Option Plan.** The Company's Board of Directors adopted the 2001 Stock Option Plan, which was approved by the Company's shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2001. Future payments under the plan were terminated upon its tenth anniversary in November 2011. On April 29, 2011, a grant of 14,522 stock options was made to Mr. Devine under the 2001 Stock Option Plan. All of these options expire on April 29, 2021. 25% of these awards vested on each of May 1, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. All options granted under the 2001 Stock Option Plan expire on the tenth anniversary of the grant date, however, are subject to earlier expiration in the event of termination of employment. In the case of termination due to death, disability, retirement, or under a "change of control," as defined by the 2001 Stock Option Plan, all options become immediately vested. Options granted under the 2001 Stock Option Plan are intended to qualify as "incentive stock options" under Section 422 of the Code.

**2004 Stock Incentive Plan.** The Company's Board of Directors has adopted the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, which was approved by the Company's shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2004. Future awards under the plan were terminated upon reaching its tenth anniversary in 2014. The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

administered the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan and authorized all equity grants. All equity grants under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan fully vest in the event of a change in control. On April 29, 2011, a grant of stock options was made to Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Mahon – 8,709 shares; Mr. Pucella – 6,068 shares; Mr. Harris - 7,341 shares; and Mr. Mitchell - 28,318 shares. All of these options expire on April 30, 2021. 25% of these awards vested on each of May 1, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. On April 29, 2011, a grant of restricted stock awards was made to Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Devine – 13,583 shares; Mr. Mahon – 9,082 shares; Mr. Pucella – 5,676 shares and Mr. Harris - 6,866 shares. 25% of these awards vested on each of May 1, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. On April 30, 2012, a grant of restricted stock awards was made to Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Devine – 10,101 shares; Mr. Mahon – 6,753 shares; Mr. Pucella – 4,221 shares; Mr. Harris – 5,106 shares; and Mr. Mitchell – 4,924 shares. 25% of these awards vested on May 1, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively, with the remaining shares vesting on May 1, 2016. On April 30, 2013, a grant of restricted stock awards was made

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to Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Devine – 9,811 shares; Mr. Mahon – 6,559 shares; Mr. Pucella – 4,100 shares; Mr. Harris – 4,959 shares; and Mr. Mitchell – 4,783 shares. 25% of these awards vested on May 1, 2014 and 2015, respectively, with the remaining shares vesting in equal annual installments on May 1, 2016 and 2017.

2013 Equity and Incentive Plan. The 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan was adopted by the Company's Board of Directors and subsequently approved by the Company's shareholders at their annual meeting held in 2013. The 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan provides the Company with the flexibility to make equity compensation available to Outside Directors, officers (including the CEO) and other employees of the Company or its subsidiaries, and to continue to offer cash-based incentive compensation in a tax-efficient manner to officers (including the CEO) and employees. As of the Record Date, up to 858,489 shares of Common Stock remained eligible for award grants to either to Directors, Named Executive Officers or other officers of the Company under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan. On April 30, 2014, a grant of restricted stock awards was made to Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Devine – 7,669 shares; Mr. Mahon – 7,362 shares; Mr. Pucella – 3,252 shares; Mr. Harris – 3,957 shares; and Mr. Mitchell – 3,957 shares. 25% of these awards vested on May 1, 2015, with the remaining shares vesting in equal annual installments on May 1, 2016, 2017 and 2018. On April 30, 2015, a grant of restricted stock awards was made to Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Devine – 7,852 shares; Mr. Mahon – 7,852 shares; Mr. Pucella – 3,879 shares; Mr. Harris – 4,693 shares; and Mr. Mitchell – 4,693 shares. These shares vest in equal annual installments on May 1, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively.

The following table sets forth information regarding plan-based awards granted to the Named Executive Officers during the last fiscal year:

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015(1)

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)				All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units(3)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards (\$)(4)
		Threshold(2)	Target(2)	Maximum(2)			
Vincent F. Palagiano	3/26/2015	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$600,000	—	—	
Michael P. Devine	3/26/2015	62,500	125,000	187,500	—	—	
Kenneth J. Mahon	3/26/2015	62,500	125,000	187,500	—	—	
Michal Pucella	3/26/2015	30,881	61,762	92,643	—	—	
Daniel J. Harris	3/26/2015	37,358	74,715	112,073	—	—	
Terence J. Mitchell	3/26/2015	37,358	74,715	112,073	—	—	
Michael P. Devine	4/30/2015	—	—	—	7,852	\$125,000	
Kenneth J. Mahon	4/30/2015	—	—	—	7,852	125,000	
Michael Pucella	4/30/2015	—	—	—	3,879	61,761	
Daniel J. Harris	4/30/2015	—	—	—	4,693	74,715	
Terence J. Mitchell	4/30/2015	—	—	—	4,693	74,715	



(1) There were no estimated future payouts under equity incentive plan awards made during the year ended December 31, 2015.

(2) Amount represents awards granted for future payment to the Named Executive Officers under the Cash LTI. Please see the section titled "Compensation – Executive Compensation - Compensation Plans- Cash LTI" commencing on page 31 for a discussion of the Cash LTI.

(3) The reported awards were restricted stock awards granted under the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan and vest as stated in the section titled "2013 Equity and Incentive Plan" commencing on page 33.

(4) Calculated based upon a grant date fair value of \$15.92 per award, the closing price of the Common Stock on April 30, 2015.

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## Stock Awards and Stock Option Grants Outstanding

The following table sets forth information regarding unvested stock awards, unexercised stock options and similar equity compensation outstanding at December 31, 2015, whether granted in 2015 or earlier, including awards that had been transferred other than for value.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2015 FISCAL YEAR END

Name	Grant Date	Option Awards			Equity Incentive Plan Awards:		Stock Awards		
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable (1)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unearned Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) (1)	Market Value of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Market Value of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)
Vincent F. Palagiano	5/1/2007	150,000	-	-	13.74	5/1/2017	-	-	-
Michael P. Devine	7/31/2008	18,135	-	-	16.73	7/31/2018	-	-	-
	4/20/2010	4,552	-	-	12.75	4/30/2020	-	-	-
	4/29/2011	14,522	-	-	15.46	4/29/2021	-	-	-
	4/30/2012						2,526	\$44,180	
	4/29/2013						4,906	85,806	
	4/30/2014						5,752	100,602	
	4/30/2015						7,852	137,331	
Kenneth J. Mahon	7/31/2008	11,706	-	-	16.73	7/31/2018	-	-	-
	4/30/2010	3,044	-	-	12.75	4/30/2020	-	-	-
	4/29/2011	9,709	-	-	15.46	4/29/2021	-	-	-
	4/30/2012						1,689	\$29,541	
	4/29/2013						3,280	57,367	
	4/30/2014						5,522	96,580	
	4/30/2015						7,852	137,331	
Michael Pucella	7/31/2008	6,615	-	-	16.73	7/31/2018	-	-	-
	4/20/2010	7,481	-	-	12.75	4/30/2020	-	-	-
	4/29/2011	6,068	-	-	15.46	4/29/2021	-	-	-
	4/30/2012						1,056	\$18,469	
	4/29/2013						2,050	35,855	
	4/30/2014						2,439	42,658	
	4/30/2015						3,879	67,844	
Daniel J. Harris	7/31/2008	8,166	-	-	16.73	7/31/2018	-	-	-
	4/30/2010	2,297	-	-	12.75	4/30/2020	-	-	-
	4/29/2011	3,671	-	-	15.46	4/29/2021	-	-	-
	4/30/2012						1,277	\$22,335	

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	4/29/2013				2,480	43,375
	4/30/2014				2,968	51,910
	4/30/2015				4,693	82,081
Terence J. Mitchell	4/29/2011 28,318	-	15.46	4/29/2021 -	-	-
	4/30/2012				1,231	\$21,530
	4/29/2013				2,392	41,836
	4/30/2014				2,968	51,910
	4/30/2015				4,693	82,081

Please refer to the sections titled "2001 Stock Option Plan," "2004 Stock Incentive Plan" and "2013 Equity and (1) Incentive Plan" commencing on page 32 for a detailed discussion of the expiration and vesting dates for each of the unexercisable options and unvested restricted stock awards.

(2) Market value is calculated on the basis of \$17.49 per share, the closing sale price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market on the final trading day of 2015.

The following table sets forth the stock awards that vested for, and the option awards that were exercised by, the Named Executive Officers during the last fiscal year:

## OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED FOR FISCAL 2015

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise(1)(3)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting(\$)(2)(3)
Vincent F. Palagiano	217,580	\$520,584	—	—
Michael P. Devine	144,849	358,386	10,291	\$162,701
Kenneth J. Mahon	49,462	63,869	7,439	117,611
Michael Pucella	—	—	4,312	68,173
Daniel J. Harris	—	—	5,223	82,576
Terence J. Mitchell	—	—	3,416	54,007

(1) All option exercise transactions involving Named Executive Officers during 2015 consisted of the simultaneous issuance and sale of an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock to the options exercised. Value realized in the table above is calculated as the difference between the aggregate value received on the simultaneous sale of the underlying shares (net of applicable fees and brokerage commissions) and the aggregate exercise cost of the applicable options on the respective dates of exercise. All such realized value was recognized as a component of the Named Executive Officer's wages during the year ended December 31, 2015.

(2) Amount calculated on the basis of \$15.81 per share (the closing price for a share of Common Stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market on May 1, 2015) for various grants to the Named Executive Officers which contractually vested on that date.

(3) Unexercised stock options and unvested restricted stock may not be transferred for value.

## Post-Employment Compensation

## Pension Benefits

The following table sets forth information regarding pension benefits accrued by the Named Executive Officers through the end of the Company's last fiscal year:

## PENSION BENEFITS FOR FISCAL 2015

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years Credited Service (#) (1)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)(1)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year(\$)
Vincent F. Palagiano	Retirement Plan	29.6	\$2,161,443	\$185,166
	BMP (Defined Benefit Portion)	29.6	5,285,319	—
Michael P. Devine	Retirement Plan	28.7	1,794,940	—
	BMP (Defined Benefit Portion)	28.7	2,215,964	—
Kenneth J. Mahon	Retirement Plan	19.7	894,772	—
	BMP (Defined Benefit Portion)	19.7	257,269	—

Michael Pucella	Retirement Plan	18.9	561,373	—
	BMP (Defined Benefit Portion)	18.9	—	—

(1) The figures shown are determined as of the plan's measurement date during 2015 under accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. ("U.S. GAAP"), as disclosed in Notes 1 and 14 to the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The discount rate and other assumptions used for this purpose are discussed in Note 14 to the audited consolidated financial statements included in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The assumed mortality rates were as follows: Mr. Palagiano, 2.04%; Mr. Devine, 1.03%, Mr. Mahon, 0.58% and Mr. Pucella, 0.46%.

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## Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation

The following table sets forth information regarding nonqualified deferred compensation earned by the Named Executive Officers during the last fiscal year under non-qualified defined contribution plans:

## NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED (BMP) COMPENSATION FOR FISCAL 2015(1)

Name	Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Company Contributions in Last Fiscal Year(\$)(2)	Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year(\$)(3)	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions(\$)(4)	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year End (\$)(2)
Vincent F. Palagiano	-	\$ 662,483	\$ 294,820	\$ 194,853	\$ 10,396,463
Michael P. Devine	-	582,347	216,865	132,733	7,796,532
Kenneth J. Mahon	-	339,190	120,408	73,443	4,338,483
Michael Pucella	-	20,948	30,768	26,794	1,041,616
Daniel J. Harris	-	24,424	2,507	2,145	129,418
Terence J. Mitchell	-	24,889	5,320	1,704	106,195

(1) Non-qualified deferred compensation includes benefits provided under the BMP.

(2) Company contributions in the last fiscal year and aggregate balance at last fiscal year end both reflect compensation items recognized in 2015 in the Summary Compensation Table.

(3) Earnings did not accrue at above-market or preferential rates. These numbers are not reflected in the Summary Compensation Table.

(4) Amount represents pass through dividends on shares of Common Stock held in the ESOP overflow component of the BMP.

## Termination and Change in Control Benefits

The Company provides additional benefits, not included in the previous tables, to the Named Executive Officers in the event of retirement or termination of employment in certain circumstances and in the event of a change in control.

## Employment Agreements

The Company and the Bank are parties to the Employment Agreements with each of the Senior Executives. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – 6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package Other Elements of the Executive Compensation Package Potential Payments Upon Termination and Change of Control" for a discussion of the Employment Agreements.

## Retention Agreements

The Bank has, jointly with the Company, entered into the Retention Agreements with the Contract Employees. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – 6. Key Elements of the Compensation Package Other Elements of the Executive Compensation Package Potential Payments Upon Termination and Change of Control" for a discussion of the Retention Agreements.

The following table provides an estimate of the value of Named Executive Officer termination and change of control benefits, assuming termination of employment or a change in control occurred on December 31, 2015:

	Vincent F. Palagiano	Michael P. Devine(13)	Kenneth J. Mahon	Michael Pucella	Daniel J. Harris	Terence J. Mitchell
<b>Death</b>						
Death Benefit(1)	\$ 2,175,000	\$1,680,000	\$1,500,000	\$-	\$-	\$-
Stock Option Vesting(9)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Stock Vesting(10)	-	143,500	113,294	61,915	74,997	73,423
Cash LTI Vesting(11)	375,852	117,454	114,273	52,460	63,706	63,706
<b>Disability</b>						
Disability Benefit(2)	2,175,000	1,680,000	1,500,000	-	-	-
Stock Option Vesting(9)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Stock Vesting(10)	-	143,500	113,294	61,915	74,997	73,423
Cash LTI Vesting(11)	375,852	117,454	114,273	52,460	63,706	63,706
<b>Discharge without Cause or Resignation with Good Reason – No Change in Control</b>						
Severance Pay(3)	1,988,218	1,535,727	1,371,185	-	-	-
Cash Incentive Bonus(4)	1,051,386	764,207	656,602	-	-	-
ESOP(5)	187,191	144,835	123,750	-	-	-
Insurance(6)	52,962	52,962	52,962	-	-	-
401(k) Payment(7)	92,489	70,393	61,152	-	-	-
BMP-ESOP Payout(8)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stock Option Vesting(9)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Stock Vesting(10)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash LTI Vesting(11)	375,852	117,454	114,273	52,460	63,706	63,706
<b>Discharge without Cause or Resignation with Good Reason – Change in Control Related</b>						
Severance Pay(3)	2,108,479	1,628,619	1,454,124	944,705	1,061,220	1,061,220
Cash Incentive Bonus(4)	1,114,982	810,432	696,318	507,512	570,105	445,394
ESOP(5)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance(6)	52,962	52,962	52,962	52,815	78,514	55,946
401(k) Payment(7)	97,922	74,527	64,744	42,062	45,438	45,885
BMP-ESOP Payout(8)	2,386,694	1,626,385	904,392	331,629	34,315	29,039
Stock Option Vesting(9)	-	0	-	-	-	-
Restricted Stock Vesting(10)	-	367,920	320,819	164,826	199,701	197,357
Cash LTI Vesting(11)	375,852	117,454	114,273	52,460	63,706	63,706
Tax	-	-	1,448,431	853,269	-	-
Indemnity/Limitation(12)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Change in Control – No Termination of Employment

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BMP-ESOP Payout(8)	2,386,694	1,626,385	904,392	331,629	34,315	29,039
Stock Option Vesting(9)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Stock Vesting(10)	-	230,588	183,488	96,982	117,620	115,277
Cash LTI Vesting(11)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indemnity/Limitation(12)	-	-	-	-	-	-

On termination by reason of death, the Employment Agreements provide for: (i) payment of earned but unpaid salary, (ii) benefits to which the executive is entitled as a former employee, (iii) payment for all unused vacation days and floating holidays in the year of termination at the highest rate of annual salary for such year, and (iv) a death benefit, payable to the beneficiaries of the executive through life insurance or otherwise. The death benefit, (1) payable within 30 days of death, is the equivalent on a net after-tax basis of the benefit payable under a term life insurance policy with a stated face value of three times such executive's then annual base salary. The Retention Agreements provide no severance benefits on termination by reason of death, except for (a) earned but unpaid salary, and (b) benefits to which such executive is entitled as a former employee.



On termination by reason of disability, the Employment Agreements provide for: (i) payment of earned but unpaid salary, (ii) benefits to which the executive is entitled as a former employee, (iii) payment for all unused vacation days and floating holidays in the year of termination at the highest rate of annual salary for such year, and (iv) a disability benefit equal to three times the executive's then annual base salary, payable in a lump sum within thirty days after termination. The Retention Agreements provide no severance benefits on termination by reason of disability.

In the event of a termination without cause or a resignation with good reason, the Employment Agreements provide for a lump sum salary severance payment in an amount equal to the present value of the salary that the executive would have earned if he had worked for the Company during the remaining unexpired employment period at the highest annual rate of salary (assuming, if a change in control has occurred, that annual 6% salary increases would apply from the time of the change in control). The present value of this payment is to be determined using a discount rate of six percent (6%) per year, compounded with the frequency corresponding to the Company's regular payroll periods with respect to its officers. In the event of a termination without cause or resignation with good reason, in either event during the assurance period immediately following a change in control (or within three months prior to and in connection with a change in control), the Retention Agreements provide for a lump sum payment in an amount equal to the present value of the salary that the executive would have earned if he had continued working for the Bank during the remaining unexpired assurance period at the highest annual rate of salary achieved during the executive's period of actual employment with the Bank. The present value is to be determined using a discount rate equal to the applicable short-term federal rate prescribed under section 1274(d) of the Code, compounded using the compounding periods corresponding to the Bank's regular payroll periods for its officers. The assurance period for Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell is three years. In the event that the employee is a "specified employee" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code, then, if necessary to comply with Section 409A, payments will be delayed and paid on the first day of the seventh month following separation from service, with any such delayed payments for Messrs. Palagiano, Mahon, Pucella, Harris and Mitchell to be held in a grantor trust which meets the requirements of Revenue Procedure 92-65 until such date of payment.

In the event of a termination without cause or a resignation with good reason, the Employment Agreements provide for a lump sum severance payment related to the annual cash incentive awards in an amount equal to the lump sum salary severance described in footnote (3) above, multiplied by the greater of (i) the target annual cash incentive bonus award (expressed as a percentage of salary) in effect at the time of termination, or (ii) the average of the actual annual cash incentive bonus payments (expressed as a percentage of salary) earned for the most recent three years. In the event of a termination without cause or resignation with good reason, in either event during the assurance period immediately following a change in control (or within three months prior to and in connection with a change in control), the Retention Agreements provide for a lump sum payment equal to the amount of incentives the executive would have received under all cash bonus or annual incentive compensation plans maintained by, or covering employees of, the Bank, if he had continued working for the Bank and had earned the maximum bonus or incentive award in each calendar year that ends during the remaining unexpired assurance period. For Messrs. Pucella and Harris, these annual cash incentive bonus payments are to be equal to the product of: (a) the maximum percentage rate at which an award was ever available to him under such incentive compensation plan, multiplied by (b) the salary that would have been paid to him during each such calendar year at the highest annual rate of salary achieved. For Mr. Mitchell, these annual cash incentive bonus payments are to be equal to the product of: (x) the greater of: (i) the target cash incentive bonus award (expressed as a percentage of salary) in effect at the time of termination, or (ii) the average of the actual cash incentive bonus payments (expressed as a percentage of salary) earned for the most recent three years, and (y) the present value of the compensation that would have been paid to him during each such calendar year at the highest annual rate of compensation achieved, calculated using the applicable short-term federal rate prescribed under section 1274(d) of the Code, compounded using the compounding periods corresponding to the Bank's regular payroll periods for its officers. The assurance period for Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell is three years. In the event that the employee is a "specified employee" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code, then, if necessary to comply with Section 409A, payments will be delayed and paid on the first day of the seventh month following separation from service, with any such delayed payments for Messrs. Palagiano, Mahon, Pucella, Harris and Mitchell to be held in a grantor trust which meets the requirements of Revenue Procedure 92-65 until such date of payment.

In the event of a termination without cause or a resignation with good reason in the absence of a change in control, the Employment Agreements provide for a lump sum payment in an amount approximately equal to the present value of three years of participation in the ESOP, and the present value of excess benefits under the BMP that would have been due for three years participation in the ESOP if such benefits were not limited under the Code, (5) where such present value is determined using a discount rate of six percent per annum, compounded with the frequency corresponding to the Company's regular payroll periods with respect to its officers. The Retention Agreements provide for no severance benefits in the event of a termination without cause or a resignation with good reason in the absence of a change in control. Market value is calculated on the basis of \$17.49 per share, which was the closing sales price for the Common Stock on the NASDAQ National Market on December 31, 2015.

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In the event of a termination without cause or a resignation with good reason, the Employment Agreements provide for continued group life, health (including hospitalization, medical, major medical, and dental), accident and long-term disability insurance benefits, in addition to benefits to which the executive is entitled as a former employee, after taking into account the coverage provided by any subsequent employer. These continued benefits will be provided if and to the extent necessary to provide the executive and his family and dependents for a period of three years following termination of employment, with coverage identical to, and in any event no less favorable than, the coverage to which they would have been entitled under plans in effect on the date of termination of employment. If the executive's termination of employment occurs after a change in control, he may elect coverage to which he would be entitled under plans in effect on the date of his termination of employment or during the one-year period ending on the date of such change in control. These continued benefits will be determined as if the executive had continued working for the Company during the remaining unexpired employment period as defined in the Employment Agreement at the highest annual rate of compensation (assuming, if a change in control has occurred, that annual 6% salary increases would apply from the time of the change in control) under the Employment Agreement. In the event of a termination without cause or resignation with good reason, in either event during the assurance period immediately following a change in control (or within three months prior to and in connection with a change in control), the Retention Agreements provide for continued group life, health (including hospitalization, medical and major medical), accident and long term disability insurance benefits, in addition to benefits to which the executive is entitled as a former employee, and after taking into account the coverage provided by any subsequent employer. These continued benefits will be provided if and to the extent necessary to provide the executive, for the remaining unexpired assurance period, with coverage equivalent to the coverage to which such Contract Employee would have been entitled under plans in effect on the date of his termination of employment, or, if his termination of employment occurs after a change of control, under plans in effect upon the change of control, if the benefits are greater. The continued benefits will be determined as if the Contract Employee had continued working for the Bank during the remaining unexpired assurance period at the highest annual rate of compensation achieved during the Contract Employee's period of actual employment with the Bank. The assurance period for Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell is three years. Each figure shown represents the present value of continued insurance benefits for a fixed period of three years for the Named Executive Officers and assumes no offset for benefits provided by a subsequent employer, calculated on the basis of the assumptions used by the Company in measuring its liability for retiree benefits other than pensions for financial statement purposes under ASC Topic 715. For more information concerning other major assumptions used for these calculations, please refer to Note 14 to the audited consolidated financial statements included in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In the event of a termination without cause or a resignation with good reason, the Employment Agreements provide for a lump sum payment in an amount approximately equal to the present value of matching contributions for three years of participation in the 401(k) Plan, and the present value of excess benefits under the BMP that would have been due for three years participation in the 401(k) Plan if such benefits were not limited under the Code (assuming, if a change in control has occurred, that annual 6% salary increases would apply from the time of the change in control). Each such present value is determined using a discount rate of six percent per annum, compounded with the frequency corresponding to the Company's regular payroll periods with respect to its (7) officers. In the event of termination without cause or resignation with good reason during the assurance period immediately following a change in control (or within three months prior to and in connection with a change in control), the Retention Agreements provide for a lump sum payment approximately equal to the present value of matching contributions for participation in the 401(k) Plan during the remaining unexpired assurance period, where such present value is determined using a discount rate equal to the applicable short-term federal rate prescribed under section 1274(d) of the Code, compounded with the frequency corresponding to the Company's regular payroll periods with respect to its officers. The assurance period for Messrs. Pucella, Harris and Mitchell is three years.

(8) The ESOP provides that in the event of a change in control of the Company or Bank, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of the Common Stock held in a suspense account for future allocation to employees would be applied to repay the outstanding balance on the loan used to purchase the unallocated shares. The remaining unallocated shares (or the proceeds from their sale) would be

distributed among the accounts of plan participants in proportion to the balances credited to such accounts immediately prior to such allocation. The Company estimates this distribution to be approximately \$6.39 per allocated share, based on 1,687,092 allocated shares that are held by current active participants, 859,697 unallocated shares, an outstanding loan balance of \$3,221,840, and a price of \$17.49 per share, which was the closing sales price for the Common Stock on the NASDAQ National Market on December 31, 2015. The BMP provides eligible employees with benefits that would be due under the ESOP if such benefits were not limited under the Code. The figures shown represent an estimated earnings credit of \$6.78 per stock unit credited to each of the Named Executive Officers under the BMP as of December 31, 2015.

All stock options granted under the 2001 Stock Option Plan provide for full vesting upon death, disability, retirement or change in control. All stock options granted under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan provide for full vesting as follows: (i) upon change in control, or (ii) in the event of the recipient's termination of service due to death or disability (as defined in the plan document), upon the date of termination of service as to any options otherwise scheduled to vest during the six months after termination. The figures shown reflect the in-the-money value of those stock options that would accelerate vesting, calculated based on the positive difference between the option exercise price and \$17.49, which was the closing sales price for a share of Common Stock on December 31, 2015.

All restricted stock awards granted prior to January 1, 2014 under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan fully vest upon a change in control unless they were forfeited prior to such change in control becoming effective. In addition, for grants made prior to January 1, 2014 under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, accelerated vesting occurs on a pro-rated basis for restricted stock awards upon either death or disability (as defined in the plan document) before termination of service with the Company has otherwise occurred and within six months prior to the scheduled vesting date. All restricted stock awards granted on or after January 1, 2014 under either the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan or the 2013 Equity and Incentive Plan vest upon a change of control with a qualifying termination unless they were forfeited prior to such qualifying termination becoming effective. In addition, for grants made on or after January 1, 2014 under either Plan, accelerated vesting occurs on a pro-rated basis for restricted stock awards in the event of retirement, death or disability. The figures shown reflect the value of those restricted stock awards that would accelerate, calculated based on a per share value of \$17.49, which was the closing sales price for a share of Common Stock on December 31, 2015.

In 2014, each of the Named Executive Officers was granted an incentive award with a performance period ending December 31, 2016. In 2015, each of the Named Executive Officers was granted an incentive award with a performance period ending December 31, 2017. Descriptions of the payment levels and criteria are set forth in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." Upon a change of control, death, disability or retirement, each amount is pro-rated based on performance through the date of such event. Since the amount of the performance awards cannot be determined at this time, the estimate has been prepared based on the target opportunities under each award.

Cash and benefits paid to Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon under the Employment Agreements and Messrs. Pucella and Harris under their Retention Agreements, together with payments under other benefit plans following a change of control of the Bank or the Company may constitute "excess parachute payments" under Section 280G of the Code, resulting in the imposition of a 20% excise tax on the recipient and the denial of the deduction for such excess amounts to the Company and the Bank. The Employment Agreements of Messrs. Palagiano and Mahon and the Retention Agreements of Messrs. Pucella and Harris include a provision indemnifying the executive on an after-tax basis for any "excess parachute payment" excise taxes.

Mr. Devine's Employment Agreement terminated effective upon his December 31, 2015 retirement as President, and he is no longer eligible to receive termination or change in control benefits.

#### Transactions With Certain Related Persons

The Company's Lending Policy, which is approved at least annually by the full Board, contains written procedures designed to ensure compliance with all laws related to transactions involving the Company or Bank and any Director, executive officer or their immediate family. The Company's Board of Directors monitors adherence to these policies on an annual basis.

Federal Reserve Board Regulation O requires that all Bank or Company loans or extensions of credit to certain executive officers, as defined in Regulation O ("Regulation O Officers"), and Directors must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with the general public and must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. The Bank has in the past made loans or extended credit to Regulation O Officers and also to certain persons related to

Regulation O Officers and Directors. All such loans were: (i) made by the Bank in the ordinary course of business; (ii) made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons, and (iii) did not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. Pursuant to its current written policy, the Bank is prohibited from advancing loans to the Named Executive Officers or Directors. As of the Record Date, the Bank owned one loan that was made to an executive officer other than the named Executive Officers. This loan fully complied with Regulation O and the Bank's policy regarding such loans, and, since inception, has not exceeded \$120,000.

Section 402 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2003 ("Sarbanes-Oxley") prohibits the extension of personal loans to Directors and executive officers of issuers (as defined in Sarbanes-Oxley). The prohibition, however, does not apply to mortgages advanced by an

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insured depository institution, such as the Bank, that is subject to the insider lending restrictions of Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act.

Delaware General Corporate Law ("DGCL") §143 permits a Delaware corporation, such as the Company, to advance a loan to, guarantee the obligation of, or otherwise assist any officer or other employee of the corporation or its subsidiaries, including employees who are directors of the corporation, whenever, in the judgment of the directors, such loan, guarantee or assistance may reasonably be expected to benefit the corporation. The loan, guaranty or other assistance may be with or without interest, and may be unsecured, or secured in such manner as the board of directors shall approve, including, without limitation, a pledge of shares of stock of the corporation.

Pursuant to DGCL §144(a), no contract or transaction between a corporation and its directors or officers, or between a corporation and any other entity in which its directors or officers are directors or officers or have a financial interest, shall be voidable solely for this reason, or solely because the director or officer is present at, or participates in, the meeting of the Board or Committee which authorizes the contract or transaction, or solely because any such director's or officer's votes are counted for such purpose, if: (1) the material facts as to the Director's or officer's relationship to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the Board or Committee, and the Board or Committee in good faith authorizes the contract or transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested Directors, even though the disinterested Directors may be less than a quorum; (2) the material facts as to the Director's or officer's relationship to the contract or transaction are disclosed or are known to the shareholders entitled to vote thereon, and the contract or transaction is specifically approved in good faith by vote of the shareholders; or (3) the contract or transaction is fair as to the corporation as of the time it is authorized, approved or ratified by the Board, a Committee or the shareholders.

Under New York State Banking laws, New York State-chartered savings banks such as the Bank are subject to rules regarding insider transactions. This includes specific types of transactions conducted by insiders, who are defined as: (1) the chairman of the board, president, executive vice president, secretary and treasurer of the Bank; (2) any other officer or employee of the Bank who participates or has authority to participate otherwise than in the capacity of a director of the Bank, in major policy-making functions of the Bank, regardless of whether he or she has an official title or whether his or her title contains a designation of assistant and regardless further, of whether he or she is serving without salary or other compensation; (3) any director of the Bank; and (4) any other person who has direct or indirect control over the voting rights of 10 percent of the shares of any class of voting stocks of the Bank or otherwise controls the management or policies of the Bank. The term "insider transaction" means any business transaction or series of related transactions by, between or on behalf of the Bank and: (1) an insider of the Bank; (2) a person related to an insider of the Bank; or (3) any other person where the transaction is made in contemplation of such person becoming an insider of the Bank. Board approval must be received and documented whenever an insider transaction (or aggregate of insider transactions) reaches a specific dollar threshold.

Until December 31, 2015, Mr. Curtin was a partner in the law firm of Conway Farrell. The Bank retains Conway Farrell to conduct loan closings and perform other requested legal services. During the year ended December 31, 2015, Conway Farrell did not provide any services that were paid by the Company or Bank, however, received fees in the amount of \$1,719,320 from third parties pursuant to representation of the Bank in loan closings during the period. The Company has also entered into a three-year consulting agreement with Mr. Devine, which commenced effective January 1, 2016. No remuneration was paid to Mr. Devine pursuant to this agreement during the year ended December 31, 2015.

#### Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's executive officers and Directors, and persons who own more than 10% of the Common Stock, to file with the SEC reports of ownership and changes in ownership of Common Stock. Executive officers, Directors and greater than 10% shareholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on review of the copies of such

forms received by the Company, or written representations from certain reporting persons, the Company believes that its executive officers, Directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners complied with all applicable filing requirements.

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 PROPOSAL 2

 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
 

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## General

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed the firm of Crowe Horwath LLP to act as the Company's independent auditors (principal accountant) for the year ending December 31, 2016. A representative of Crowe Horwath LLP is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will be provided an opportunity to make a statement if he or she so desires, and is expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions. No determination has been made as to any action the Audit Committee would take if the shareholders do not ratify the appointment.

## Audit Fees

The following table summarizes the aggregate fees either paid or contractually owed by the Company to Crowe Horwath LLP:

	Year Ended	
	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Audit Fees (a)	\$505,100	\$468,250
Audit-Related Fees (b)	87,000	84,000
Tax Fees (c)	81,000	81,000
All Other Fees	-	-
Total	\$673,100	\$633,250

(a) Fees for audit services in 2015 and 2014 consisted of:

- § Audits of the Company's annual financial statements
- § Reviews of the Company's quarterly financial statements
- § Comfort letters, statutory and regulatory audits, consents and other services related to SEC matters

(b) Fees for audit-related services in 2015 and 2014 consisted of:

- § Financial accounting and reporting consultations
- § Internal control reviews
- § Employee benefit plan audits

(c) Fees paid to firms other than Crowe Horwath LLP for tax compliance services totaled \$39,310 in 2015 and \$85,000 in 2014.

Tax compliance services are services rendered based upon facts already in existence or transactions that have already occurred to document, compute, or obtain government approval for amounts to be included in tax filings and consisted of:

- i. Federal, state and local income tax return assistance

- ii. Sales and use, property and other tax return assistance
- iii. Research & Development tax credit documentation and analysis for purposes of filing amended returns
- iv. Requests for technical advice from taxing authorities

There were no tax planning and advice service fees paid for 2015 or 2014. Tax planning and advice consists of services rendered with respect to proposed transactions or that alter a transaction to obtain a particular tax result.

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## Pre-Approval Policy

The services performed by the independent auditor in 2015 were pre-approved in accordance with the Audit Committee's pre-approval policy. Pursuant to the policy, the Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit and permitted non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditor, including the fees and terms thereof.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF CROWE HORWATH LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.

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## PROPOSAL 3

### ADVISORY VOTE ON THE COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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The Company is seeking a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of the Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Company's executive compensation program has been designed to attract, retain and motivate the highest quality executive officers, directly link pay to the Company's performance, and build value for its shareholders. The Company's executive compensation philosophy is, with the benefit of objective input from an independent consultant, to provide competitive target compensation opportunities with actual amounts earned commensurate with financial performance and the generation of long-term value to shareholders. The Company believes that the compensation data in this Proxy Statement demonstrates the success of this philosophy.

This proposal, commonly known as a "Say-on-Pay" proposal, gives the Company's shareholders the opportunity to express their views on the compensation provided to the Named Executive Officers. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of the Named Executive Officers.

Accordingly, the Board invites you to review carefully the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, as well as the tabular and other disclosures on compensation under the section titled "Compensation" and approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.

Under applicable law, the Say-on-Pay vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on the Company or its Board of Directors. The shareholders' advisory vote will not overrule any decision made by the Board or any of its Committees or create or imply any additional fiduciary duty by the Company's Directors. The Company's Board of Directors and Compensation Committee value the opinions of shareholders and will consider the voting results, along with relevant factors, in connection with their ongoing executive compensation activities.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS AN ADVISORY VOTE "FOR" APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT

SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD

The Company's Board of Directors provides a process for shareholders to send communications to the Board. The Company's Policy Regarding Shareholder Communication with the Board is available on its website at [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com) by selecting "About Us" then "Investor Relations" and then "Governance Documents" within the "Investor Relations" menu.

#### OTHER MATTERS

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the Company's Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters to be brought before the shareholders at the Annual Meeting. If, however, any other matters not known are properly brought before the meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote the shares represented by all properly executed proxies on such matters in such

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manner as shall be determined by a majority of the Board of Directors.

#### 2017 ANNUAL MEETING SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

In order to be considered for inclusion in the Company's Proxy Statement and form of proxy for the annual meeting to be held in 2017, all shareholder proposals, including, but not limited to, nominations for Director, must be submitted to the Secretary of the Company at its offices at 209 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211 on or before December 15, 2016. Under the Company's Bylaws, shareholder nominations for Director and shareholder proposals not included in the Company's 2016 Proxy Statement, in order to be considered for possible action by the shareholders at the annual meeting to be held in 2017, must be delivered to or received by the Secretary of the Company, at the address set forth above: (i) sixty days in advance of such meeting if such meeting is to be held on a day which is within thirty days preceding the anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting, or ninety days in advance of such meeting if such meeting is to be held on or after the anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting; and (ii) with respect to an annual meeting held at a time other than within the time periods set forth in the immediately preceding clause (i), the close of business on the tenth day following the date on which notice of such meeting is first given to shareholders. Notice shall be deemed to be first given to shareholders when disclosure of such date of the meeting of shareholders is first made in a press release reported to Dow Jones News Services, the Associated Press or a comparable national news service, or in a document publicly filed by the Company with the SEC pursuant to Section 13, 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. A shareholder's notice to the Secretary shall set forth such information as required by, and otherwise comply with, the Company's Bylaws. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to require the Company to include in its proxy statement and proxy card relating to an annual meeting any shareholder proposal or nomination which does not satisfy all of the requirements for inclusion established by the SEC in effect at the time such proposal or nomination is received.

The Board of Directors will review any shareholder proposals that are filed as required and determine whether such proposals satisfy applicable criteria for consideration at the annual meeting to be held in 2017.

#### Multiple Shareholders Sharing One Address

Only one copy of the Proxy Statement and Annual Report are being delivered to multiple shareholders sharing an address unless the Company has received contrary instructions from one or more of the shareholders. The Company will deliver promptly upon written or oral request separate copies of the Proxy Statement and Annual Report to a shareholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the Proxy Statement and Annual Report were delivered. Shareholders may notify the Company that they desire to receive a separate copy of the current or a future Proxy Statement and Annual Report by writing Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., 209 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211, Attn: Investor Relations, or by telephoning the Investor Relations Department at (718) 782-6200, ext. 8279. By using either of these methods, shareholders sharing an address may additionally request delivery of a single copy of a Proxy Statement and Annual Report if they are receiving multiple copies.

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Annual Report

A copy of the Annual Report to shareholders for the period ended December 31, 2015, including the consolidated financial statements prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP for the year ended December 31, 2015, accompanies this Proxy Statement. The consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been audited by Crowe Horwath LLP, whose report appears in the Annual Report. Shareholders may obtain, free of charge, a copy of the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC (without exhibits) by writing to Kenneth A. Ceonzo, Director of Investor Relations and Reporting, Dime Community Bancshares, Inc., 209 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211, or by calling (718) 782-6200, extension 8279, or by accessing the Company's corporate website [www.dime.com](http://www.dime.com).

By Order of the Board of Directors

Lance J. Bennett

Secretary

Brooklyn, New York

April 12, 2016

TO ASSURE THAT YOUR SHARES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND PROMPTLY RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD IN THE POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

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## Appendix

## Defined terms

U.S. GAAP generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

## Performance Measures

**Cash return on average equity** A non-U.S. GAAP measure computed by dividing cash basis net income by average stockholders' equity. Cash basis net income is computed by adding to net income, as derived in accordance with U.S. GAAP and reported in a company's consolidated statements of operations/income, the following expense items: (a) expense recognized to reduce the balance of long-lived intangible assets; and (2) compensation expense associated with stock benefit plans. Both of these expense items, if applicable, are disclosed in the "cash flows from operations" section of a company's consolidated statements of cash flows, and generate a corresponding increase in tangible regulatory capital in the period recognized.

**Core EPS** A non-U.S. GAAP measure derived from EPS, and adjusted for various items recognized in EPS the extraction of which is deemed valuable in assessing the Company's consolidated operating results. A reconciliation of U.S. GAAP EPS and Core EPS for the Company for the three-year period ended December 31, 2015 is presented as follows:

	Cumulative for The Three Years Ended December 31, 2015
EPS	\$ 3.69
Curtailement of postretirement plan benefits	(0.05 )
Prepayment fee income above financial forecasted levels	(0.32 )
Gain on the sale of equity mutual funds and real estate	(0.04 )
Prepayment expense on borrowings above forecast	0.02
Core EPS	\$ 3.30

**Core EPS before credit costs** – A non-U.S. GAAP measure derived from EPS, and adjusted for various items recognized in EPS the extraction of which is deemed valuable in assessing the Company's consolidated operating results. A reconciliation of U.S. GAAP EPS and Core EPS before credit costs for the Company for the year ended December 31, 2015 is presented as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2015
EPS	\$ 1.23
Prepayment fee income above financial forecasted levels	(0.09 )
Curtailement of postretirement plan benefits	(0.05 )
Gain on the sale of equity mutual funds and real estate	(0.02 )
Cost incurred on prepayment of borrowings	0.02
Credit costs	(0.02 )

Core EPS Before Credit Costs \$ 1.07

**Efficiency ratio** A financial measure computed by dividing non-interest expense by the sum of net interest income and non-interest income, excluding any gains or losses on sales of assets. All of these measures are disclosed in a company's consolidated statements of operations/income, and are derived in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

**EPS growth rate** A measurement of the growth from the beginning to ending operating periods in Diluted EPS as reported in a company's consolidated statements of operations/income. EPS is a financial measure derived in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

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**Reported return on equity** A financial measure computed by dividing net income, as reported in a company's consolidated statements of operations or income, by average stockholders' equity, as reported in the respective summaries of net interest income. Both net income and average stockholders' equity are derived in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

**Return on Average Risk Weighted Assets** A non-U.S. GAAP measure computed by dividing net income, as reported in a company's consolidated statements of operations/income, by an average of the ending quarterly balances during the measurement period of total risk weighted assets for the banking subsidiary of each company. Ending quarterly total risk weighted assets are reported on Schedule RC-R of the banking institution's Call Report (or the comparable regulatory schedule) which is filed publicly with the respective regulatory agency. Under interagency guidelines governing the computation of risk-weighted assets, this measure is computed similarly by banking institutions. In analyzing the standalone performance of the Company, the computation of Return on Average Risk Weighted Assets utilizes net income as adjusted in the computation of Core EPS (as defined above).

**Total shareholder return** The return provided to a shareholder who invests in a share of the common stock of a company assuming full reinvestment of cash dividends into additional shares of the respective common stock. Amounts obtained from the Bloomberg financial database.

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