

PROVIDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES INC  
Form 11-K  
June 25, 2015

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

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 001-31566

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

The Provident Bank 401(k) Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Provident Financial Services, Inc.  
239 Washington Street  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

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REQUIRED INFORMATION

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
The Audit Committee of Provident Financial Services, Inc  
The Provident Bank 401(k) Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of The Provident Bank 401(k) Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The supplemental information in the accompanying schedule, Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year), as of December 31, 2014, has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's 2014 financial statements. The supplemental information is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but include supplemental information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedule, Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year), as of December 31, 2014, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the 2014 financial statements as a whole.

/s/KPMG LLP  
Short Hills, NJ  
June 25, 2015

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THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2014 and 2013

|                                    | 2014          | 2013       |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Assets:                            |               |            |
| Investments, at fair value         | \$ 63,045,003 | 58,632,164 |
| Loans receivable from participants | 1,744,325     | 1,456,175  |
| Employer contribution receivable   | 23,630        | 18,972     |
| Net assets available for benefits  | \$ 64,812,958 | 60,107,311 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## The Provident Bank 401(k) Plan

## Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

|                                                                 | 2014       | 2013       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Additions to net assets attributable to :                       |            |            |
| Investment income:                                              |            |            |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments                   | 1,588,407  | 9,664,085  |
| Dividend income                                                 | 809,995    | 710,365    |
| Interest income                                                 | 150,925    | 137,277    |
| Net investment income                                           | 2,549,327  | 10,511,727 |
| Interest on participant loans receivable                        | 66,010     | 56,997     |
| Contributions:                                                  |            |            |
| Employee contributions                                          | 3,882,533  | 3,525,726  |
| Employer contributions                                          | 674,289    | 609,448    |
| Rollover contributions                                          | 1,600,145  | 1,050,205  |
| Total contributions                                             | 6,156,967  | 5,185,379  |
| Total additions                                                 | 8,772,304  | 15,754,103 |
| Deductions from net assets attributable to:                     |            |            |
| Benefits paid to participants                                   | 4,155,803  | 4,922,144  |
| Administrative expense                                          | 37,640     | 46,966     |
| Total deductions                                                | 4,193,443  | 4,969,110  |
| Increase in net assets available for benefits, before transfers | 4,578,861  | 10,784,993 |
| Transfers to the Plan                                           | 126,786    | 51,949     |
| Increase in net assets available for benefits, after transfers  | 4,705,647  | 10,836,942 |
| Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year          | 60,107,311 | 49,270,369 |
| Net assets available for benefits at end of year                | 64,812,958 | 60,107,311 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014 and 2013

(1) Plan Description

The Provident Bank 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") is a voluntary, participant directed defined contribution plan sponsored by The Provident Bank (the "Bank") and covers all eligible employees, as defined, of the Bank. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). Eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan. The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Eligible employees should refer to the Plan documents for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) Employee Contributions

Participants may elect to make tax deferred contributions up to the maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") or Plan Document. Participants may also rollover account balances of previous employer sponsored qualified retirement plans.

Effective January 1, 2012, all new employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan 30 days after they first become eligible with an automatic contribution rate of 3% of eligible compensation. Enrolled participants may change their contribution rates at any time, including selecting not to contribute to the Plan.

A participant may make "catch up" contributions if the maximum annual amount of regular contributions is made and the participant is age 50 or older. The maximum allowable catch up contribution limit for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 is \$5,500. Catch up contributions are not eligible for the employer's matching contributions. Tax law requires that a participant's catch up contributions be reclassified as regular contributions if the participant elects catch up contributions and fails to make the maximum allowable regular 401(k) contribution.

(b) Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") Diversification - Transfer to the Plan

Effective January 1, 2012, participants in the ESOP, a separate plan sponsored by the Bank, who have both attained age 55 and completed ten years of participation in the Plan, will have an option to diversify their holdings.

For each of the first five ESOP Plan years in the qualified participant election period of six years, the participant may elect to diversify an amount which does not exceed 25% of the number of shares allocated to their ESOP account since the inception of the ESOP, less all shares with respect to which an election under this provision has already been made. For the last year of the qualified election period, the participant may elect to have up to 50 percent of the value of their ESOP account, less all shares with respect to which an election under this provision has already been made.

Once diversification is elected, the funds will be transferred from the ESOP to the Plan.

In 2014 and 2013, approximately \$127,000 and \$52,000 was transferred into the Plan, respectively, in connection with ESOP diversification.

(c) Employer Contributions

In 2014 and 2013, employer matching contributions were made by the Bank in an amount equal to 25% of the first 6% of a participant's eligible contributions. The Bank's board of directors sets the matching contribution rate in its sole discretion.

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014 and 2013

(d) Vesting

Participants are always fully vested in their contributions and income or losses thereon. Employer matching contributions to a participant's account are also fully vested.

(e) Participant Loans

Upon written application by a participant, the Plan administrator may direct that a loan be made from the participant's account. The minimum permissible loan is \$2,000. The maximum permissible loan available is limited to the lesser of: (i) \$50,000 with certain reductions or (ii) 50% of the participant's account balance. Any loan made must generally be repaid within a period, not to exceed the earlier of termination of employment or five years. The term of the loan may exceed five years for the purchase of a primary residence. Loans bear a rate of interest that remains in effect for the duration of the loan. As of December 31, 2014, the interest rate on all loans was at 4.25%. As of December 31, 2013, the interest rates on these loans ranged from 4.25% to 8.25%.

Principal and interest is paid ratably through bi weekly payroll deductions or directly by the participant to the Plan administrator.

(f) Benefit Payments/Withdrawals

Upon retirement or termination of employment, participants may, under certain conditions, elect to receive vested amounts in: (i) a cash lump sum, or (ii) equal monthly, quarterly, semi annual or annual installments over a period not to exceed the life expectancy of the participant or the combined life expectancy of the participant and his or her designated beneficiary. During employment, participants may make cash withdrawals of post tax participant contributions and related vested employer matching contributions and earnings thereon once per year without penalty. Hardship withdrawals of pre tax participant contributions are also permitted once per year, but with a penalty.

(g) Participants' Accounts

Separate accounts for each participant are maintained and credited with the participant's contributions, the Bank's contributions made on behalf of that participant and the participant's proportionate share, as defined, of Plan earnings or losses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from his or her account.

(h) Plan Changes

Effective May 22, 2014, the Plan was amended to provide credit for prior service for continuing employees of Team Capital Bank and to allow the rollover of participant loans from Team Capital Bank 401(k) plan into the Plan. Effective December 19, 2013, the Plan was amended to provide for elective deferral changes requested by participants to be effective each pay period. The Plan was further amended to remove the participation restriction for employees classified as temporary workers.

(i) Funds and Accounts Managed by Principal Trust Company

Under the terms of a trust agreement between the Principal Trust Company (the "Custodian") and the Bank, the Custodian manages funds on behalf of the Plan. The Custodian held the Plan's investment assets and executed transactions relating to such assets.

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2014 and 2013

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

(b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("U.S. GAAP") requires the Plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment instruments, including mutual funds, pooled separate accounts, guaranteed investment contracts, and common stocks. Investment securities in general are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and market risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

The Plan provides for investment in the common stock of Provident Financial Services, Inc. (the "Company"). At December 31, 2014 and 2013, approximately 18% and 20% of the Plan's net assets were invested in the common stock of the Company, respectively. The underlying values of the Company common stock are entirely dependent upon the performance of the Company, and the market's evaluation of such performance.

(d) Loans Receivable from Participants

Participant loans are classified as loans receivable from participants, which are segregated from Plan investments and measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest.

(e) Investment Securities

Investment securities are reported at fair value. Fair value is the amount at which an asset may be purchased or sold in an orderly transaction between market participants. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade date and are stated at fair value.

Investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Plan's investment in the Principal Fixed Income 401(a)/(k) at December 31, 2014 held investment contracts that were deemed to be fully benefit-responsive. As required by U.S. GAAP, the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits present the fair value, as well as the amount necessary to adjust this fair value to contract value. The contract value represents contributions plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. Management has concluded that the current crediting rate of the contract approximates the fair value yield and that no fair value adjustment is required based on the credit worthiness of the issuer. Therefore contract value approximates fair value.

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2014 and 2013

(f) Income Recognition

Interest income is recorded as earned on the accrual basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex dividend date.

(g) Benefits Paid to Participants

Benefits are recorded when paid.

(3) Plan Expenses

Certain costs of administrative services rendered on behalf of the Plan including accounting, tax, legal, audit and other administrative support were borne by the Bank. Contract administrator fees are paid from Plan assets. Investment management fees are paid to the funds offered by the Plan and reflected in the change in fair value of the Plan holdings.

(4) Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed intent to do so, the Bank has the right to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

(5) Federal Income Taxes

On September 17, 2013, the Plan received a favorable Determination Letter from the Internal Revenue Service, which stated that the Plan and its underlying trust qualify under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and therefore are exempt from federal income taxes. The Plan has been amended since the issuance of the IRS determination letter. The Plan administrator believes, the Plan and its underlying trust have operated within the terms of the Plan document and remain qualified under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, there were no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2011.

(6) Investment Securities

Investment Securities at December 31, 2014 and 2013 consisted of mutual funds, pooled separate accounts, guaranteed investment contracts, and common stock issued by the Company. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, individual investments in excess of 5% of the fair value of the net assets available for plan benefits were as follows:

## THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014 and 2013

|                                                                                                                           | 2014         | 2013         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Investment in common stock                                                                                                |              |              |
| Provident Financial Services, Inc.:                                                                                       | \$11,699,793 | \$12,238,301 |
| Guaranteed investment contract:                                                                                           |              |              |
| Principal Fixed Income 401(a)/(k)                                                                                         | 9,093,712    | 8,286,191    |
| Mutual funds:                                                                                                             |              |              |
| American Funds Europacific Growth Fund                                                                                    | 3,400,202    | 3,466,790    |
| Prudential Jennison Mid Cap Growth Fund                                                                                   | 3,263,148    | 3,220,657    |
| Columbia Dividend Income Fund                                                                                             | 4,111,470    | 3,661,192    |
| MainStay Large Cap Growth Fund                                                                                            | 6,351,880    | 6,223,053    |
| For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Plan's net appreciation/(depreciation) in investments was as follows: |              |              |

|                                                 | 2014        | 2013        |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mutual funds                                    | \$1,986,284 | \$5,991,053 |
| Pooled separate accounts                        | 386,763     | 838,164     |
| Provident Financial Services, Inc. common stock | (784,640)   | ) 2,834,868 |
|                                                 | \$1,588,407 | \$9,664,085 |

U.S. GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of fair value hierarchy under U.S. GAAP are as follows:

- Level 1: Unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities;
- Level 2: Quoted prices in markets that are not active, or inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability; and
- Level 3: Prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by little or no market activity).

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

There have been no changes in valuation methodologies used at December 31, 2014 and 2013. The valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value are as follows:

Mutual funds: Mutual Funds are measured based on exchange quoted prices available in active markets.

Pooled separate accounts: Valued by the NAV of the pooled separate accounts, based on the fair value of the underlying holdings.

## THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014 and 2013

Guaranteed investment contract: Valued at fair value based on the ability of the insurance carrier to honor its obligations under the contract. Management has concluded that the current crediting rate of the contract approximates the fair value yield and that no fair value adjustment is required based on the credit worthiness of the issuer. Therefore contract value approximates fair value.

Provident Financial Services Inc. common stock: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded (New York Stock Exchange).

Common/collective trusts: Valued at the NAV of the trust, based on the fair value of the underlying holdings.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables present the Plan's fair value hierarchy for those investments measured at fair value as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

|                                                 | Fair value measurements at December 31, 2014 |              |             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                 | Total                                        | Level 1      | Level 2     | Level 3     |
| Pooled separate accounts:                       |                                              |              |             |             |
| Index funds large U.S. equity                   | \$2,597,254                                  | —            | 2,597,254   | —           |
| Index funds small/mid U.S. equity               | 1,520,020                                    | —            | 1,520,020   | —           |
| Mutual fund:                                    |                                              |              |             |             |
| Balanced funds                                  | 12,955,629                                   | 12,955,629   | —           | —           |
| Fixed income funds                              | 3,480,984                                    | 3,480,984    | —           | —           |
| International funds                             | 3,736,168                                    | 3,736,168    | —           | —           |
| Large U.S. equity funds                         | 11,875,291                                   | 11,875,291   | —           | —           |
| Small/mid U.S. equity funds                     | 6,086,152                                    | 6,086,152    | —           | —           |
| Guaranteed Investment Contract                  | 9,093,712                                    | —            | —           | 9,093,712   |
| Provident Financial Services, Inc. common stock | 11,699,793                                   | 11,699,793   | —           | —           |
|                                                 | \$63,045,003                                 | \$49,834,017 | \$4,117,274 | \$9,093,712 |

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2014 and 2013

|                                                    | Fair value measurements at December 31, 2013 |              |             |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                    | Total                                        | Level 1      | Level 2     | Level 3     |
| Pooled separate accounts:                          |                                              |              |             |             |
| Index funds large U.S. equity                      | \$ 1,926,160                                 | —            | 1,926,160   | —           |
| Index funds small/mid U.S. equity                  | 1,486,090                                    | —            | 1,486,090   | —           |
| Mutual fund:                                       |                                              |              |             |             |
| Balanced funds                                     | 11,145,675                                   | 11,145,675   | —           | —           |
| Fixed income funds                                 | 3,047,120                                    | 3,047,120    | —           | —           |
| International funds                                | 3,718,010                                    | 3,718,010    | —           | —           |
| Large U.S. equity funds                            | 10,826,862                                   | 10,826,862   | —           | —           |
| Small/mid U.S. equity funds                        | 5,957,755                                    | 5,957,755    | —           | —           |
| Guaranteed Investment Contract                     | 8,286,191                                    | —            | —           | 8,286,191   |
| Provident Financial Services, Inc.<br>common stock | 12,238,301                                   | 12,238,301   | —           | —           |
|                                                    | \$58,632,164                                 | \$46,933,723 | \$3,412,250 | \$8,286,191 |

The table below sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2014:

|                            | Guaranteed<br>investment<br>contracts |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$8,286,191                           |
| Interest                   | 150,925                               |
| Purchases                  | 1,909,631                             |
| Sales                      | (1,253,036 )                          |
| Balance, end of year       | \$9,093,712                           |

The Plan's mutual fund and pooled separate account investments in funds are valued and are redeemable daily. There are no restrictions on redemptions except if certain funds are held in participant accounts for less than specified periods, the account may be charged a trading fee of 1% 2%.

(7) Short Term Fixed Income Options

(a) Principal Fixed Income 401(a)/(k)

The Plan invests in the Principal Fixed Income 401(a)/(k) (the "Contract"), a benefit responsive group annuity contract issued by the Principal Life Insurance Company. The Contract is not a portfolio of contracts whose yields are based on changes in the fair value of underlying assets, but is rather a single group annuity contract with a fixed rate of interest. As a result, the average yield earned by the Plan is the yield earned, or the interest credited, on the group annuity

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2014 and 2013

contract. The underlying assets consist primarily of treasuries, commercial real estate mortgages, mortgage backed securities and short term cash equivalents.

The interest crediting rate is determined on a semiannual basis and is calculated based upon many factors, including current economic and market conditions, the general interest rate environment, and purchases and redemptions by unit holders. An employer level surrender of the Plan's interest in the Principal Fixed Income Option or employer initiated transfer will be subject to either a 12 month irrevocable advance notice or a 5% surrender charge, whichever the employer chooses.

The average market yield earned by the Contract, which is also the actual interest credited to participants in the Contract, for the year ending on December 31, 2014 and 2013 was 2.00%. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. The fair value of the investment contract at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$9,093,712 and \$8,286,191, respectively. This Contract was reinstated on May 1, 2013.

(b) Principal Stable Value Preferred Fund (Replaced by the Principal Fixed Income 401(a)(k))

The Plan's investment in the Stable Value Preferred Fund was sold and replaced by the Fixed Income 401(a)/(k) on May 1, 2013.

The Plan invested in the Principal Stable Value Preferred Fund (the "Stable Value Preferred Fund"), which is a benefit responsive collective trust fund. The objective of the Stable Value Preferred Fund is to provide preservation of capital. The Stable Value Preferred Fund seeks to achieve this objective by investing primarily in a variety of high quality Stable Value Investment Contracts as well as cash and cash equivalents.

Investment income is accrued as earned. Investment income earned daily by the Stable Value Preferred Fund is recorded on an accrual basis and retains the character of income as earned by the underlying fund. Income from investment contracts in the fund is recorded at the contract rate, which is referred to as the crediting rate, which in the case of synthetic contracts is net of fees to the issuer of the wrap contract. For fully benefit responsive synthetic investment contracts, earnings on the underlying assets are factored into the next computation of the crediting reset. The average market yield earned by the Stable Value Preferred Fund, which is also the actual interest credited to participants in the Stable Value Preferred Fund was 1.27% throughout the 2013 fiscal year.

(8) Related Party Transactions

Certain Plan investments are investment contracts or shares of fixed income and pooled separate accounts managed or issued by The Principal Financial Group ("Principal") or its affiliates. Investment fees were paid by the funds to Principal and are reflected in the change in fair value of the funds. Principal is also the trustee and record keeper as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party in interest transactions. Contract administrator fees that were paid from plan assets were \$37,640 and \$46,966, for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The Plan had invested \$11,699,793 and \$12,238,301, at fair value, in the common stock of Provident Financial Services, Inc. as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

For the purposes of the Form 5500 and related supplemental schedules, Loans receivable from participants are reported as Participant loans which are included in Plan investments as opposed to being separately disclosed in the financial statements.

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2014 and 2013

(9) Subsequent Events

In connection with the preparation of the financial statements, the Plan administrator has evaluated subsequent events after December 31, 2014 through June 25, 2015, the date the financial statements were issued, and concluded that no additional disclosures were required.

## THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Supplemental Schedule H, line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2014

| Identity of issuer                | Description of investment                                                          | Shares  | Fair value   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| *Principal Life Insurance Company | Pooled Separate Accounts<br>Principal Small Cap<br>S&P 600 Index                   | 25,423  | \$ 1,138,119 |
| *Principal Life Insurance Company | Pooled Separate Accounts<br>Principal Mid Cap S&P<br>400 Index                     | 8,793   | 381,901      |
| *Principal Life Insurance Company | Pooled Separate Accounts<br>Principal Large Cap<br>S&P 500                         | 26,855  | 2,597,254    |
| *Principal Life Insurance Company | Insurance Company<br>General Account<br>Principal Fixed Income<br>Guarantee Option | 723,103 | 9,093,712    |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement Income<br>Fund                      | 164,526 | 2,441,559    |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2010 Fund                           | 18,705  | 331,632      |
| T. Rowe Price<br>Associates, Inc  | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2015 Fund                           | 7,928   | 114,721      |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2020 Fund                           | 115,743 | 2,397,030    |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2025 Fund                           | 82,446  | 1,295,221    |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2030 Fund                           | 122,243 | 2,814,036    |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2035 Fund                           | 22,917  | 381,794      |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2040 Fund                           | 64,489  | 1,542,578    |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2045 Fund                           | 25,266  | 404,264      |
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company<br>Retirement 2050 Fund                           | 76,298  | 1,023,153    |

|                                   |                                  |        |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| T. Rowe Price Associates,<br>Inc. | Registered Investment<br>Company |        |         |
|                                   | Retirement 2055 Fund             | 15,751 | 209,641 |

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## THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(k) PLAN

Supplemental Schedule H, line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2014

|                                      |                                          |         |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.       | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | T. Rowe Price Mid Cap Value              | 55,505  | 1,592,444  |
| BMO Funds                            | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | BMO Small-Cap Growth I Fund              | 9,958   | 187,301    |
| Prudential Investments, LLC          | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | Prudential Jennison Mid Cap Growth       | 85,624  | 3,263,148  |
| JP Morgan Investment Mgmt Inc        | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | JP Morgan US Equity                      | 97,308  | 1,411,941  |
| Mainstay                             | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | Mainstay Large Cap Growth                | 632,658 | 6,351,880  |
| Columbia Funds                       | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | Columbia Dividend Income                 | 216,964 | 4,111,470  |
| Invesco                              | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | Invesco VanKampen Small Cap Value        | 53,119  | 1,043,259  |
| PIMCO                                | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | PIMCO Total Return                       | 283,274 | 3,019,695  |
| Capitol Research and Mgmt Co         | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | American Funds Europacific Growth        | 73,502  | 3,400,202  |
| Vanguard Group                       | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | Vanguard Total Bond Market Index         | 42,437  | 461,289    |
| Vanguard Group                       | Registered Investment Company            |         |            |
|                                      | Vanguard Total International Stock Index | 21,606  | 335,966    |
| * Provident Financial Services, Inc. | Common Stock                             | 647,829 | 11,699,793 |
| * Participant loans (a)              |                                          |         | 1,744,325  |
| Total                                |                                          |         | 64,789,328 |

\* A party-in-interest as defined by ERISA.

(a) As of December 31, 2014, the interest rate on all loans was at 4.25% with maturity dates through May 20, 2039

See accompanying Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Signatures

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

THE PROVIDENT BANK 401(K) PLAN

By: /s/ Sara Rispoli

Name: Sara Rispoli

Title: Plan Administrator  
First Vice President  
The Provident Bank

Date: June 25, 2015

Exhibit Index

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit                                              | Location |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 23.1           | Consent of Independent Registered<br>Accounting Firm | Page 17  |