

Howard Bancorp Inc
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Registration Statement No. 333-203885

HOWARD BANCORP, INC. PATAPSCO BANCORP, INC.

Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus

Merger Proposal – Your Vote is Very Important

The boards of directors of Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. have agreed to a strategic combination of the two companies under the terms of an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 2, 2015, as amended. Under the terms of the merger agreement, Patapsco will be merged with and into Howard, with Howard surviving the merger.

If the merger is completed, Patapsco stockholders will have the right to receive for each share of Patapsco common stock they own, at their election, (i) \$5.09 in cash or (ii) a fraction of a share (the “exchange ratio”) of Howard common stock determined by dividing (y) \$5.09 by (z) the 20 trading day average closing price of the Howard common stock on the date that is five business days prior to the closing of the merger (the “Average Price”), provided that if the Average Price is \$9.00 or less the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.5656 and if the Average Price is \$16.80 or more the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.3030. Patapsco stockholders may also elect to receive a combination of cash and Howard common stock. All such elections are subject to adjustment pursuant to the allocation and proration provisions described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus whereby 80% of the shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding as of the effective time of the merger (approximately 1,579,874 shares) will be exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and 20% of the outstanding shares (approximately 394,969 shares) of Patapsco common stock will be exchanged for cash (subject to the right of Howard to adjust these percentages as long as at least 50% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco are exchanged for shares of Howard common stock), as further described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. Cash will be paid in lieu of any fractional shares. If the merger is completed Howard will issue between 478,702 and 893,577 shares of common stock and pay approximately \$2,010,600 in cash in exchange for the outstanding shares of common stock of Patapsco upon consummation of the merger, or an aggregate of approximately \$10,051,000 - \$10,053,000 in cash and stock.

In addition, Howard will retire the outstanding shares of Series A Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock and Series B Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock issued by Patapsco to the United States Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) by either purchasing such shares from Treasury prior to the closing of the merger or by converting each such share into the right to receive one share of preferred stock of Howard with rights, powers and preferences that are not materially less favorable than the rights, powers and preferences of the Series A Perpetual

Preferred Stock and the Series B Perpetual Preferred Stock. Subsequent to the closing of the merger and with regulatory approval, Howard intends to repurchase any such shares of Howard preferred stock. Finally, after the merger, Howard will assume responsibility for all obligations in connection with, including the payment of principal and interest on, the debentures Patapsco has issued to Patapsco Statutory Trust I in connection with the trust's issuance of trust preferred securities.

After the merger, Howard stockholders will continue to own their existing shares of Howard common stock. Howard common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "HBMD."

Stockholders of Howard will be asked to vote on the approval of Howard's issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger at the Howard special meeting. Stockholders of Patapsco will be asked to vote on the approval of the merger agreement and the merger at the annual meeting of stockholders of Patapsco. We cannot complete the merger unless we obtain the required approval of the stockholders of each of Howard and Patapsco. Howard's issuance of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger must be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares of common stock cast at the Howard special meeting and the merger agreement and the merger must be approved by the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of common stock of Patapsco.

The Board of Directors of Howard Bancorp, Inc. recommends that you vote "FOR" approval of the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock in the merger and the Board of Directors of Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. recommends that you vote "FOR" approval of the merger agreement and the merger.

You should read this joint proxy statement/prospectus and all annexes carefully. Before making a decision on how to vote, you should consider the "Risk Factors" discussion beginning on page 17 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, nor any bank regulatory agency, nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The securities offered through this joint proxy statement/prospectus are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of a bank or savings association and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is dated June 8, 2015 and is first being mailed to Howard Bancorp, Inc. stockholders and Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. stockholders on or about June 17, 2015.

6011 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, SUITE 370

ELLICOTT CITY, MARYLAND 21043

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD JULY 22, 2015, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M.

At the

Corporate Offices of Howard Bancorp, Inc.

6011 University Boulevard, Suite 370

Ellicott City, MD 21043

A Special Meeting of Stockholders of Howard Bancorp, Inc., a Maryland corporation, will be held on July 22, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), at the corporate offices of Howard Bancorp, Inc. located at 6011 University Boulevard, Suite 370, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following:

1. A proposal to approve the issuance by Howard Bancorp, Inc. of the shares of Howard Bancorp, Inc. common stock to be issued to the stockholders of Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. in the merger of Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. into Howard Bancorp, Inc., with Howard Bancorp, Inc. as the surviving entity, pursuant to that Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of March 2, 2015, as amended, by and between Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Patapsco Bancorp, Inc., as the agreement may be amended from time to time, as more fully described in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus.

2. A proposal to adjourn the meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of additional proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meeting to approve the matters to be considered by the stockholders at the meeting, as more fully described in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus.

3. To act upon any other matter that may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2015 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, we urge you to return the enclosed proxy form in order to indicate your vote as soon as possible. To complete the merger, the issuance of the shares of Howard Bancorp, Inc. common stock in the merger must be approved by the holders of a majority of shares of common stock of Howard Bancorp, Inc. voted on the matter at the special meeting. Abstentions will count as a vote against this proposal, however, the failure to vote and shares that you have not authorized your broker to vote (or “broker non-votes”) will not count as votes cast and therefore, assuming a quorum is present at the meeting, will have no effect on the outcome of the vote to approve the issuance of the shares to be issued in the merger. Whether or not you intend to attend the special meeting, please vote as promptly as possible **by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card, by telephone by calling 1-800-951-2405 and following the voice mail prompts or over the Internet by following the instructions at www.investorvote.com/HBMD. You will need information from your proxy card or electronic delivery notice to submit your proxy.**

If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other fiduciary, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card provided by such person. You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to or at the meeting by written notice to Howard Bancorp, Inc., by executing a proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the meeting and voting in person. If you wish to attend the special meeting and vote in person and your shares are held in the name of a broker, trust, bank or other nominee, you must bring with you a proxy or letter from the broker, trustee, bank or nominee to confirm your beneficial ownership of the shares.

The joint proxy statement/prospectus that accompanies this notice provides you with detailed information about the proposed merger and the other matters to be voted on at the special meeting. It also contains information about Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. and related matters. We urge you to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus carefully. **In particular, you should read the “Risk Factors” section beginning on page 17 for a discussion of the risks you should consider in evaluating the proposed merger.**

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting in person.

By Order of the Board
of Directors,
/s/ Charles E. Schwabe
Charles E. Schwabe,
Secretary

Ellicott City, Maryland

June 8, 2015

PATAPSCO BANCORP, INC.

1301 Merritt Boulevard

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JULY 22, 2015 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Patapsco Bancorp, Inc., a Maryland corporation, will be held on July 22, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. (local time), at its office located at 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland 21222 for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following:

A proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of March 2, 2015, as amended, by and between Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Patapsco Bancorp, Inc., as the agreement may be amended from time to time, pursuant to

1. which Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. will merge with and into Howard Bancorp, Inc., with Howard Bancorp, Inc. as the surviving entity, and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, as more fully described in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus.

2. The election of two directors to serve for a term expiring at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders.

3. The ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

A proposal to adjourn the meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of additional

4. proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meeting to approve the matters to be considered by the stockholders at the meeting, as more fully described in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus.

5. To act upon any other matter that may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2015 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

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You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting in person. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, however, we urge you to return the enclosed proxy card in order to indicate your vote as soon as possible. To complete the merger, the merger agreement and the merger must be approved by the holders of two-thirds of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. An abstention, a failure to vote and a broker non-vote will have the same effect as a vote against the approval of the merger agreement and the merger. In the election of directors, votes that are withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election. In counting votes on the proposal to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the voting on the proposal. Whether or not you intend to attend the annual meeting, please vote as promptly as possible **by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card, by telephone by calling 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) and following the voice mail prompts or over the Internet by following the instructions at www.investorvote.com/PATD. You will need information from your proxy card to submit your proxy.** If you attend the annual meeting, you may vote in person or by your executed proxy. If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other fiduciary, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card provided by such person.

You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to or at the meeting by written notice to Patapsco Bancorp, Inc., by executing a proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the meeting and voting in person. If you wish to attend the annual meeting and vote in person and your shares are held in the name of a broker, trust, bank or other nominee, you must bring with you a proxy or letter from the broker, trustee, bank or nominee to confirm your beneficial ownership of the shares.

The joint proxy statement/prospectus that accompanies this notice provides you with detailed information about the proposed merger and the other matters to be voted on at the annual meeting. It also contains information about Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. and related matters. We urge you to read the entire joint proxy statement/prospectus carefully. **In particular, you should read the “Risk Factors” section beginning on page 17 for a discussion of the risks you should consider in evaluating the proposed merger and how it will affect you.**

By Order of the Board
of Directors,

/s/ Nicole N. Glaeser
Nicole N. Glaeser,
Corporate Secretary
Dundalk, Maryland

June 8, 2015

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE STOCKHOLDER MEETINGS

The following are some questions that you, as a stockholder of Howard or Patapsco, may have regarding the merger agreement, the merger and the other matters being considered at the stockholder meetings and the answers to those questions. Howard and Patapsco urge you to read carefully the remainder of this joint proxy statement/prospectus because the information in this section does not provide all the information that might be important to you with respect to the merger agreement, the merger and the other matters being considered at the stockholder meetings. Additional important information is also contained in the annexes to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: Why am I receiving this joint proxy statement/prospectus?

Howard and Patapsco have agreed to the merger of Patapsco with and into Howard, which we refer to as the “merger,” pursuant to the terms of a merger agreement that is described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A. Each company will hold a meeting of its stockholders for the purpose of voting with respect to the merger and/or the merger agreement and certain related proposals and, in the case of Patapsco, other proposals typically voted on at an annual meeting of stockholders, including the election of directors. This joint proxy statement/prospectus constitutes each company’s proxy statement, and it also constitutes a prospectus covering the shares of Howard common stock that will be issued to stockholders of Patapsco in the merger.

In order to complete the merger, Maryland law requires that the Patapsco stockholders vote to approve the merger. While Maryland law does not require that the stockholders of Howard approve the merger, in accordance with Rule 5635(a) of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), Howard is seeking separate approval by its stockholders of the issuance of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger in accordance with the terms of the merger agreement.

In addition, both Howard and Patapsco stockholders will be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn their stockholder meetings to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meetings to approve the matters to be considered by the stockholders.

Howard and Patapsco will hold separate meetings of their stockholders to obtain these approvals. This joint proxy statement/prospectus contains important information about the merger agreement, the merger and the meetings of the stockholders of Howard and Patapsco, and you should read it carefully. The enclosed voting materials allow you to vote your shares without actually attending your respective stockholder meeting.

Your vote is important. We encourage you to vote as soon as possible.

Q: When and where will the stockholder meetings be held?

The Howard special meeting will be held at its office located at 6011 University Boulevard, Suite 370, Ellicott A: City, Maryland 21043, on July 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The Patapsco annual meeting will be held at its office located at 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland 21222, on July 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Q: How do I vote?

Howard. If you are a stockholder of record of Howard as of the record date, you may vote in person by attending the Howard special meeting or by signing and returning the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope A: provided. You may also vote by telephone by calling 1-800-951-2405 and following the voice mail prompts or over the Internet by following the instructions at www.investorvote.com/HBMD.

Patapsco. If you are a stockholder of record of Patapsco as of the record date, you may vote in person by attending the Patapsco annual meeting or by signing and returning the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided. You may also vote by telephone by calling 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) and following the voice mail prompts or over the Internet by following the instructions at www.investorvote.com/PATD.

If you hold shares of common stock of Howard or Patapsco in the name of a bank, broker or other nominee, please follow the voting instructions provided by your bank, broker or other nominee to ensure that your shares are represented and voted at your stockholder meeting.

Q: What vote is required to approve each proposal?

Howard. The proposal at the Howard special meeting to approve Howard's issuance of the shares of Howard A: common stock to be issued in the merger requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast at the meeting assuming a quorum is present at the meeting.

As of the record date for the Howard special meeting, there were 6,345,727 shares of Howard common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote, and directors and executive officers of Howard and their affiliates are entitled to vote 14.24% of those shares.

Patapsco. The proposal at the Patapsco annual meeting to approve the merger agreement and the merger requires the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Therefore, an abstention, a failure to vote and a broker non-vote will each have the effect of a vote against this proposal.

In voting on the election of directors for Patapsco, you may vote in favor of an individual nominee or withhold your votes as to any of the nominees. There is no cumulative voting for the election of directors. Directors must be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting. This means that the nominee receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected. In the election of directors, votes that are withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election.

In voting on the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2015, you may vote in favor of the proposal, vote against the proposal or abstain from voting. To ratify the appointment of TGM Group, LLC, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting is required. In counting votes on the proposal to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the voting on the proposal.

As of the record date for the Patapsco annual meeting, there were 1,974,843 shares of Patapsco common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote, and directors, executive officers and their affiliates were entitled to vote 18.29% of such shares. The directors of Patapsco are entitled to vote 17.98% of the shares of Patapsco common stock that are issued and outstanding and entitled to vote as of the record date, and all have agreed, in writing, to vote their shares of

Patapsco common stock in support of the merger agreement and the merger.

Each of the stockholder meetings may be adjourned, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meeting to approve the proposal. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock cast on the matter at each stockholder meeting is required to adjourn such meeting.

Q: How do the boards of directors of each of Howard and Patapsco recommend that I vote on the proposals?

The board of directors of Howard recommends that you vote “**FOR**” approval of the issuance of the shares of A: Howard common stock to be issued in the merger and “**FOR**” approval of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting to solicit more proxies, if necessary.

The board of directors of Patapsco recommends that you vote “**FOR**” the approval of the merger agreement and the merger, “**FOR**” each of the nominees for director, “**FOR**” the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco’s independent registered public accounting firm and “**FOR**” approval of the proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to solicit more proxies, if necessary.

Q: How many votes do I have?

A: *Howard.* You are entitled to one vote for each share of Howard common stock that you owned as of the record date.

Patapsco. You are entitled to one vote for each share of Patapsco common stock that you owned as of the record date.

Q: What will happen if I fail to vote or I abstain from voting?

If you fail to vote or fail to instruct your bank, broker or other nominee to vote it will have no effect on the outcome of the proposal to approve the issuance of the shares of common stock to be issued in the merger in the case of A: Howard, assuming a quorum is present at the Howard special meeting, and will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger in the case of Patapsco. An abstention will have the same effect as a vote against these proposals.

In the election of directors at the Patapsco annual meeting, votes that are withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election. In counting votes on the proposal to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm at the Patapsco annual meeting, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the voting on the proposal.

Assuming a quorum is present, an abstention, broker non-vote or the failure to vote will have no effect on the proposals to approve the adjournment of the Howard special meeting or the Patapsco annual meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies. For this purpose, a quorum will be present if holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date are present, in person or by proxy, at the applicable stockholder meeting.

Q: If my shares are held of record by my broker, bank or other nominee (that is, in street name), will my broker, bank or other nominee automatically vote my shares for me?

A: Generally not. If you hold your shares in a stock brokerage account, your broker will not vote your shares of Howard or Patapsco common stock unless you provide voting instructions to your broker. If your shares are held by a bank or other nominee, whether your nominee may vote your shares in the absence of instructions from you will depend on your specific arrangement with your nominee record holder, but in the absence of an arrangement granting such record holder discretionary authority to vote, your record holder nominee will not have authority to vote your shares on any matter at the applicable stockholder meeting absent specific voting instructions from you. However, your bank or broker does have discretion to vote any uninstructed shares of Patapsco on the ratification of the appointment of Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm. You should instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares by following the instructions provided by the broker, bank or nominee

with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Please note that you may not vote shares held in street name by returning a proxy card directly to Howard or Patapsco or by voting in person at your stockholder meeting unless you provide a "legal proxy," which you must obtain from your bank, broker or nominee.

Q: What will happen if I return my proxy card without indicating how to vote?

A: If you sign and return your proxy card without indicating how to vote on any particular proposal, the Howard common stock or Patapsco common stock represented by your proxy will be voted in favor of that proposal.

Q: What if I fail to submit my proxy card or to instruct my broker, bank or other nominee to vote?

If you fail to properly submit your proxy card or otherwise vote as instructed on the proxy card, or fail to properly instruct your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares of Howard common stock or Patapsco common stock and you do not attend the applicable stockholder meeting and vote your shares in person, your shares will not be voted unless your shares are held of record by a non-broker and you have granted such record holder discretionary authority to vote your shares. If your shares are not voted, this will have the same effect as a vote against the approval of the merger agreement and the merger in the case of Patapsco, but will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors of Patapsco, the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm or the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to solicit additional proxies. If your Howard shares are not voted it will have no effect on the approval of the issuance of the Howard common stock in the merger or the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to solicit additional proxies.

Q: If I am a stockholder of record, can I change my vote after I have returned a proxy or voting instruction card?

A: Yes. You can change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at your stockholder meeting. You can do this in one of three ways:

· you can send a signed notice of revocation;

· you can grant a new, valid proxy bearing a later date; or

· if you are a holder of record, you can attend your meeting and vote in person, which will automatically cancel any proxy previously given, or you may revoke your proxy in person, but your attendance alone will not revoke any proxy that you have previously given.

If you choose either of the first two methods, you must submit your notice of revocation or your new proxy to the Secretary of Howard or Secretary of Patapsco, as appropriate, no later than the beginning of the applicable meeting. If your shares are held in street name by your bank, broker or other nominee, you should follow the directions you receive from your bank, broker or other nominee to change your voting instructions, or contact your broker, bank or other nominee if no such instructions are provided.

Q: Am I entitled to dissenters' rights or similar rights?

A: Yes, if you are a Patapsco stockholder. Under Maryland law, Patapsco stockholders may exercise their rights as objecting stockholders to demand the payment of the fair value of their shares of Patapsco common stock in connection with the merger. These rights are occasionally referred to as "dissenters' rights" in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The provisions of Maryland law governing dissenters' rights are complex, and you should study them carefully if you wish to exercise these rights. Multiple steps must be taken to properly exercise and perfect such rights. A copy of Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the Maryland General Corporation Law ("MGCL") is included with this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D.

If you are a Howard stockholder, you are not entitled to dissenters' rights in connection with the merger.

Q: What are the material United States federal income tax consequences of the merger to stockholders?

A: In general, for United States federal income tax purposes, Patapsco stockholders are not expected to recognize a gain or loss on the exchange of their shares of Patapsco common stock for shares of Howard common stock.

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Patapsco stockholders that receive only cash in exchange for their shares of Patapsco common stock will recognize gain or loss on the transaction, and Patapsco stockholders that receive a combination of cash and Howard common stock in exchange for their shares of Patapsco common stock will typically recognize gain (but not loss) on the transaction. Patapsco stockholders will have to recognize a gain in connection with cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Howard common stock. Howard stockholders will have no tax consequences as a result of the merger.

Patapsco stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors for a full understanding of the tax consequences of the merger to them because tax matters are very complicated and, in many cases, tax consequences of the merger will depend on your particular facts and circumstances. See “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

Q: When do you expect the merger to be completed?

Howard and Patapsco are working to complete the merger as soon as is reasonably practicable, with a target date on or about August 28, 2015. However, the merger is subject to various federal and state regulatory approvals and other conditions, in addition to approval by the stockholders of both companies, and it is possible that factors outside the control of both companies could result in the merger being completed at a later time, or not at all. There may be a substantial amount of time between the Howard special meeting and the Patapsco annual meeting and the completion of the merger.

Q: What do I need to do now?

Carefully read and consider the information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including its annexes. After you have carefully read these materials, as soon as possible either (i) indicate on the attached proxy card how you want your shares to be voted, then sign, date and mail the proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope (you may also vote by phone or via the Internet as otherwise instructed in this joint proxy statement/prospectus), or (ii) if you hold your shares in street name, follow the voting instructions provided by your bank, broker or other nominee to direct it how to vote your shares, so that your shares may be represented and voted at the Howard special meeting or the Patapsco annual meeting.

Q: What will I receive in the merger?

A: Howard. You will continue to hold your shares of common stock in Howard after the merger.

Patapsco. In exchange for each of your shares of Patapsco common stock, you will receive, at your election and subject to the limitations and allocation provisions described herein, either (i) \$5.09 in cash or (ii) Howard common stock as more fully described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: Do I need to do anything with my shares of Patapsco common stock or Howard common stock now?

No. Please do not send in your Patapsco stock certificates with your proxy card. If the merger is approved, then you will be sent an election form and a letter of transmittal including instructions for sending in your Patapsco stock certificates.

Each outstanding share of common stock of Howard will continue to remain outstanding as a share of Howard common stock after the merger. As a result, if you are a Howard stockholder, you are not required to take any action with respect to your Howard common stock certificates.

Q: Whom should I call if I have any questions?

Stockholders of Howard or Patapsco who have questions about the merger or the other matters to be voted on at the A: stockholder meetings or who desire additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or additional proxy cards should contact:

If you are a Howard stockholder:

George C. Coffman

Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Howard Bancorp, Inc.

6011 University Boulevard

Suite 370

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Phone: (410) 750-0020

Fax: (410) 750-8588

If you are a Patapsco stockholder:

John M. Wright

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Patapsco Bancorp, Inc.

1301 Merritt Boulevard

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

Phone: (410) 285-1010

Fax: (410) 285-8524

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this joint proxy statement/prospectus. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. We urge you to carefully read the entire document so that you fully understand the merger and the related transactions. Each item in this summary refers to the page of this joint proxy statement/prospectus on which that subject is discussed in more detail. Unless otherwise indicated in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the context otherwise requires, all references in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to “Howard” refer to Howard Bancorp, Inc., all references to “Patapsco” refer to Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. and all references to “Patapsco Bank” refer to The Patapsco Bank.

The Companies

Howard Bancorp, Inc. (see page 123)

Howard Bancorp, Inc.

6011 University Boulevard

Suite 370

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Telephone: (410) 750-0020

Howard Bancorp, Inc. was incorporated in April 2005 under the laws of the State of Maryland and is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. On May 18, 2005, the stockholders of Howard Bank approved the reorganization of Howard Bank into a holding company structure. The reorganization became effective on December 15, 2005. Howard completed its initial public offering in July 2012, issuing 1,150,891 shares of its common stock. Simultaneously with its initial public offering Howard completed a private placement pursuant to which it sold 568,603 shares of its common stock. Howard’s primary business is owning all of the capital stock of Howard Bank.

Howard Bank is a trust company chartered under Subtitle 2 of Title 3 of the Financial Institutions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Howard Bank was formed in March 2004 and commenced banking operations on August 9, 2004. Howard Bank has chosen, for the time being, not to seek and exercise trust powers, and its business, powers and regulatory structure are the same as a Maryland-chartered commercial bank. The Federal Deposit

Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) insures its deposits.

Howard Bank is headquartered in Ellicott City, which is located in Howard County, Maryland. Howard Bank has branches in Howard County as well as in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Cecil County, and Harford County in Maryland as well as one branch in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It engages in a general commercial banking business, making various types of loans and accepting deposits. Howard Bank has traditionally marketed its financial services to small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals (the “mass affluent”), and has recently expanded to meet the financial needs of consumers generally.

On June 2, 2015, pursuant to agreements between Howard and several institutional investors dated as of March 2, 2015, Howard issued an aggregate of 2,173,913 shares of Howard common stock for a purchase price of \$11.50 per share, or an aggregate of \$25 million, to such institutional investors. We refer to this transaction as the “private placement.”

As of March 31, 2015, Howard had consolidated assets, deposits and stockholders’ equity of approximately \$710.5 million, \$580.7 million and \$60.4 million, respectively.

Howard’s common stock is listed and traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol “HBMD.”

Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. (see page 182)

Patapsco Bancorp, Inc.

1301 Merritt Boulevard

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

Telephone: (410) 285-1010

Patapsco Bancorp, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland in November 1995. On April 1, 1996, Patapsco Federal Savings and Loan Association, the predecessor of Patapsco Bank, converted from mutual to stock form and reorganized into the holding company form of ownership as a wholly owned subsidiary of Patapsco.

Patapsco has no significant assets other than its investment in Patapsco Bank. Patapsco is primarily engaged in the business of directing, planning and coordinating the business activities of Patapsco Bank. Accordingly, the information set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus with respect to Patapsco, including consolidated financial statements and related data, focuses primarily on Patapsco Bank. In the future, if the merger is not consummated Patapsco may become an operating company or acquire or organize other operating subsidiaries, including other financial institutions. Currently, Patapsco does not maintain offices separate from those of Patapsco Bank or employ any persons other than its officers who are not separately compensated for such service.

Patapsco Bank is a Maryland commercial bank operating through four full-service offices located in Dundalk, Carney, Glen Arm and Baltimore City, Maryland. The primary business of Patapsco Bank is to attract deposits from individual and corporate customers and to originate residential and commercial mortgage loans, commercial loans and consumer loans, primarily in the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan area. Patapsco Bank is subject to competition from other financial and mortgage institutions in attracting and retaining deposits and in making loans. Patapsco Bank is subject to the regulations of certain agencies of the federal and state governments and undergoes periodic examination by those agencies.

At March 31, 2015, Patapsco Bank had total assets of \$220.7 million, total deposits of \$182.8 million and stockholders' equity of \$16.4 million.

The Stockholder Meetings

Date, Time and Place of Meetings (see pages 39 and 45)

Howard will hold a special meeting of stockholders on July 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., local time, at its office located at 6011 University Boulevard, Suite 370, Ellicott City, Maryland. The Howard board of directors has set the close of business on June 3, 2015 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting. On the record date, there were 6,345,727 shares of Howard common stock outstanding.

Patapsco will hold its annual meeting of stockholders on July 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., local time, at its office located at 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland. The Patapsco board of directors has set the close of business on June 3,

2015 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. On the record date, there were 1,974,843 shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding.

Matters to be Considered at the Meetings (see pages 39 and 45)

If you are a stockholder of Howard, you will be asked at the Howard special meeting to vote on (i) a proposal to approve the issuance by Howard of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger, (ii) a proposal to adjourn the special meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary, in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meeting to approve the issuance of the shares of common stock in the merger, and (iii) any other business that properly arises during the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. If you are a stockholder of Patapsco, you will be asked at the Patapsco annual meeting to vote on (i) a proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger, (ii) the election of two directors to serve for a term expiring at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, (iii) the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, (iv) a proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary, in the event there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meeting to approve the merger agreement and the merger, and (v) any other business that properly arises during the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, Howard will acquire Patapsco by merging Patapsco with and into Howard. Pursuant to a separate agreement, we anticipate that immediately after the merger, Patapsco Bank, the bank operating subsidiary of Patapsco, will merge with and into Howard Bank, with Howard Bank being the surviving bank.

A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A.

Consideration to be Received in the Merger (page 79)

The merger agreement provides that Patapsco stockholders will have the right, with respect to each of their shares of Patapsco common stock, to elect to receive, subject to adjustment pursuant to the allocation and proration provisions described below, either (i) \$5.09 in cash (which we sometimes refer to as the “per-share cash consideration”), or (ii) a fraction of a share (the “exchange ratio”) of Howard common stock determined by dividing \$5.09 by the 20 trading day average closing price of the Howard common stock on the date that is five business days prior to the closing of the merger (which we refer to as the “Average Price”), provided that if the Average Price is \$9.00 or less the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.5656 and if the Average Price is \$16.80 or more the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.3030 (we sometimes refer to this as the “per-share stock consideration”). Patapsco stockholders may also elect to receive a combination of cash and Howard common stock for their shares of Patapsco common stock. Therefore, Howard will issue between approximately 478,702 and 893,577 shares of common stock and pay cash consideration of approximately \$2,010,600 in the merger, for a total value of approximately \$10,050,000 at an Average Price of \$9.00 to \$16.80 per share, less at below an Average Price of \$9.00 per share, and more at above an Average Price of \$16.80 per share.

Accordingly, any change in the price of Howard common stock outside of the \$9.00 and \$16.80 parameters during the pricing period will affect the market value of the stock consideration that stockholders of Patapsco will receive as a result of the merger. For more information, see “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Terms of the Merger – What Patapsco Stockholders Will Receive in the Merger.”

You will have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received for your shares of Patapsco common stock, subject to allocation procedures as set forth in the merger agreement that may result in your receiving a portion of the merger consideration in a form other than that which you elected.

Based on a Howard closing sales price of \$14.00 on June 2, 2015, the most recent practical date prior to the date hereof, an assumed Average Price for the 20 trading days ending on May 22, 2015, five business days prior to the most recent practical date prior to the date hereof, of \$13.79 and a corresponding exchange ratio of 0.3691 shares of Howard common stock per share of Patapsco common stock, the tables below indicate the consideration that a Patapsco stockholder would receive, based on the values on that date, for 100 shares of Patapsco common stock

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assuming that a stockholder elects to receive, as consideration and no proration or change to consideration mix occurs, (a) all shares of Howard common stock, (b) 50% cash and 50% shares of Howard common stock, and (c) all cash.

Consideration to be Received as of June 2, 2015 by a Patapsco Stockholder Who Makes a 100% Stock Election and No Proration or Change to Consideration Mix Occurs

	Number of Howard Shares to be Received	Value of Howard Shares to be Received ⁽¹⁾	Cash Consideration to be Received ⁽²⁾	Total Value to be Received
For 100 Shares of Patapsco common stock	36	\$ 504.00	\$ 12.55	\$ 516.55

(1)Based on the closing sales price of \$14.00 on June 2, 2015.

(2)Consists of \$12.55 of cash in lieu of a fractional share of Howard common stock.

Consideration to be Received as of June 2, 2015 by a Patapsco Stockholder Who Makes a 50% Cash and 50% Stock Election and No Proration or Change to Consideration Mix Occurs

	Number of Howard Shares to be Received	Value of Howard Shares to be Received ⁽¹⁾	Cash Consideration to be Received ⁽²⁾	Total Value to be Received
For 100 Shares of Patapsco common stock	18	\$ 252.00	\$ 260.77	\$ 512.77

(1)Based on the closing sales price of \$14.00 on June 2, 2015.

(2)Including \$6.27 of cash in lieu of a fractional share of Howard common stock.

Consideration to be Received as of June 2, 2015 by a Patapsco Stockholder Who Makes a 100% Cash and No Proration or Change to Consideration Mix Occurs

	Number of Howard Shares to be Received	Value of Howard Shares to be Received	Cash Consideration to be Received	Total Value to be Received
For 100 Shares of Patapsco common stock	-	-	\$ 509.00	\$ 509.00

Allocation and Proration of the Merger Consideration (page 84)

The merger agreement contains allocation provisions that are designed to ensure that 80% (or approximately 1,579,874 shares) of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock will be exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and that 20% (or approximately 394,969 shares) of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock will be exchanged for cash. This provision is subject, however, to the right of Howard to adjust these percentages as long as at least 50% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock are exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and Howard issues at least 478,702, but no more than 893,577, of its shares of common stock in the merger.

Treatment of Shares if Too Much Cash is Elected. The merger agreement provides that if the holders of more than 20%, as such percentage may be adjusted at Howard's discretion under the terms of the merger agreement, of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock at the effective time of the merger (which we refer to as the "target cash conversion number") elect to receive cash for such shares in the merger or perfect their dissenters' rights, then the no-election shares will be converted into the right to receive Howard common stock and the shares that stockholders have requested be exchanged for cash will be reallocated by the exchange agent on a *pro rata* basis such that the total number of shares that will be exchanged for cash (including pursuant to dissenters' rights) equals the target cash conversion number. As a result, stockholders that elected to receive cash for some or all of their shares of Patapsco common stock will receive shares of Howard common stock instead with respect to some of such shares.

Treatment of Shares if Too Much Stock is Elected. The merger agreement provides that if the holders of less than the target cash conversion number elect to receive cash for such shares in the merger or perfect their dissenters' rights, then the shares for which no election as to cash or stock has been made will be reallocated by the exchange agent on a *pro rata* basis such that the total number of shares that will be exchanged for cash (including pursuant to dissenters' rights) equals the target cash conversion number. If after such reallocation the number of shares of Patapsco common stock that would be exchanged for cash in the merger (including pursuant to dissenters' rights) is still less than the target cash conversion number, then the shares that stockholders have requested be exchanged for Howard common stock will be reallocated by the exchange agent on a *pro rata* basis such that the total number of shares that will be exchanged for cash (including pursuant to dissenters' rights) equals the target cash conversion number. In that case, stockholders that elected to receive Howard common stock for some or all of their shares of Patapsco common stock will receive the per-share cash consideration instead with respect to some of such shares.

Election Procedures for Stockholders; Surrender of Stock Certificates (page 82)

No more than 40 business days and no less than 20 business days before the expected date of completion of the merger, an election form will be sent to Patapsco stockholders along with a letter of transmittal containing instructions for use in surrendering their Patapsco stock certificates in exchange for the merger consideration. You may use the election form to indicate whether your preference is to receive cash, shares of Howard common stock or a combination thereof, or that you have no preference as to the receipt of cash or Howard common stock (i.e., a non-election), in exchange for your shares of Patapsco common stock. The election deadline will be set forth in the election form, but will be no later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, five days prior to the anticipated closing date of the merger. To make an election, a holder of Patapsco common stock must submit a properly completed election form and return it, together with a properly completed letter of transmittal and all stock certificates, so that the form, letter of transmittal and certificates are actually received by the exchange agent at or before the election deadline in accordance with the instructions on the election form.

You should not send in your stock certificates until you receive the election form, letter of transmittal and instructions from the exchange agent.

No Election Shares (page 82)

Patapsco stockholders who do not submit a properly completed election form or revoke their election form prior to the election deadline, or who submit a properly completed election form indicating they have no preference as to the receipt of cash or Howard common stock in the merger, will have their shares of Patapsco common stock designated as “no election shares.” No election shares will be converted into the right to receive either cash or shares of Howard common stock, or a combination of cash and shares of Howard common stock, depending on the elections made by other Patapsco stockholders and in accordance with the allocation and proration procedures outlined in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Each of the Howard and Patapsco Boards of Directors Recommends Stockholder Approval (see pages 40 and 45)

Each of the Howard and Patapsco boards of directors believes that the merger is in the best interests of Howard and Patapsco, respectively, and their respective stockholders. Accordingly, the board of directors of Howard recommends that stockholders of Howard vote “**FOR**” approval of the issuance by Howard of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger, and the board of directors of Patapsco recommends that stockholders of Patapsco vote “**FOR**” approval of the merger agreement and the merger.

Opinion of Howard's Financial Advisor (see page 58)

Griffin Financial Group, LLC (“Griffin”) delivered a written opinion to the Howard board of directors that, as of March 2, 2015, and subject to the terms, conditions and qualifications set forth therein, the merger consideration payable by Howard to stockholders of Patapsco pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, was fair, from a financial point of view, to the common equity stockholders of Howard. The full text of Griffin’s written opinion is attached as Annex B to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated herein by reference. Howard’s stockholders are urged to read the opinion in its entirety for a description of the assumptions made, matters considered, procedures followed and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by Griffin. Griffin’s opinion is subject to the assumptions and conditions contained in its opinion and is necessarily based on economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to Griffin as of, the date of its opinion. **Griffin’s opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion is addressed to the Howard board of directors and is limited to the fairness of the merger consideration to be paid by Howard in the merger, from a financial point of view, to the common equity stockholders of Howard. Griffin does not express an opinion as to the underlying decision by Howard to engage in the merger or the relative merits of the merger compared to other strategic alternatives which may be available to Howard.**

Opinion of Patapsco's Financial Advisor (see page 66)

In connection with the merger, Patapsco's financial advisor, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. ("KBW"), delivered a written opinion, dated March 2, 2015, to the Patapsco board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the opinion, to the holders of Patapsco common stock of the merger consideration in the proposed merger. The full text of the opinion, which describes the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered, and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by KBW in preparing the opinion, is attached as Annex C to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. **The opinion was for the information of, and was directed to, the Patapsco board (in its capacity as such) in connection with its consideration of the financial terms of the merger. The opinion did not address the underlying business decision of Patapsco to engage in the merger or enter into the merger agreement or constitute a recommendation to the Patapsco board in connection with the merger, and it does not constitute a recommendation to any holder of Patapsco common stock or any stockholder of any other entity as to how to vote in connection with the merger or any other matter (including, with respect to holders of Patapsco common stock, what election any such stockholder should make with respect to the per-share stock consideration or the per-share cash consideration).**

Approval of the Merger Requires the Affirmative Vote of Stockholders Holding Two-Thirds of the Shares of Patapsco Common Stock Outstanding on the Record Date of June 3, 2015 (see page 46)

The approval of the merger agreement and the merger by stockholders of Patapsco requires the approval of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Patapsco common stock that are issued and outstanding as of the record date of June 3, 2015. Each holder of shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share held. The vote required for approval of the merger agreement and the merger is a percentage of all outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock. Therefore, an abstention, a failure to vote and a broker non-vote will each have the same effect as a vote against the approval of the merger agreement and the merger.

In the election of directors, directors must be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting. This means that the nominee receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected. In the election of directors, votes that are withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election.

To ratify the appointment of TGM Group, LLC, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting is required. In counting votes on the proposal to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the voting on the proposal.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Patapsco common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote is required to approve the adjournment of the meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary. An abstention does not count as a vote cast under Maryland Law. Therefore, an abstention, a failure to vote and a broker non-vote will each have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

Approval of Howard's Issuance of the Shares of Howard Common Stock to be Issued in the Merger Requires the Affirmative Vote of Stockholders Holding a Majority of the Shares of Howard Common Stock Cast on the Matter at the Special Meeting (see page 40)

The approval by holders of a majority of the votes cast on the matter at the special meeting of stockholders of Howard is necessary to approve the issuance by Howard of the shares of its common stock to be issued in the merger. For this purpose, abstentions count as votes cast and therefore will be equal to a vote against this proposal. A failure to vote and broker non-votes do not count as votes cast and will have no impact on the outcome of this vote, assuming a quorum is present at the special meeting. Each holder of shares of Howard common stock outstanding on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share held.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares voted on the matter at the special meeting is required to approve the adjournment of the meeting to solicit additional proxies. Therefore, abstentions, the failure to vote and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary.

Patapsco's Directors have Agreed to Vote in Favor of the Merger Agreement (see pages 46 and 101)

As of the record date for the Patapsco annual meeting, there were 1,974,843 shares of Patapsco common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote. The directors of Patapsco have agreed, in writing, to vote all shares of Patapsco common stock for which they are the record or beneficial owner “**FOR**” the approval of the merger agreement and the merger. As of the record date, such directors and their affiliates are entitled to vote 17.98% of the issued and outstanding shares of the Patapsco common stock.

Howard's Directors have Approved the Merger and are Expected to Vote in Favor of the Issuance of the Shares of Howard Common Stock to be Issued in the Merger (see page 40)

The directors of Howard have approved the merger agreement and the merger and are expected to vote for approval of the issuance by Howard of the shares of its common stock to be issued in the merger. Directors of Howard have sole or shared voting power over 777,026 shares of Howard common stock, or approximately 12.24% of the shares of Howard common stock outstanding as of the record date.

Patapsco's Directors and Management may have Interests in the Merger that Differ from Your Interests (see page 98)

The directors and executive officers of Patapsco have interests in the merger as directors and employees that are different from your interests as a Patapsco stockholder. These interests include, among others, provisions in the merger agreement regarding Howard and Howard Bank board positions, Howard Bank advisory board positions and the payment of accrued fees to directors of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank, the offer of employment to Patapsco's President and Chief Executive Officer and payments to be made to certain executive officers of Patapsco pursuant to existing change in control arrangements, as well as indemnification and insurance provisions included in the merger agreement.

Patapsco's board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them in approving and recommending the merger agreement, the merger and the related transactions.

Regulatory Approval Must be Obtained and Other Conditions Must be Satisfied Before the Merger can be Completed (see pages 91 and 96)

Howard's and Patapsco's obligations to complete the merger are subject to various conditions that are usual and customary for this kind of transaction, including obtaining approval from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "FRB") and the Maryland Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation (the "Maryland Commissioner") for the merger and obtaining approval of the FDIC and the Maryland Commissioner for the bank merger (which is included in any references to regulatory "approvals" in this joint proxy statement/prospectus). We have received the necessary approvals from the FRB, the FDIC and the Maryland Commissioner. In addition to the required regulatory approvals, the merger will be completed only if certain conditions, including the following, are satisfied or waived by the companies:

Howard's stockholders must approve (i) the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger and (ii) the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the private placement (which approval was obtained on May 27, 2015), and Patapsco's stockholders must approve the merger agreement and the merger;

- each party must receive an opinion from its counsel or independent certified public accountants that:

- Ø the merger constitutes a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

with respect to the opinion received by Patapsco, any gain realized in the merger will be recognized only to the extent of cash or other property (other than Howard common stock) received in the merger, including cash received in lieu of fractional share interests; and

each party's representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement must be correct except to the extent that if not true and correct it would not have a material adverse effect on the party or the party's ability to consummate the merger (with certain exceptions), and each party must have performed all of its obligations set forth in the merger agreement.

The merger agreement attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A describes all of the conditions that must be met before the merger may be completed.

Howard and Patapsco can Amend or Terminate the Merger Agreement (see page 93)

Patapsco and Howard may agree to terminate the merger agreement and not complete the merger at any time before the merger is completed. Each company also may unilaterally terminate the merger agreement in certain circumstances, including if:

The merger is not completed on or prior to October 31, 2015 or, because of the failure to obtain any required regulatory approval or consent by such date, the merger is not completed by December 31, 2015, if the failure to complete the merger by that date is not due to a material breach of the merger agreement by the party seeking to terminate it.

A definitive written denial of a required regulatory approval or the permanent withdrawal of an application for approval or consent at the request of a regulatory authority.

The other party has materially breached any representation, warranty, covenant or other agreement in the merger agreement, and such breach either by its nature cannot be cured prior to the closing of the merger or remains uncured 30 days after receipt by such party of written notice of such breach (provided that if such breach cannot reasonably be cured within such 30-day period but may reasonably be cured within 60 days and cure is being diligently pursued, then termination can occur only after expiration of such 60-day period), if the party terminating the merger agreement is not in material breach.

Howard's stockholders do not approve the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger and the private placement or Patapsco's stockholders do not approve the merger agreement and the merger.

The other party's board of directors withdraws, changes or modifies its recommendation to stockholders to approve the issuance of the shares in the merger or in the private placement, with respect to Howard, or the merger agreement and the merger with respect to Patapsco.

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Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary receives (with respect to Patapsco's right to terminate) or enters into, approves or resolves to approve (with respect to Howard's right to terminate) an agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument with a view to being acquired, or more than 25% of its assets or liabilities being acquired, by any person other than Howard, or to sell 25% or more of its outstanding shares of common stock, in a transaction the Patapsco board of directors determines is more favorable to the stockholders of Patapsco (a "superior Patapsco transaction").

In addition, Patapsco may terminate the merger agreement if:

Howard or any Howard subsidiary enters into a definitive term sheet, letter of intent, agreement or similar agreement to merge, as a result of which Howard is not the surviving entity or Howard's directors as of March 2, 2015 do not comprise the majority of the surviving entity's board of directors, with any person other than Patapsco, and the Patapsco board of directors determines, after considering the advice of counsel, that such transaction is not in the best interests of Patapsco's stockholders.

At any time during the two business day period beginning on the fifth business day immediately prior to the closing of the merger:

o the Average Price is less than \$7.20; and

(a) the quotient obtained by dividing the Average Price by \$9.00 is less than (b) the Index Ratio minus 0.20, where the Index Ratio is equal to the quotient obtained by dividing (y) the closing price of the NASDAQ Bank Index (or if not available a similar index) on the date that is five business days before the closing of the merger, by (z) the closing price of the NASDAQ Bank Index (or similar index) on February 27, 2015.

Howard and Patapsco can agree to amend the merger agreement in any way. Either company can waive any of the requirements of the other company in the merger agreement, except that neither company can waive the requirement that the companies receive all required regulatory approvals, the requirement for stockholder approval or the requirement that no order, decree or injunction preventing the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement has been issued.

Patapsco Must Pay a Termination Fee to Howard if the Merger Agreement is Terminated Under Certain Circumstances (see page 94)

Patapsco must pay Howard a termination fee in the amount of \$500,000 if the merger agreement is terminated because:

Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary has (i) received a proposal for, and entered into an agreement with respect to, a superior Patapsco transaction (with respect to termination by Patapsco) or (ii) entered into, approved or resolved to approve an agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument with respect to a superior Patapsco transaction (with respect to termination by Howard);

Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary has entered into an agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument for any other merger, acquisition or similar transaction or a transaction with respect to the sale of a material portion of its assets in violation of the merger agreement; or

The board of directors of Patapsco has withdrawn, changed or modified its recommendation to the stockholders of Patapsco to approve the merger agreement and the merger in a manner adverse to Howard.

Rights of Howard Stockholders Differ from those of Patapsco Stockholders (see page 118)

When the merger is completed, Patapsco stockholders who receive Howard common stock as consideration in the merger will become Howard stockholders. The rights of Howard stockholders differ from the rights of Patapsco

stockholders in certain important ways. These differences have to do with provisions in Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws that differ from the provisions in Patapsco's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

Patapsco Stockholders have Dissenters' Rights in Connection with the Merger (see page 106)

Patapsco stockholders are entitled to exercise dissenters' rights with respect to the merger and, if the merger is completed and they perfect their dissenters' rights, to receive payment in cash for the fair value of their shares of Patapsco common stock instead of their share of the aggregate merger consideration. In general, to preserve their dissenters' rights, Patapsco stockholders who wish to exercise these rights must:

- Deliver a written objection to the merger to Patapsco at or before Patapsco's annual meeting of stockholders;
- Not vote their shares for approval of the merger agreement and the merger;

Within 20 days after the merger is consummated, deliver a written demand to Howard stating the number of shares of Patapsco common stock for which they demand payment; and

- Comply with the other procedures set forth in Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL.

The text of Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL governing dissenters' rights is included with this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D. Failure to comply with the procedures described in Annex D will result in the loss of dissenters' rights under the MGCL. We urge you to carefully read the text of Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL governing dissenters' rights.

RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the matters addressed under the caption “Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements,” you should carefully consider the following risk factors in deciding whether to vote for approval of the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock in the merger, with respect to Howard, or for the approval of the merger agreement and the merger with respect to Patapsco.

Risk Factors Related to the Merger in General

Howard may fail to realize all of the anticipated benefits of the merger. The success of the merger will depend, in part, on Howard’s ability to realize the anticipated benefits and cost savings from combining the businesses of Howard and Patapsco. To realize these anticipated benefits and cost savings, however, Howard must successfully combine the businesses of Howard and Patapsco. If Howard is unable to achieve these objectives, the anticipated benefits and cost savings of the merger may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected.

Howard and Patapsco have operated and, until the completion of the merger, will continue to operate, independently. It is possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the loss of key depositors or other bank customers, the disruption of each company’s ongoing businesses or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect Howard’s and Patapsco’s ability to maintain their relationships with their respective clients, customers, depositors and employees or to achieve the anticipated benefits of the merger. Integration efforts between the two companies may, to some extent, also divert management’s attention and resources. These integration matters could have an adverse effect on each of Howard and Patapsco during such transition period.

The opinions of Howard’s and Patapsco’s financial advisors to the parties’ respective boards of directors do not reflect changes in circumstances since the date of such opinions. The boards of directors of Howard and Patapsco received opinions from the parties’ respective financial advisors regarding the fairness of the merger consideration from a financial point of view, but these opinions are dated as of, and speak only as of, the date of the merger agreement. Changes in the operations and prospects of Howard and Patapsco, general market and economic conditions and other factors that may be beyond the control of Howard or Patapsco may significantly alter the value of Patapsco or the prices of the shares of Howard common stock or Patapsco common stock by the time the merger is completed. The opinions do not speak as of the time the merger will be completed or as of any date other than the date of such opinions. Because Howard and Patapsco do not currently anticipate asking their respective financial advisors to update their opinions, the opinions will not address the fairness of the merger consideration from a financial point of view at the time the merger is completed. The recommendation of Patapsco’s board of directors that Patapsco stockholders vote “**FOR**” the approval of the merger agreement and the merger and the recommendation of Howard’s board of directors that Howard stockholders vote “**FOR**” approval of the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger, however, are made as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a description of the opinions of the parties’ respective financial advisors, refer to the section of this joint proxy

statement/prospectus entitled “The Merger Agreement and the Merger” under the headings “Opinion of Howard’s Financial Advisor” and “Opinion of Patapsco’s Financial Advisor.”

Because the market price of Howard common stock will fluctuate Patapsco stockholders cannot be sure of the value of the merger consideration they may receive. Upon completion of the merger, each share of Patapsco common stock will be converted into the right to receive a number of shares of Howard common stock approximating \$5.09 in value; provided, however, that in the event that the Average Price is \$9.00 or less or \$16.80 or more, each share of Patapsco common stock will be converted into the right to receive 0.5656 or 0.3030 shares of Howard common stock, respectively. For more information, see “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Terms of the Merger – What Patapsco Stockholders Will Receive in the Merger.” The sale prices for shares of Howard common stock may vary from the sale prices of Howard common stock on the date we announced the merger, on the date this joint proxy statement/prospectus was mailed to Patapsco stockholders and on the date of the annual meeting of the Patapsco stockholders. Any change in the market price of shares of Howard common stock between the last trading day included in the Average Price and the closing of the merger may affect the value of the merger consideration that Patapsco stockholders will receive upon completion of the merger. Stock price changes may result from a variety of factors, including general market and economic conditions, changes in our respective businesses, operations and prospects and regulatory considerations. Many of these factors are beyond our control. You should obtain current market quotations for shares of Howard common stock.

The market price of Howard common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those affecting the shares of Howard or Patapsco currently. The businesses of Howard and Patapsco differ and, accordingly, the results of operations of the combined company and the market price of the combined company's shares of common stock may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting the independent results of operations and market prices of common stock of each of Howard and Patapsco. For a discussion of the businesses of Howard and Patapsco and of certain factors to consider in connection with those businesses, see "Business of Howard Bancorp, Inc.," "Business of Howard Bank," "Business of Patapsco Bancorp, Inc." and "Business of Patapsco Bank"

If the merger is not completed, Howard and Patapsco will have incurred substantial expenses without realizing the expected benefits. Howard and Patapsco have incurred substantial expenses in connection with the execution of the merger agreement and the merger. The completion of the merger depends on the satisfaction of specified conditions, including the requisite approval of the stockholders of Howard and Patapsco. There is no guarantee that these conditions will be met. If the merger is not completed, these expenses could have a material adverse impact on the financial condition of Howard and/or Patapsco because they would not have realized the expected benefits.

Failure to complete the merger could negatively impact the stock prices and future businesses and financial results of Howard and Patapsco. If the merger is not completed, the ongoing businesses of Howard and Patapsco may be adversely affected and Howard and Patapsco will be subject to several risks, including the following:

Patapsco may be required, under certain circumstances, to pay Howard a termination fee of \$500,000 under the merger agreement;

Howard and Patapsco will be required to pay certain costs relating to the merger, whether or not the merger is completed, such as legal, accounting, financial advisor and printing fees;

under the merger agreement, Patapsco is subject to certain restrictions on the conduct of its business prior to completing the merger, which may adversely affect its ability to execute certain of its business strategies; and

matters relating to the merger may require substantial commitments of time and resources by Howard and Patapsco management that could otherwise have been devoted to other opportunities that may have been beneficial to Howard and Patapsco as independent companies, as the case may be; and Patapsco and Patapsco Bank will still be subject to the provisions of their written agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (the "Federal Reserve Bank") and the Maryland Commissioner described in the section headed "– Additional Risk Factors Relating to Patapsco – Patapsco and Patapsco Bank have entered into a written agreement with their regulators that may result in adverse results to Patapsco's operations."

In addition, if the merger is not completed, Howard and/or Patapsco may experience negative reactions from the financial markets and from their respective customers and employees. Howard and/or Patapsco also could be subject to litigation related to any failure to complete the merger or to enforcement proceedings commenced against Howard or Patapsco to perform their respective obligations under the merger agreement. If the merger is not completed, Howard and Patapsco cannot assure their stockholders that the risks described above will not materialize and will not materially affect the business, financial results and stock prices of Howard and/or Patapsco.

Howard and Patapsco may choose not to proceed with the merger if it is not completed by October 31, 2015 or, if due to the lack of a required regulatory approval, December 31, 2015. Either Howard or Patapsco may terminate the merger agreement if the merger has not been completed by October 31, 2015 or, if due to the lack of a required regulatory approval, December 31, 2015. See “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Terms of the Merger – Termination.” There can be no assurance that all conditions to the merger will have been satisfied by the required date(s). See “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Terms of the Merger – Conditions to the Merger.”

Risk Factors Relating to Howard’s Business

This section discusses risks relating to Howard’s business and includes risks it will continue to face after the merger. References to “Howard” include its subsidiary Howard Bank as the context requires.

Because Howard’s loan portfolio consists largely of commercial business and commercial real estate loans, its portfolio carries a higher degree of risk than would a portfolio composed primarily of residential mortgage loans. Howard’s loan portfolio is made up largely of commercial business loans and commercial real estate loans, most of which are collateralized by real estate. These types of loans generally expose a lender to a higher degree of credit risk of non-payment and loss than do residential mortgage loans because of several factors, including dependence on the successful operation of a business or a project for repayment, the collateral securing these loans may not be sold as easily as residential real estate, and loan terms with a balloon payment rather than full amortization over the loan term. In addition, commercial real estate and commercial loans typically involve larger loan balances to single borrowers or groups of related borrowers compared to one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. Consequently, an adverse development with respect to one loan or one credit relationship can expose Howard to a significantly greater risk of loss compared to an adverse development with respect to a one- to four-family residential mortgage loan. Underwriting and portfolio management activities cannot completely eliminate all risks related to these loans. Any significant failure to pay on time by Howard’s customers or a significant default by its customers would materially and adversely affect Howard.

Howard Bank makes both secured and some unsecured commercial and industrial loans. Unsecured loans generally involve a higher degree of risk of loss than do secured loans because, without collateral, repayment is wholly dependent upon the success of the borrowers’ businesses. Secured commercial and industrial loans are generally collateralized by accounts receivable, inventory, equipment or other assets owned by the borrower and include a

personal guaranty of the business owner. Compared to real estate, that type of collateral is more difficult to monitor, its value is harder to ascertain, it may depreciate more rapidly and it may not be as readily saleable if repossessed. Further, commercial and industrial loans generally will be serviced primarily from the operation of the business, which may not be successful, and commercial real estate loans generally will be serviced from income on the properties securing the loans.

While the declines in the value of Howard's real estate collateral securing loans following the recession that began in 2007 have been reflected in existing reserves, the discounts and reserves Howard has taken against its loan portfolio based on its review of the recent recession's impact on real estate values in its market areas may be insufficient. Further deterioration in the real estate market or a prolonged economic recovery could adversely affect the value of the properties securing the loans or revenues from borrowers' businesses, thereby increasing the risk of non-performing loans and increased portfolio losses that could materially and adversely affect Howard.

In addition, Howard's commercial borrowers have been impacted by the current economic slowdown as consumers and other businesses have pulled back on spending. Small businesses that make up the majority of Howard's commercial borrowers generally do not have the cash reserves to help cushion them from an economic slowdown to the same extent that large borrowers do and thus may be more heavily impacted by an economic downturn. A continued sluggish economy or another economic slowdown may have a negative effect on the ability of Howard's commercial borrowers to make timely repayments of their loans, which could have an adverse impact on Howard's earnings.

Current market conditions include an over-supply of land, lots and finished homes in many markets, including those where Howard does business. Construction loans are subject to risks during the construction phase that are not present in standard residential real estate and commercial real estate loans. These risks include:

the viability of the contractor;

the value of the project being subject to successful completion;

the contractor's ability to complete the project, to meet deadlines and time schedules and to stay within cost estimates; and

concentrations of such loans with a single contractor and its affiliates.

Real estate construction and land loans also present risks of default in the event of declines in property values or volatility in the real estate market during the construction phase. If Howard is forced to foreclose on a project prior to completion, it may not be able to recover the entire unpaid portion of the loan, may be required to fund additional amounts to complete a project and may have to hold the property for an indeterminate amount of time. If any of these risks were to occur, it could adversely affect Howard's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The federal banking agencies have issued guidance regarding high concentrations of commercial real estate loans within bank loan portfolios. The guidance requires financial institutions that exceed certain levels of commercial real estate lending compared with their total capital to maintain heightened risk management practices that address the following key elements: including board and management oversight and strategic planning, portfolio management, development of underwriting standards, risk assessment and monitoring through market analysis and stress testing, and maintenance of increased capital levels as needed to support the level of commercial real estate lending. If there is any deterioration in Howard's commercial real estate or real estate construction and land portfolios or if its regulators conclude that it has not implemented appropriate risk management practices, that could adversely affect Howard's business and result in a requirement of increased capital levels, and such capital may not be available at that time.

If Howard's allowance for credit losses is not sufficient to cover actual loan losses, its earnings would decrease.

Howard maintains an allowance for credit losses that it believes is adequate for absorbing any potential losses in its loan portfolio. Howard's management, through a periodic review and consideration of Howard's loan portfolio, determines the amount of the allowance for credit losses. Howard cannot, however, predict with certainty the amount of probable losses in its portfolio or be sure that its allowance will be adequate in the future. If Howard's management's assumptions and judgments prove to be incorrect and the allowance for credit losses is inadequate to absorb future losses, its losses will increase and its earnings will suffer.

In particular, it is more difficult to estimate loan losses for those types of loans - commercial and commercial real estate - that constitute the majority of Howard's portfolio as compared to, for example, residential mortgage loans. Also, because these types of loans tend to have large loan balances, a loss on a single loan could have a significant adverse effect on Howard's operations.

In determining the amount of the allowance for credit losses, Howard reviews its loans and its loss and delinquency experience and evaluates economic conditions. If its assumptions are incorrect, Howard's allowance for credit losses may not be sufficient to cover future incurred losses in its loan portfolio, resulting in additions to the allowance and a corresponding decrease to earnings. Material additions to the allowance could materially decrease Howard's net income. If delinquencies and defaults continue to increase, Howard may be required to further increase its provision for loan losses.

In addition, bank regulators periodically review Howard's allowance for credit losses and may require an increase in the provision for loan losses or further loan charge-offs to the allowance for credit losses. Any increase in the allowance for credit losses or loan charge-offs might have a material adverse effect on Howard's financial condition and results of operations.

Because Howard's loan portfolio includes residential real estate loans, its earnings are sensitive to the credit risks associated with these types of loans. Howard originates and retains in its portfolio residential mortgage loans and intends to increase its origination of these types of loans. While residential real estate loans are more diversified than loans to commercial borrowers, and Howard's local real estate market and economy have performed better than many other markets, a downturn could cause higher unemployment, more delinquencies, and could adversely affect the value of properties securing loans in Howard's portfolio. In addition, should values begin to decline again, the real estate market may take longer to recover or not recover to previous levels. These risks increase the probability of an adverse impact on Howard's financial results as fewer borrowers would be eligible to borrow and property values could be below necessary levels required for adequate coverage on the requested loan.

Howard's growth strategy may not be successful, may be dilutive and may have other adverse consequences. As previously mentioned, a key component of Howard's growth strategy is to pursue acquisitions of other financial institutions or branches of other financial institutions, in addition the pending merger. As consolidation of the banking industry continues, the competition for suitable acquisition candidates may increase. Howard competes with other banking companies for acquisition opportunities, and there are a limited number of candidates that meet its acquisition criteria. Consequently, Howard may not be able to identify suitable candidates for acquisitions. If Howard is unable to locate suitable acquisition candidates willing to sell on terms acceptable to it, Howard's net income could decline and it would be required to find other methods to grow its business. Howard may also open additional branches organically and expand into new markets or offer new products and services. These activities would involve a number of risks, including:

- the time and expense associated with identifying and evaluating potential acquisitions and merger partners;

using inaccurate estimates and judgments to evaluate credit, operations, management and market risks with respect to the target institution or its branches or assets;

- diluting Howard's existing stockholders in an acquisition;

the time and expense associated with evaluating new markets for expansion, hiring experienced local management and opening new offices or branches as there may be a substantial time lag between these activities before Howard generates sufficient assets and deposits to support the costs of the expansion;

- operating in markets in which Howard has had no or only limited experience;

taking a significant amount of time negotiating a transaction or working on expansion plans, resulting in management's time and attention being diverted from the operation of Howard's existing business;

- Howard may not be able to correctly identify profitable or growing markets for new branches;

- the time and expense associated with integrating the operations and personnel of the combined businesses;
 - the ability to realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisition;
 - creating an adverse short-term effect on Howard's results of operations;
 - losing key employees and customers as a result of an acquisition that is poorly received;
 - time and costs associated with regulatory approvals;
 - lack of information on a target institution or its branches or assets;
- inability to obtain additional financing (including by issuing additional common equity), if necessary, on favorable terms or at all; and
- unforeseen adjustments, write-downs, write-offs or restructuring or other impairment charges.

In addition, Howard may not be able to integrate successfully or operate profitably any financial institutions it may acquire. Howard may experience disruption and incur unexpected expenses in integrating acquisitions. Any acquisitions Howard does make may not enhance its cash flows, business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects and may have an adverse effect on its results of operations, particularly during periods in which the acquisitions are being integrated into its operations.

Also, the costs to lease and start up new branch facilities or to acquire existing financial institutions or branches, and the additional costs to operate these facilities, may increase Howard's noninterest expense. It also may be difficult to adequately and profitably manage the anticipated growth from the new branches. Howard can provide no assurance that any new branch sites will successfully attract a sufficient level of deposits and other banking business to offset their operating expenses.

Further, Howard plans to make significant investment in its infrastructure in the immediate future. Howard also currently plans to open additional branches in the areas where it now operates and in other markets over the next few years. Howard anticipates that this will have the short-term effect of, at least temporarily, increasing its expenses at a faster rate than revenue growth, which will have an adverse effect on net income.

If Howard grows too quickly and is not able to control costs and maintain asset quality, growth could materially and adversely affect its financial condition and results of operations. Further, Howard may not be successful in its growth strategy, which would negatively impact its financial condition and results of operations.

Howard is subject to security and operational risks relating to its use of technology that could damage its reputation and its business. Security breaches in Howard's Internet banking activities or other communication and information systems could damage its reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject it to additional regulatory scrutiny or expose it to civil litigation and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on Howard's financial condition and results of operations. Howard relies on standard Internet and other security systems to provide the security and authentication necessary to effect secure transmission of data. These precautions may not protect its systems from compromises or breaches of its security measures. Howard continues to monitor developments in this area and consider whether additional protective measures are necessary or appropriate, and has obtained insurance protection intended to cover losses due to network security breaches; there is no guarantee, however, that such insurance would cover all costs associated with any breach, damage or failure of Howard's computer systems and network infrastructure.

Howard relies on certain external vendors. Howard's business is dependent on the use of outside service providers that support its day-to-day operations including data processing and electronic communications. Howard's operations are exposed to risk that a service provider may not perform in accordance with established performance standards required in its agreements for any number of reasons including equipment or network failure, a change in their senior management, their financial condition, their product line or mix and how they support existing customers, or a simple change in their strategic focus. While Howard has comprehensive policies and procedures in place to mitigate risk at all phases of service provider management from selection, to performance monitoring and renewals, the failure of a service provider to perform in accordance with contractual agreements could be disruptive to Howard's business, which could have a material adverse effect on its financial conditions and results of operations.

Additionally, financial products and services have become increasingly technology-driven. Howard's ability to meet the needs of its customers competitively, and in a cost-efficient manner, is dependent on its ability to keep pace with technological advances and to invest in new technology as it becomes available. Many of Howard Bank's competitors have greater resources to invest in technology than it does and may be better equipped to market new technology-driven products and services. The ability to keep pace with technological change is important, and the failure to do so could have a material adverse impact on Howard's business and therefore on its financial condition and results of operations.

New regulations restrict Howard's ability to originate residential real estate loans. A CFPB rule effective January 10, 2014, is designed to clarify for lenders how they can avoid legal liability under the Dodd-Frank Act, which would otherwise hold lenders accountable for ensuring a borrower's ability to repay a mortgage. Loans that meet the "qualified mortgage" definition set forth in the rule will be presumed to have complied with the new ability to repay standard. Under the rule, a "qualified mortgage" loan must not contain certain specified features.

The rule also establishes general underwriting criteria for qualified mortgages, including that the consumer must have a total (or "back end") debt to income ratio that is less than or equal to 43%. Lenders must also verify and document the income and financial resources relied upon to qualify the borrower on the loan and underwrite the loan based on a fully amortizing payment schedule and maximum interest rate during the first five years, taking into account all applicable taxes, insurance and assessments. The CFPB's rule on qualified mortgages limits Howard's ability to make residential mortgage loans that include a balloon payment, and may cause it to decide to limit certain types of other loans or loans to certain borrowers, and would make it more costly and/or or time consuming to make these loans, which could limit Howard's growth or profitability.

In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act requires the regulatory agencies to issue regulations that require securitizers of loans to retain “not less than 5% of the credit risk for any asset that is not a qualified residential mortgage.” The regulatory agencies issued a final rule to implement this requirement on October 21, 2014. The final rule aligns the definition of “qualified residential mortgage” with the definition of “qualified mortgage” issued by the CFPB for purposes of its regulations. The final rule was effective February 23, 2015. Compliance with the final rule is required beginning December 24, 2015 with respect to asset-backed securities collateralized by residential mortgages and beginning December 24, 2016 with respect to all other classes of asset-backed securities. The final rule could have a significant effect on the secondary market for loans and the types of loans Howard originates, and restrict Howard’s ability to make loans.

Howard must comply with extensive and complex governmental regulation, which could have an adverse effect on its business and its growth strategy, and it may be adversely affected by changes in laws and regulations. The banking industry is subject to extensive regulation by state and federal banking authorities. Many of these regulations are intended to protect depositors, the public or the FDIC insurance funds, not stockholders. Regulatory requirements affect Howard’s lending practices, capital structure, investment practices, dividend policy and many other aspects of its business. These requirements may constrain Howard’s operations, and changes in regulations could adversely affect it. The burden imposed by these federal and state regulations may place banks in general, and Howard Bank specifically, at a competitive disadvantage compared to less regulated competitors. In addition, the cost of compliance with regulatory requirements could adversely affect Howard’s ability to operate profitably or increase profitability. See “Information About Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Howard Bank – Supervision and Regulation” for more information about applicable banking laws and regulations. Further, if Howard is not in compliance with such requirements, it could be subject to fines or other regulatory action that could restrict its ability to operate or otherwise have a material adverse effect on its business and financial condition. Although Howard believes it is in material compliance with all applicable regulations, it is possible there are violations of which it are unaware that could be discovered by its regulators in the course of an examination or otherwise, which could trigger such fines or other adverse consequences.

Further, regulatory authorities have extensive discretion in their supervisory and enforcement activities, including the imposition of restrictions on Howard’s operations, classification of its assets and determination of the level of its allowance for credit losses. If regulators require Howard Bank to charge-off loans or increase its allowance for credit losses, Howard’s earnings would suffer. Any change in such regulation and oversight, whether in the form of regulatory policy, regulation, legislation or supervisory action, may have a material impact on Howard’s operations. For a further discussion, see “Information About Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Howard Bank – Supervision and Regulation.”

In addition, because federal regulation of financial institutions changes regularly and is the subject of constant legislative debate, Howard cannot forecast how federal regulation of financial institutions may change in the future and impact its operations. Changes in regulation and oversight, including in the form of changes to statutes, regulations or regulatory policies or changes in interpretation or implementation of statutes, regulations or policies, could affect the service and products Howard offers, increase its operating expenses, increase compliance challenges and otherwise adversely impact its financial performance and condition. In addition, the burden imposed by these federal and state regulations may place banks in general, and Howard Bank specifically, at a competitive disadvantage compared to less regulated competitors.

Howard has implemented an enhanced organizational structure to ensure that its risk management activities are scaled to the entire enterprise. The office of strategic risk management, reporting to an executive vice president with direct reporting to the CEO and a dotted line reporting to the full board, is responsible for credit, compliance and operational, physical and IT security, legal, reputational and other on and off balance sheet risks.

Further, as a public company, Howard incurs significant legal, accounting, insurance and other expenses in connection with compliance with rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and Nasdaq.

A worsening of economic conditions could adversely affect Howard's results of operations and financial condition. Although the U.S. economy has emerged from the severe recession that occurred in 2008 and 2009, economic growth has been slow and inconsistent. Recovery by many businesses has been impaired by lower consumer spending, and the ongoing lack of certainty in the economy continues to affect the willingness of companies to borrow to fund their future growth and otherwise decreases loan demand, which negatively impacts Howard's business. A return to prolonged deteriorating economic conditions could significantly affect the markets in which Howard does business, the value of its loans and investments, and its ongoing operations, costs and profitability. Future declines in sales volumes and continued elevated unemployment levels may result in higher than expected loan delinquencies, increases in Howard's nonperforming and criticized classified assets and a decline in demand for its products and services. These events may cause Howard to incur losses and may adversely affect its financial condition and results of operations.

Howard's profitability depends on interest rates, and changes in interest rates could have an adverse impact on its results of operations and financial condition. Howard's results of operations depends to a large extent on its "net interest income," which is the difference between the interest expense incurred in connection with its interest-bearing liabilities, such as interest on deposit accounts, and the interest income received from its interest-earning assets, such as loans and investment securities. Changes in interest rates can increase or decrease Howard's net interest income, because different types of assets and liabilities may react differently, and at different times, to market interest rate changes. When interest bearing liabilities mature or reprice more quickly than interest earning assets in a period, an increase in interest rates could reduce net interest income. Similarly, when interest earning assets mature or reprice more quickly than interest bearing liabilities, falling interest rates could reduce net interest income. Additionally, an increase in interest rates may, among other things, reduce the demand for loans and Howard's ability to originate loans and decrease loan repayment rates. A decrease in the general level of interest rates may affect Howard through, among other things, increased prepayments on its loan and mortgage-backed securities portfolios and increased competition for deposits. Accordingly, changes in the level of market interest rates affect Howard's net yield on interest earning assets, loan origination volume, loan and mortgage-backed securities portfolios, and its overall results. Fluctuations in interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors that are not predictable or controllable. Therefore, while Howard attempts to manage its risk from changes in market interest rates by adjusting the rates, maturity, repricing, and balances of the different types of interest-earning assets and interest bearing liabilities, it might not be able to maintain a consistent positive spread between the interest that it receives and the interest that it pays. As a result, a rapid increase or decrease in interest rates could have an adverse effect on Howard's net interest margin and results of operations.

The capital rules that were issued require insured depository institutions and their holding companies to hold more capital. The impact of the new rules on Howard's financial condition and operations is uncertain but could be materially adverse. In July 2013, the Federal Reserve adopted a final rule for the Basel III capital framework. These rules substantially amend the regulatory risk-based capital rules applicable to Howard. The rules phase in over time beginning in 2015 and will become fully effective in 2019. The rules apply to Howard as well as to Howard Bank. Beginning in 2015, Howard's minimum capital requirements are (i) a common Tier 1 equity ratio of 4.5%, (ii) a Tier 1 capital (common Tier 1 capital plus Additional Tier 1 capital) of 6% (up from 4%) and (iii) a total capital ratio of 8% (the current requirement). Howard's leverage ratio requirement will remain at the 4% level now required. Beginning in 2016, a capital conservation buffer will phase in over three years, ultimately resulting in a requirement of 2.5% on top of the common Tier 1, Tier 1 and total capital requirements, resulting in a required common Tier 1 equity ratio of 7%, a Tier 1 ratio of 8.5%, and a total capital ratio of 10.5%. Failure to satisfy any of these three capital requirements will

result in limits on paying dividends, engaging in share repurchases and paying discretionary bonuses. These limitations will establish a maximum percentage of eligible retained income that could be utilized for such actions.

Monetary policy and general economic conditions will influence Howard's results of operations. Governmental economic and monetary policy will influence Howard's results of operations. The rates of interest payable on deposits and chargeable on loans are affected by fiscal policy as determined by various governmental and regulatory authorities, in particular the FRB as well as by national, state and local economic conditions. In addition, adverse general economic conditions may impair the ability of Howard's borrowers to repay loans.

Regulations pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act may adversely impact Howard's results of operations, liquidity or financial condition. The Dodd-Frank Act represents a comprehensive overhaul of the U.S. financial services industry. The Dodd-Frank Act requires the CFPB and other federal agencies to implement many new and significant rules and regulations to implement its various provisions. There are a number of regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act that have not yet been proposed or adopted. Howard will not know the full impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on its business until regulations implementing the statute are adopted and implemented, which could be years. As a result, Howard cannot predict the full extent to which the Dodd-Frank Act will impact its business, operations or financial condition. However, compliance with these new laws and regulations may require Howard to make changes to its business and operations and will likely result in additional costs and a diversion of management's time from other business activities, any of which may adversely impact Howard's results of operations, liquidity or financial condition. For a more detailed description of the Dodd-Frank Act, see "Information About Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Howard Bank – Supervision and Regulation – The Dodd-Frank Act."

Because Howard Bank serves a limited market area, Howard could be more adversely affected by an economic downturn in its market area than its larger competitors that are more geographically diverse. Howard's current primary market area consists of the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan Area. Broad geographic diversification is not currently part of Howard Bank's community bank focus. As a result, if Howard's market areas suffer an economic downturn, its business and financial condition may be more severely affected by such circumstances. Factors that adversely affect the economy in Howard Bank's target markets could reduce its deposit base and demand for its services and products and increase Howard's credit losses. Consequently, Howard may be adversely affected, potentially materially, by adverse changes in economic conditions in and around Howard Bank's market areas. Its larger bank competitors, for example, serve more geographically diverse market areas, parts of which may not be affected by the same economic conditions that may exist in Howard Bank's market areas.

Further, unexpected changes in the national and local economy may adversely affect Howard Bank's ability to attract deposits and to make loans. In particular, due to the proximity of its primary and secondary market areas to Washington, D.C., decreases in spending by the Federal government could impact Howard Bank more than banks that serve a larger or a different geographical area. Such risks are beyond Howard's control and may have a material adverse effect on Howard's financial condition and results of operations and, in turn, the value of its common stock.

The small to medium-sized businesses that Howard Bank lends to may have fewer resources to weather a downturn in the economy, which may impair a borrower's ability to repay a loan to Howard Bank that could materially harm its operating results. Howard Bank targets its business development and marketing strategy primarily to serve the banking and financial services needs of small to medium-sized businesses. These small to medium-sized businesses frequently have smaller market share than their competition, may be more vulnerable to economic downturns, often need substantial additional capital to expand or compete and may experience significant volatility in operating results. Any one or more of these factors may impair the borrower's ability to repay a loan. In addition, the success of a small to medium-sized business often depends on the management talents and efforts of one or two persons or a small group of persons, and the death, disability or resignation of one or more of these persons could have a material adverse impact on the business and its ability to repay a loan. Economic downturns and other events that negatively impact Howard Bank's market areas could cause it to incur substantial credit losses that could negatively affect Howard's results of operations and financial condition.

Howard depends heavily on five key employees, Mary Ann Scully, Robert A. Altieri, Paul G. Brown, George C. Coffman and Charles E. Schwabe, to continue the implementation of its long-term business strategy and the loss of their services could disrupt its operations and result in reduced earnings. Ms. Scully is Howard's President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Altieri is an Executive Vice President, President of Howard Bank's Mortgage Banking Division and its Chief Specialty Lending Officer, Mr. Brown is an Executive Vice President and Howard Bank's Chief Lending Officer, Chief Client Services Officer and Chief Credit Risk Officer, Mr. Coffman is an Executive Vice President and Howard's Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Schwabe is an Executive Vice President and Secretary as well as Howard Bank's Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Information Officer and Chief Operational Risk Officer. Howard believes that its continued growth and future success will depend in large part on the skills of its senior management team. Howard believes its senior management team possesses valuable knowledge about and experience in the banking industry and that their knowledge and relationships would be difficult to replicate. Howard Bank has entered into an employment agreement with each of Ms. Scully, Mr. Altieri, Mr. Brown, Mr. Schwabe and Mr. Coffman and acquired key-person life insurance on each such executive officer, but the existence of such agreements and insurance does not assure that Howard will be able to retain their services or recover losses associated with the loss of their services. The unexpected loss of the services of Ms. Scully, Mr. Altieri, Mr. Brown, Mr. Schwabe or Mr. Coffman could have a material adverse effect on Howard's business, operations, financial condition and operating results, as well as the value of its common stock.

Federal and state banking agencies periodically conduct examinations of Howard's business, including compliance with laws and regulations, and its failure to comply with any supervisory actions to which it is or becomes subject as a result of such examinations may adversely affect it. State and federal banking agencies, including the FDIC and the Maryland Commissioner, periodically conduct examinations of Howard's business, including compliance with laws and regulations. If, as a result of an examination, a state or federal banking agency were to determine that the financial condition, capital resources, asset quality, earnings prospects, management, liquidity or other aspects of any of Howard's operations had become unsatisfactory, or that it or its management was in violation of any law or regulation, it may take a number of different remedial actions as it deems appropriate. These actions include the power to enjoin "unsafe or unsound" practices, to require affirmative actions to correct any conditions resulting from any violation or practice, to issue an administrative order that can be judicially enforced, to direct an increase in Howard's capital, to restrict its growth, to assess civil monetary penalties against its officers or directors, to remove officers and directors and, if it is concluded that such conditions cannot be corrected or there is an imminent risk of loss to depositors, to terminate Howard Bank's deposit insurance. If Howard and/or Howard Bank become subject to such regulatory actions, Howard's business, results of operations and reputation may be negatively impacted.

Many of Howard's new activities and expansion plans require regulatory approvals, and failure to obtain them may restrict its growth. Howard intends to complement and expand its business by continuing to pursue strategic acquisitions of banks and other financial institutions. Howard must generally receive regulatory approval before it can acquire an institution or business. Such regulatory approvals may not be granted on terms that are acceptable to Howard, or at all. Howard may also be required to sell branches as a condition to receiving regulatory approval, which condition may not be acceptable to it or, if acceptable to it, may reduce the benefit of any acquisition.

In addition to the acquisition of existing financial institutions, as opportunities arise, Howard plans to continue de novo branching as a part of its internal growth strategy and possibly enter into new markets through de novo branching. De novo branching and any acquisition carries with it numerous risks, including the inability to obtain all required regulatory approvals. The failure to obtain these regulatory approvals for potential future strategic acquisitions and de novo branches may impact Howard's business plans and restrict its growth.

Howard's failure to pay dividends on its preferred stock may have negative consequences, including external involvement in its board of directors. If dividends on Howard's Series AA Preferred Stock are not paid in full for six quarterly dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, and if the aggregate liquidation preference amount of the then-outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock is at least \$25.0 million, the total number of positions on Howard's board of directors will automatically increase by two and the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock, acting as a single class, will have the right to elect two individuals to serve in the new director positions. This right and the terms of such directors will end when Howard has paid full dividends for at least four consecutive quarterly dividend periods. If full dividends have not been paid on the Series AA Preferred Stock for five or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, Howard must invite a representative selected by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock, voting as a single class, to attend all meetings of its board of directors in a nonvoting observer capacity. Any such representative would not be obligated to attend any board meeting to which he or she is invited, and this right will end when Howard has paid full dividends for at least four consecutive dividend periods. Further, if Howard issues shares of its preferred stock to the holders of Patapsco's

preferred stock, such Howard preferred stock must include similar terms to the Patapsco preferred stock. In this regard, the Howard preferred stock will provide that if dividends on the preferred stock are not paid in full for six quarterly dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, the total number of positions on Howard's board of directors will automatically increase by two and the holders of the preferred stock, acting as a single class, will have the right to elect two individuals to serve in the new director positions, and such right continues until all such dividends are paid.

Howard's preferred shares impact net income available to its common stockholders and its earnings per share. The dividends declared on Howard's Series AA Preferred Stock reduce, and any dividends declared on Howard's preferred stock issued to former holder of Patapsco's preferred stock that is not redeemed will reduce, net income available to common stockholders and its earnings per common share. The Preferred Stock will also receive preferential treatment in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Howard.

Howard may be required to raise additional capital in the future, but that capital may not be available when it is needed on attractive terms, or at all. Howard is required by regulatory authorities to maintain adequate levels of capital to support its operations. Howard's capital requirements for the foreseeable future are currently satisfied. Howard may at some point, however, need to raise additional capital to support its continued growth, or if its liquidity is adversely affected by external factors such as worsening economic conditions or continued economic uncertainty. Howard's ability to raise additional capital, if needed, will depend in part on conditions in the capital markets at that time, which are outside its control. Accordingly, Howard cannot assure you of its ability to raise additional capital, if needed, on terms acceptable to it. If Howard cannot raise additional capital when needed, its ability to further expand its operations could be materially impaired, or the failure to raise additional capital could have a material adverse effect on Howard's liquidity, financial condition or results of operations. In addition, if Howard decides to raise additional equity capital, your interest in Howard could be diluted. Furthermore, if Howard raises additional capital through the issuance of debt securities, there can be no assurance that sufficient revenues or cash flow will exist to service such debt.

The market value of Howard's investments could negatively impact stockholders' equity. All of Howard's securities investment portfolio as of December 31, 2014 has been designated as available for sale pursuant to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards, Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 320 – "Investments. ASC Topic 320 requires that unrealized gains and losses in the estimated value of the available for sale portfolio be "marked to market" and reflected as a separate item in stockholders' equity, net of tax. If the market value of the investment portfolio declines, this could cause a corresponding decline in Howard's stockholders' equity.

Howard Bank's lending limit may limit Howard's growth. Howard Bank is limited in the amount it can loan to a single borrower by the amount of its capital. Generally, under current law, Howard Bank may lend up to 15% of its unimpaired capital and surplus to any one borrower. Based upon its current capital levels, the amount Howard Bank may lend is significantly less than that of many of its competitors and may discourage potential borrowers who have credit needs in excess of its lending limit from doing business with Howard Bank. Howard Bank accommodates larger loans by selling participations in those loans to other financial institutions, but this strategy may not always be available.

Howard Bank is a community bank and its ability to maintain its reputation is critical to the success of its business and the failure to do so may materially adversely affect Howard's performance. Howard Bank is a community bank, and its reputation is one of the most valuable components of Howard's business. As such, Howard strives to conduct its business in a manner that enhances Howard Bank's reputation. This is done, in part, by recruiting, hiring and retaining employees who share Howard's core values of being an integral part of the communities it serves, delivering superior service to its customers and caring about its customers and associates. If Howard's or Howard Bank's reputation is negatively affected, by the actions of their employees or otherwise, Howard's business and, therefore, its operating results may be materially adversely affected.

Consumers may decide not to use banks to complete their financial transactions. Technology and other changes are allowing consumers to complete financial transactions through alternative methods that historically have involved

banks. For example, consumers can now maintain funds that would have historically been held as bank deposits in brokerage accounts, mutual funds or general-purpose reloadable prepaid cards. Consumers can also complete transactions such as paying bills and transferring funds directly without the assistance of banks. The process of eliminating banks as intermediaries could result in the loss of fee income, as well as the loss of customer deposits and the related income generated from those deposits. The loss of these revenue streams and the lower cost of deposits as a source of funds could have a material adverse effect on Howard's financial condition and results of operations.

Strong competition within Howard's market area may limit Howard's growth and profitability. Competition in the banking and financial services industry is intense. In its market area, Howard Bank competes with, among others, commercial banks, savings institutions, mortgage brokerage firms, credit unions, mutual funds, and insurance companies operating locally and elsewhere. There are also a number of smaller community-based banks that pursue similar operating strategies as Howard Bank. In addition, some of Howard Bank's competitors have recently offered loans with lower fixed rates and loans on more attractive terms than Howard Bank has been willing to offer. Howard's continued profitability depends upon Howard Bank's continued ability to successfully compete in its market area. The greater resources and deposit and loan products offered by Howard Bank's competition may limit its ability to increase its interest earning assets. See "Information About Howard Bancorp, Inc. and Howard Bank – Business of Howard Bank – Competition" for more information about competition in Howard's market area.

The financial services industry could become even more competitive as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and continued consolidation. Banks, securities firms and insurance companies can merge under the umbrella of a financial holding company, which can offer virtually any type of financial service, including banking, securities underwriting, insurance (both agency and underwriting) and merchant banking. Increased competition among financial services companies due to the recent consolidation of certain competing financial institutions may adversely affect Howard's ability to market its products and services. Also, technology has lowered barriers to entry and made it possible for banks to compete in Howard's market without a retail footprint by offering competitive rates, as well as non-banks to offer products and services traditionally provided by banks. Additionally, due to their size, many competitors may offer a broader range of products and services as well as better pricing for certain products and services than Howard Bank can, which could affect Howard's ability to grow and remain profitable on a long-term basis. Howard's profitability depends upon Howard Bank's ability to successfully compete in its market area. If Howard Bank must raise interest rates paid on deposits or lower interest rates charged on its loans, Howard's net interest margin and profitability could be adversely affected.

Anti-takeover provisions in Howard's corporate documents and in Maryland corporate law may make it difficult and expensive to remove current management. Anti-takeover provisions in Howard's corporate documents and in Maryland law may render the removal of Howard's existing board of directors and management more difficult. Consequently, it may be difficult and expensive for Howard's stockholders to remove current management, even if current management is not performing adequately.

Howard's articles of incorporation limit the liability of its directors and officers. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that, to the full extent permitted by Maryland law, no director or officer of Howard will be liable to Howard or its stockholders for money damages. This limitation could impair the ability of Howard and its stockholders to recover for damages resulting from acts or omissions of Howard's directors and officers.

The market price for Howard's common stock may be volatile. The market price of Howard's common stock could be subject to significant fluctuations due to changes in sentiment in the market regarding its operations or business prospects. Factors that may affect market sentiment include:

- operating results that vary from the expectations of Howard's management or of securities analysts and investors;
- developments in Howard's business or in the financial service sector generally;
- regulatory or legislative changes affecting Howard's industry generally or its business and operations in particular;
- operating and securities price performance of companies that investors consider to be comparable to Howard;

changes in estimates or recommendations by securities analysts;

announcements of strategic developments, acquisitions, dispositions, financings and other material events by Howard or its competitors; and

changes in financial markets and national and local economies and general market conditions, such as interest rates and stock, commodity, credit or asset valuations or volatility.

While the U.S. and other governments continue efforts to restore confidence in financial markets and promote economic growth, market and economic turmoil could still occur in the near- or long-term, negatively affecting Howard's business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as the price, trading volume and volatility of its common stock.

Howard can sell additional shares of common stock without consulting stockholders and without offering shares to existing stockholders, which would result in dilution of stockholders' interests in Howard and could depress its stock price. Howard's articles of incorporation currently authorize an aggregate of 10 million shares of common stock, 6,345,727 of which are outstanding as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, 312,714 of which are reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding options and restricted stock units granted under Howard's stock incentive plans and employment agreements and 610,357 of which are reserved for issuance pursuant to future grants under Howard's stock incentive plans, and a minimum of 478,702 and a maximum of 893,577 of which are offered hereby. Howard's board of directors has the authority to amend its articles of incorporation, without stockholder approval, to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of any class of stock that Howard has the authority to issue. The board of directors is further authorized to issue additional shares of common stock and preferred stock, at such times and for such consideration as it may determine, without stockholder action. The ability of Howard's board of directors to increase Howard's authorized shares of capital stock, and the existence of authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock, could have the effect of rendering more difficult or discouraging hostile takeover attempts, or of facilitating a negotiated acquisition and could affect the market for and price of Howard's common stock. Except for contractual preemptive rights granted to two stockholders that purchased Howard common stock in a private placement that Howard consummated in conjunction with its initial public offering in July 2012, which rights expire in July 2015, Howard's common stockholders do not have preemptive rights to purchase shares of its capital stock (that is, the right to purchase a stockholder's *pro rata* share of any securities issued by Howard), and, accordingly, any future offering of capital stock could have a dilutive effect on holders of Howard's common stock generally. For more information regarding the contractual preemptive rights granted to such stockholders, see "Description of Howard Capital Stock – Common Stock."

Additional Risk Factors Associated with Patapsco Related to the Merger

Patapsco and Patapsco Bank have entered into a written agreement with their regulators that may result in adverse results to Patapsco's operations. On October 18, 2012, Patapsco and Patapsco Bank entered into a written agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner. The written agreement, which is a formal enforcement action initiated by the regulators, requires Patapsco and Patapsco Bank to take certain measures to improve their safety and soundness and maintain ongoing compliance with applicable laws. The written agreement sets forth the actions that Patapsco, Patapsco Bank and their boards of directors must undertake to address the issues outlined in the written agreement. The written agreement includes timeframes to implement the compliance provisions contained therein and a requirement to regularly report to the regulators. The written agreement will remain in effect until terminated, modified or suspended by the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner.

The impact of the written agreement on Patapsco's operations may have an adverse impact on the financial condition and operations, including maintaining acceptable liquidity levels, and may negatively impact the financial condition, results of operations, and business operations of the combined company after the merger. While Howard and Howard Bank do not believe they will be subject to these agreements after the merger is completed, they cannot assure you that the written agreement will be terminated after the merger and the bank merger.

Patapsco's asset quality may deteriorate prior to completion of the merger. Patapsco's non-performing assets, including other real estate owned ("OREO"), were \$3.1 million at March 31, 2015, compared to \$5.7 million at March 31, 2014. Non-performing assets, including OREO, as a percentage of total assets were 1.39% at March 31, 2015, compared to 2.44% at March 31, 2014. Net charge-offs for the nine months ended March 31, 2015 were \$371,000, compared to \$132,000 for the nine months ended March 31, 2014. This improvement in asset quality may not continue, however, and should Patapsco's asset quality deteriorate, this may have an adverse effect on Patapsco's financial and capital positions and, upon consummation of the merger, Howard's financial and capital positions.

Risk Factors as they Relate to Patapsco Stockholders in Connection with the Merger

Patapsco's directors and executive officers have financial interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of Patapsco stockholders. In considering the information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, you should be aware that Patapsco's directors and executive officers have financial interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of Patapsco stockholders. The Patapsco and Patapsco Bank directors who collectively hold approximately 17.74% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock have agreed to vote in favor of the merger proposal. This voting agreement may have the effect of discouraging persons from making a proposal to acquire Patapsco. Further, certain executive officers of Patapsco may be entitled to payments in connection with the merger under existing arrangements. Howard and Howard Bank have also agreed to appoint or elect two persons selected by Patapsco, which the merger agreement contemplates will be Thomas P. O'Neill and Gary R. Bozel, who will be compensated for their service on the board of directors of Howard Bank. In addition, Howard Bank will constitute a Towson Area Regional Advisory Board and the remaining Patapsco Bank directors will have the opportunity to join the advisory board. Finally, Howard has agreed to offer employment to Patapsco's President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement negotiated by the parties. These and certain other additional interests of Patapsco's directors and executive officers are described in detail in "The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Interests of Directors and Officers in the Merger." These circumstances may cause some of Patapsco directors and executive officers to view the proposed transaction differently than you view it.

Patapsco stockholders may not receive the form of merger consideration that they elect. Depending on the elections made by all Patapsco stockholders, certain Patapsco stockholders who elect to receive the cash consideration may instead receive shares of Howard common stock for all or a portion of their shares of Patapsco common stock, or some Patapsco stockholders who elect to receive the stock consideration may instead receive cash for all or a portion of their shares of Patapsco common stock.

If Patapsco stockholders oversubscribe for the cash portion of the merger consideration, those Patapsco stockholders electing to receive cash will have the amount of cash they selected reduced and will receive all or a portion of their consideration in the form of shares of Howard common stock. Similarly, if Patapsco stockholders oversubscribe for the Howard common stock portion of the merger consideration, those Patapsco stockholders electing to receive shares of Howard common stock will have the amount of common stock they selected reduced and will receive all or a portion of their consideration in the form of cash. The allocation process will be administered by Howard's exchange agent as set forth in the merger agreement, and any such allocations will be made on a *pro rata* basis. Accordingly, at the time Patapsco stockholders vote on the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger, they will not know the form of merger consideration that they will receive, regardless of their intended election. In addition, to the extent that Patapsco stockholders receive all or a portion of the merger consideration in a form that they did not elect, they also will not know the tax consequences that will result upon the exchange of their shares of Patapsco common stock. See "The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences."

The value of the per-share stock consideration will decrease if the Average Price falls below \$9.00. As discussed above, the exchange ratio will be based on the Average Price, but if the Average Price falls below \$9.00, the exchange ratio will not be further adjusted and will be fixed at 0.5656. Therefore, if the Average Price decreases to below \$9.00, the value of shares of Howard common stock that a Patapsco stockholder receives in the merger will decline correspondingly with declines in the Average Price to and as of the date that the merger consideration is received.

Accordingly, at the time of the annual meeting of Patapsco stockholders and prior to the election deadline, Patapsco stockholders will not know or be able to calculate precisely the amount of the consideration they will receive, the exchange ratio that will be used to determine the number of shares of Howard common stock that they would receive upon completion of the merger, or the value of any shares of Howard common stock they would receive upon completion of the merger. Stock price changes may result from a variety of factors, including general market and economic conditions, changes in the businesses, operations and prospects of Howard and regulatory considerations. Many of these factors are beyond Howard's control. You should obtain current market quotations for shares of Howard common stock.

Patapsco has the option, but is not required, to terminate the merger agreement if the Average Price of the Howard common stock at any time during the two business day period beginning on the fifth business day immediately prior to the closing of the merger falls below \$7.20 and certain other criteria are satisfied regarding decreases in the NASDAQ Bank Index. Patapsco cannot predict at this time whether or not its board of directors would exercise its right to terminate the merger agreement if these conditions were met. The merger agreement does not provide for a resolicitation of Patapsco stockholders in the event that the conditions are met and the Patapsco board nevertheless

chooses to complete the transaction.

The merger agreement limits Patapsco's ability to pursue alternative transactions to the merger and requires Patapsco to pay a termination fee if it does. The merger agreement prohibits Patapsco and its directors, officers, representatives and agents, subject to narrow exceptions, from initiating, encouraging, soliciting or entering into discussions with any third party regarding alternative acquisition proposals. The prohibition limits Patapsco's ability to pursue offers from other possible acquirers that may be superior from a financial point of view. If Patapsco receives an unsolicited proposal from a third party that is superior from a financial point of view to that made by Howard and the merger agreement is terminated, Patapsco would be required to pay a termination fee of \$500,000. This fee makes it less likely that a third party will make an alternative acquisition proposal.

The federal income tax consequences of the merger for Patapsco's stockholders will be dependent upon the merger consideration received. The federal income tax consequences of the merger to you will depend upon the merger consideration you receive. In general, if you exchange your shares of Patapsco common stock solely for cash, you will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the cash you receive and your adjusted tax basis in your Patapsco common stock. If you receive solely Howard common stock in exchange for your Patapsco common stock, you generally will not recognize any gain or loss for federal income tax purposes. However, you generally will have to recognize gain or loss in connection with cash received in lieu of fractional shares of Howard common stock. If you receive a combination of cash and Howard common stock in the transaction, you generally will not recognize loss but will recognize gain, if any, to the extent of any cash received. For a more detailed discussion of the federal income tax consequences of the transaction to you, see "The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences."

After the merger is completed, Patapsco stockholders who receive Howard common stock for some or all of their shares of Patapsco common stock will become Howard stockholders and will have different rights that may be less advantageous than their current rights. Upon completion of the merger, Patapsco stockholders who receive Howard common stock for some or all of their shares of Patapsco common stock will become Howard stockholders. Differences in Patapsco's articles of incorporation and bylaws and Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws will result in changes to the rights of Patapsco stockholders who become Howard stockholders. For more information, see "Comparison of Stockholder Rights." A stockholder of Patapsco may conclude that his, her or its current rights under Patapsco's articles of incorporation and bylaws are more advantageous than the rights they may have as a Howard stockholder under Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

Patapsco's stockholders will have less influence as stockholders of Howard than as stockholders of Patapsco. Patapsco stockholders currently have the right to vote in the election of the board of directors of Patapsco and on other matters affecting Patapsco. The stockholders of Patapsco as a group will own between approximately 7.5% and 14.1% of the combined organization (Howard and Patapsco). When the merger occurs, each stockholder that receives shares of Howard common stock will become a stockholder of Howard with a percentage ownership of the combined organization smaller than such stockholder's percentage ownership of Patapsco. Because of this, stockholders of Patapsco will have less influence on the management and policies of Howard than they now have on the management and policies of Patapsco.

Risk Factors Relating to Patapsco's Business

This section discusses risks relating to Patapsco's business and includes risks it will continue to face until consummation of the merger or if the merger is not consummated. References to "Patapsco" include its subsidiary Patapsco Bank as the context requires.

Patapsco depends on the services of key personnel and it cannot be certain that it will be able to hire or retain such personnel or hire replacements. Patapsco's financial performance is dependent in large measure upon our management team successfully executing our business strategies. Patapsco relies heavily on its President and Chief Executive Officer, Philip Phillips. The loss of Mr. Phillips could have a material adverse impact on Patapsco's operations because, as a small company, it has fewer management-level personnel that have the experience and expertise to readily replace these individuals. Changes in key personnel and their responsibilities may be disruptive to Patapsco's business and could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Changes in local economic conditions could reduce Patapsco's income and growth, and could lead to higher levels of problem loans and charge-offs. Patapsco makes loans, and most of its assets are located, in the Baltimore, Maryland metropolitan area market. Adverse changes in economic conditions in these markets could hurt Patapsco's ability to collect loans, could reduce the demand for loans, and otherwise could negatively affect its performance and financial condition.

Strong competition within Patapsco's market area could reduce its profits and slow growth. Patapsco Bank faces intense competition both in making loans and attracting deposits. This competition has made it more difficult for Patapsco Bank to make new loans and at times has forced it to offer higher deposit rates. Price competition for loans and deposits might result in Patapsco earning less on its loans and paying more on its deposits, which would reduce net interest income. Competition also makes it more difficult to grow loans and deposits. As of June 30, 2014, Patapsco Bank held 0.72% of the deposits in the Baltimore County, Maryland, which was the 19th largest market share of deposits out of the 38 financial institutions in the metropolitan statistical area. Several of the institutions with which Patapsco Bank competes have substantially greater resources and lending limits than we have and may offer services that it does not provide. Patapsco expects competition to increase in the future as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and the continuing trend of consolidation in the financial services industry. Patapsco's profitability depends upon its continued ability to compete successfully in its market area.

Changes in interest rates could reduce Patapsco's net interest income and earnings. Patapsco's net interest income is the interest it earns on loans and investments less the interest it pays on our deposits and borrowings. Patapsco's net interest spread is the difference between the yield we earn on its assets and the interest rate it pays for deposits and its other sources of funding. Changes in interest rates – up or down – could adversely affect Patapsco's net interest spread and, as a result, its net interest income and net interest margin. Although the yield Patapsco earns on its assets and its funding costs tend to move in the same direction in response to changes in interest rates, one can rise or fall faster than the other, causing its net interest margin to expand or contract. Patapsco's liabilities tend to be shorter in duration than its assets, so they may adjust faster in response to changes in interest rates. As a result, when interest rates rise, Patapsco's funding costs may rise faster than the yield it earns on our assets, causing its net interest margin to contract. This contraction could be more severe following a prolonged period of lower interest rates, as a larger proportion of Patapsco's fixed rate residential loan portfolio will have been originated at those lower rates and borrowers may be more reluctant or unable to sell their homes in a higher interest rate environment. Changes in the slope of the "yield curve" – or the spread between short-term and long-term interest rates – could also reduce Patapsco's net interest margin. Normally, the yield curve is upward sloping, meaning short-term rates are lower than long-term rates. Because Patapsco's liabilities tend to be shorter in duration than its assets, when the yield curve flattens or even inverts, it could experience pressure on its net interest margin as its cost of funds increases relative to the yield it can earn on its assets.

Patapsco's growth and expansion may be limited by many factors. Patapsco has pursued and intends to continue to pursue an internal growth strategy, the success of which will depend primarily on generating an increasing level of loans and deposits at acceptable risk and interest rate levels without corresponding increases in noninterest expenses. Patapsco cannot assure you that it will be successful in continuing its growth strategies, due, in part, to delays and other impediments inherent in its highly regulated industry, limited availability of qualified personnel or unavailability of suitable branch sites. In addition, the success of Patapsco's growth strategy will depend, in part, on continued favorable economic conditions in its market area.

New capital rules that were recently issued generally require insured depository institutions and their holding companies to hold more capital. The impact of the new rules on Patapsco's financial condition and operations is uncertain but could be materially adverse. In July 2013, the FRB and the OCC adopted a final rule for the Basel III capital framework. These rules substantially amend the regulatory risk-based capital rules applicable to Patapsco. The rules phase in over time beginning in 2015 and will become fully effective in 2019. Beginning in 2015, Patapsco's

minimum capital requirements will be (i) a common Tier 1 equity ratio of 4.5%, (ii) a Tier 1 capital (common Tier 1 capital plus Additional Tier 1 capital) of 6% (up from 4%) and (iii) a total capital ratio of 8% (the current requirement). Patapsco's leverage ratio requirement will remain at the 4% level now required. Beginning in 2016, a capital conservation buffer will phase in over three years, ultimately resulting in a requirement of 2.5% on top of the common Tier 1, Tier 1 and total capital requirements, resulting in a required common Tier 1 equity ratio of 7%, a Tier 1 ratio of 8.5%, and a total capital ratio of 10.5%. Failure to satisfy any of these three capital requirements will result in limits on paying dividends, engaging in share repurchases and paying discretionary bonuses. These limitations will establish a maximum percentage of eligible retained income that could be utilized for such actions. It is management's belief that, as of March 31, 2015, Patapsco Bank would have exceeded all capital adequacy requirements under Basel III to be considered well capitalized on a fully phased-in basis if such requirements were currently effective.

Patapsco is dependent on its information technology and telecommunications systems and third-party servicers, and systems failures, interruptions or breaches of security could have a material adverse effect on it. Patapsco's business is dependent on the successful and uninterrupted functioning of its information technology and telecommunications systems and third-party servicers. The failure of these systems, or the termination of a third-party software license or service agreement on which any of these systems is based, could interrupt Patapsco's operations. Because Patapsco's information technology and telecommunications systems interface with and depend on third-party systems, it could experience service denials if demand for such services exceeds capacity or such third-party systems fail or experience interruptions. If significant, sustained or repeated, a system failure or service denial could compromise Patapsco's ability to operate effectively, damage its reputation, result in a loss of customer business, and/or subject it to additional regulatory scrutiny and possible financial liability, any of which could have a material adverse effect on Patapsco.

In addition, Patapsco provides its customers with the ability to bank remotely, including over the Internet. The secure transmission of confidential information over the Internet and other remote channels is a critical element of remote banking. Patapsco's network could be vulnerable to unauthorized access, computer viruses, phishing schemes and other security breaches. Patapsco may be required to spend significant capital and other resources to protect against the threat of security breaches and computer viruses, or to alleviate problems caused by security breaches or viruses. To the extent that Patapsco's activities or the activities of its customers involve the storage and transmission of confidential information, security breaches and viruses could expose Patapsco to claims, regulatory scrutiny, litigation and other possible liabilities. Any inability to prevent security breaches or computer viruses could also cause existing customers to lose confidence in Patapsco's systems and could materially and adversely affect it.

Additionally, financial products and services have become increasingly technology-driven. Patapsco's ability to meet the needs of its customers competitively, and in a cost-efficient manner, is dependent on the ability to keep pace with technological advances and to invest in new technology as it becomes available. Many of our competitors have greater resources to invest in technology than Patapsco does and may be better equipped to market new technology-driven products and services. The ability to keep pace with technological change is important, and the failure to do so could have a material adverse impact on Patapsco's business and therefore on its financial condition and results of operations.

In the event the merger is not completed Patapsco will no longer be able to defer the payment of interest on its outstanding trust preferred securities. Though Patapsco has deferred the payment of interest on its subordinated debentures related to the trust preferred securities, it continues to accrue interest expense related to the trust preferred securities. Patapsco recognized interest expense of \$82,000, \$87,000, \$113,000, \$80,000 and \$303,000 on the trust preferred securities during the nine months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014 and years ended June 30, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Under the terms of the subordinated debentures, as amended, Patapsco's deferral of interest payments for up to 22 consecutive quarters does not constitute an event of default. During the deferral period, the deferred interest payments continue to accrue. To the extent applicable law permits interest on interest, the deferred interest payments also accrue

interest at the rates specified in the corresponding indentures, compounded quarterly. This deferral period expires with the payment due on December 15, 2015. All of the deferred interest and the compounded interest are due in full at the end of the applicable deferral period. If Patapsco fails to pay the deferred and compounded interest at the end of the deferral period, the trustee of the trust, or the holders of 25% of the outstanding principal amount of its trust preferred securities, would have the right to exercise various remedies, including demanding immediate payment in full of the entire outstanding principal amount of the subordinated debentures.

Patapsco's ability to resume the payment of interest on the subordinated debentures will depend on Patapsco Bank's ability to generate earnings and pay dividends to Patapsco. However, Patapsco Bank's ability to pay dividends is prohibited by the written agreement with its regulators without prior regulatory approval. As a result, if by December 15, 2015 the written agreement is not terminated, or if Patapsco does not achieve sufficient profitability for Patapsco Bank so that its regulators would grant approval for Patapsco Bank to pay dividends, Patapsco will be unable to resume the payment of interest on the subordinated debentures. Even if Patapsco Bank is able to resume paying dividends, there can be no assurance that the amount of dividends would be sufficient to pay the entire amount of interest due under the subordinated debentures at the end of the deferral period.

MARKET PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Howard common stock is listed and trades on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol “HBMD.” As of June 3, 2015, there were 6,345,727 shares of Howard common stock outstanding, which were held by 304 holders of record, and outstanding options that were exercisable on that date (or within 60 days of that date) for 233,050 additional shares of Howard common stock.

Patapsco common stock is quoted on the Over-the-Counter Bulletin Board (the “OTCBB”) under the symbol “PATD.” As of June 3, 2015, there were 1,974,843 shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding, which were held by 333 holders of record.

The number of stockholders for each of Howard and Patapsco noted above does not reflect the number of individuals or institutional investors holding stock in nominee name through banks, brokerage firms and others.

The following table shows, for the indicated periods, the high and low sales prices per share for Howard and Patapsco common stock, as reported on Nasdaq and the OTCBB, respectively, and dividends declared and paid per share of Howard and Patapsco common stock.

	Howard			Patapsco		
	High	Low	Dividend Declared	High	Low	Dividend Declared
2015						
First Quarter	\$ 14.90	\$ 10.75	\$ —	\$ 4.75	\$ 2.90	\$ —
Second Quarter (through June 3)	14.75	12.36	—	4.90	4.71	—
2014						
First Quarter	\$ 19.99	\$ 9.25	\$ —	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.25	\$ —
Second Quarter	11.30	9.50	—	2.86	2.25	—
Third Quarter	11.20	9.25	—	3.59	2.50	—
Fourth Quarter	12.00	9.84	—	3.29	2.55	—
2013						
First Quarter	\$ 7.09	\$ 6.10	\$ —	\$ 2.25	\$ 0.91	\$ —
Second Quarter	8.02	6.85	—	3.52	2.05	—
Third Quarter	9.10	7.26	—	3.40	2.60	—
Fourth Quarter	10.10	8.24	—	2.50	2.10	—

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On (i) February 26, 2015, the last full trading day before public announcement of the execution of the merger agreement on which shares of Patapsco common stock were traded on the OTCBB, and February 27, 2015, the last full trading day before public announcement of the execution of the merger agreement on which shares of Howard common stock were traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market, and (ii) June 2, 2015, the last practicable trading date before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus on which shares of Howard common stock and Patapsco common stock were traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market and the OTCBB, respectively, were traded, the high, low and closing sales prices for Howard and Patapsco common stock were as follows:

	February 26/27, 2015			June 2, 2015		
	High	Low	Closing	High	Low	Closing
Howard	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
Patapsco	\$3.028	\$3.02	\$3.02	\$4.75	\$4.74	\$4.74

Dividends

Howard has not paid any dividends on its common stock since its inception and presently does not intend to pay any dividends in the foreseeable future. Howard expects that it will retain all earnings, if any, for operating capital. Howard's ability to pay dividends is dependent upon, among other things, restrictions imposed by the reserve and capital requirements of Maryland and federal law and regulations, its income and financial condition, tax considerations, and general business conditions. In addition, there are restrictions on Howard's ability to pay dividends on its common stock if it is in arrears in the required dividend payment on its Series AA Preferred Stock.

On October 18, 2012, Patapsco and Patapsco Bank entered into a written agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner. Under the terms of the written agreement Patapsco and Patapsco Bank may not declare or pay dividends without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank and the Director of the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation of the FRB and, as to Patapsco Bank, the Maryland Commissioner.

In addition, under the terms of the Troubled Asset Release Program ("TARP") Capital Purchase Program, until the earlier of the third anniversary of the date of issuance of Patapsco's Series A Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock and the date on which the Series A Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock has been redeemed in whole or Treasury has transferred all of the Series A Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock to third parties, Patapsco is prohibited from increasing dividends on its common stock from the last quarterly cash dividend per share (\$0.07) declared on the common stock prior to December 5, 2008, as adjusted for subsequent stock dividends and other similar actions, and from making certain repurchases of equity securities, including its common stock, without Treasury's consent. Furthermore, as long as the Series A Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock is outstanding, dividend payments and repurchases or redemptions relating to certain equity securities, including Patapsco's common stock, are prohibited until all accrued and unpaid dividends are paid on such preferred stock, subject to certain limited exceptions. Finally, under the terms of its trust preferred securities, Patapsco may not declare or pay dividends on its common or preferred stock while it has deferred interest payments on its debentures. As a result, Patapsco currently is not permitted to pay dividends on its common stock.

MARKET VALUE OF SECURITIES

The following table sets forth the market value per share of Howard common stock, the market value per share of Patapsco common stock and the equivalent market value per share of Patapsco common stock on February 26, 2015 (the last business day preceding public announcement of the merger on which shares of each of Howard common stock and Patapsco common stock were traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market and the OTCBB, respectively) and June 2, 2015 (the latest practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus on which shares of each of Howard common stock and Patapsco common stock were traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market and the OTCBB, respectively). The equivalent market value per share of Patapsco common stock indicated in the table is derived from assumed exchange ratios based on the Average Price on the applicable date (\$11.98 on

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February 18, 2015 and \$13.79 on May 22, 2015) multiplied by the closing sales price of Howard common stock on such date. The exchange ratios are subject to adjustment based on the Average Price on the determination date. For more information, see the section entitled “The Merger Agreement and The Merger – Terms of the Merger – What Patapsco Stockholders Will Receive in the Merger.”

The historical market values per share of Howard common stock and Patapsco common stock and the historical market value of Howard common stock used to determine the equivalent market value per share of Patapsco common stock are the per share closing sales prices on February 26, 2015 and June 2, 2015, respectively, as reported on the OTCBB with respect to Patapsco common stock and on Nasdaq with respect to Howard common stock.

	Howard Historical	Patapsco Historical	Equivalent Market Value Per Share of Patapsco In Howard Common In Cash Stock	
February 26, 2015	\$ 14.00	\$ 3.02	\$ 5.95	\$ 5.09
June 2, 2015	\$ 14.00	\$ 4.74	\$ 5.17	\$ 5.09

COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA (UNAUDITED)

The following table sets forth certain historical Howard and Patapsco per share data. This data should be read together with Howard's and Patapsco's historical financial statements and notes thereto, included elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. **The per share data is not necessarily indicative of the operating results that Howard would have achieved had it completed the merger as of the beginning of the periods presented and should not be considered as representative of future operations.**

Unaudited Pro Forma Comparative Per Share Data**For The Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2014**

(Amounts in Thousands, except per share data)

	Howard Bancorp	Patapsco Bancorp	Proforma Combined	Proforma Equivalent Patapsco Share (1)
For the twelve months ended December 31, 2014				
Basic earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 2.53	\$ 0.87	\$ 2.69	\$ 0.99
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share	2.48	0.87	2.65	0.98
Dividends Declared:				
For the twelve months ended December 31, 2014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Book Value:				
As of December 31, 2014	\$ 11.36	\$ 5.03	\$ 11.16	\$ 4.12

(1) Pro forma equivalent per share amount is calculated by multiplying the pro forma combined per share amount by an assumed exchange ratio of 0.3643 as outlined in Footnote 1 to the unaudited pro forma combined balance sheet and statement of operations.

Unaudited Pro Forma Comparative Per Share Data**For The Three Months Ended March 31, 2015**

(Amounts in Thousands, except per share data)

	Howard Bancorp	Patapsco Bancorp	Proforma Combined	Proforma Equivalent Patapsco Share (1)
For the three months ended March 31, 2015				
Basic earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 0.15	\$ (0.09)	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.04
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share	0.15	(0.09)	0.12	0.04
Dividends Declared:				
For the three months ended March 31, 2015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Book Value:				
As of March 31, 2015	\$ 11.53	\$ 5.08	\$ 11.29	\$ 4.11

(1) Pro forma equivalent per share amount is calculated by multiplying the pro forma combined per share amount by an assumed exchange ratio of 0.3691 as outlined in Footnote 1 to the unaudited pro forma combined balance sheet and statement of operations.

The pro forma combined basic earnings and diluted earnings of Howard's common stock is based on the pro forma combined net income per common share for Howard and Patapsco divided by the pro forma common shares or diluted common shares of the combined entity, assuming 80% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock are exchanged for Howard common stock at an exchange ratio of 0.3691 shares of Howard common stock for each share of Patapsco common stock. The pro forma information includes adjustments related to the estimated fair value of assets and liabilities and is subject to adjustment as additional information becomes available and as additional analysis is performed. The pro forma information does not include anticipated cost savings or revenue enhancements.

The pro forma combined book value of Howard's common stock is based on pro forma combined common shareholders' equity of Howard and Patapsco divided by total pro forma common shares of the combined entities, assuming 80% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock are exchanged for Howard common stock at an exchange ratio of 0.3691 shares of Howard common stock for each share of Patapsco common stock. The unaudited pro forma combined consolidated information does not include anticipated cost savings or revenue enhancements.

CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This joint proxy statement/prospectus contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Such forward-looking statements include statements regarding the financial condition, results of operations, earnings outlook, businesses and prospects of Howard and Patapsco, and the potential combined company, as well as statements applicable to the period following the completion of the merger and those items listed below:

(1) The effects and benefits of the merger, including: (a) future financial operating results and performance; (b) the expected consummation of the merger including the timing thereof; (c) the expected pro forma effects of the merger, including that Howard’s expectation that the merger to be accretive to its earnings in the first year after closing and expected increases in Howard’s non-interest expenses resulting from the merger; and (d) the expectation that Howard and Howard Bank will not be subject to Patapsco and Patapsco Bank’s written agreement with their regulators after the merger.

(2) With respect to Howard: (a) statements of Howard’s goals, intentions and expectations, particularly with respect to its business plan and strategies, including the expected opening of its new Columbia, Maryland branch, branch expansion and closures, market share and asset growth, expected increase in residential real estate lending, revenue and profit growth and expanding client relationships; (ii) acquisition intensions outside of the pending merger with Patapsco; (iii) statements regarding Howard’s asset quality of its investment portfolios and anticipated recovery and collection of unrealized losses on securities available for sale; (iv) statements with respect to Howard’s allowance for credit losses, and the adequacy thereof; (v) statement with respect to having adequate liquidity levels; (vi) Howard’s belief that it will retain a large portion of maturing certificates of deposit; (vii) the impact on Howard of recent changes to accounting standards; (viii) future cash requirements relating to commitments to extend credit; and (ix) the impact of interest rate changes on Howard’s net interest income.

(3) With respect to Patapsco, statements regarding the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses and having sufficient funds to meet obligations.

You can identify forward-looking statements because they are not historical facts and often include the use of forward-looking terminology such as “believes,” “expects,” “intends,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “anticipates,” “plans” or similar terminology. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to:

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the businesses of Patapsco may not be integrated into Howard successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected;

expected revenue synergies and cost savings from the merger may not be fully realized, or realized within the expected timeframe;

- Howard may not have taken adequate discounts for Patapsco's loans and other assets;
- disruption in the parties' businesses as a result of the announcement and pendency of the merger;
- the possibility of merger arbitrage activity as a result of the stock price premium being paid;
 - revenues following the merger may be lower than expected;
- customer and employee relationships and business operations may be disrupted by the merger;

- the ability to obtain required stockholder approvals;

the ability to complete the merger in the expected timeframe may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected, or the merger may not be completed at all;

- changes in loan default and charge-off rates;

- changes in demand for loan products or other financial services;

- reductions in deposit levels necessitating increased borrowings to fund loans and investments;

- general economic conditions, either nationally or in our market area, that are worse than expected;

- sustained elevated in the unemployment rate in Howard Bank's and Patapsco Bank's target markets;

- inflation and changes in interest rates and monetary policy that could adversely affect Howard and/or Patapsco;

changes in laws or government regulations or policies affecting financial institutions, including changes in regulatory fees and capital requirements;

- the ability of Howard Bank and Patapsco Bank to retain key personnel;

the ability of Howard and Howard Bank to enter new markets successfully and capitalize on growth opportunities, and to otherwise implement its growth strategy;

- the risk of loan losses and that the allowance for loan losses may be insufficient;

changes in competitive, governmental, regulatory, technological and other factors that may affect Howard or Patapsco specifically or the banking industry generally;

- that the market value of investments could negatively impact stockholders' equity;

- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;

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changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the bank regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the SEC and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board;

the other risks discussed in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, in particular in the “Risk Factors” section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus; and

- other risk factors detailed from time to time in filings made by Howard and Patapsco with the SEC.

And, with respect to Patapsco:

- changes Patapsco makes as a result of its ongoing review of its business and operations;
- economic conditions nationally and in its market area; and
- implementation of changes in lending practices and lending operations.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Howard and Patapsco undertake no obligation to update or clarify these forward-looking statements to reflect factual assumptions, circumstances or events that have changed after such a forward-looking statement was made.

THE HOWARD BANCORP SPECIAL MEETING

Date, Time and Place

Howard will hold a special meeting of its stockholders at its office located at 6011 University Boulevard, Suite 370, Ellicott City, Maryland, at 6:00 p.m. on July 22, 2015.

Purpose of the Special Meeting

At the special meeting, Howard's stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon proposals to:

· Approve Howard's issuance of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger of Patapsco into Howard pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger by and between Howard and Patapsco dated as of March 2, 2015, as the agreement may be amended from time to time;

· Adjourn the special meeting if more time is needed to solicit proxies; and

· Transact any other business that may properly be brought before the special meeting.

Proposals to be Voted on at the Special Meeting

Item 1. Howard Merger Proposal

As discussed throughout this joint proxy statement/prospectus, Howard is asking its stockholders to approve its issuance of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger (we sometimes refer to this below as the merger proposal). Holders of Howard common stock should read carefully this joint proxy statement/prospectus in its entirety, including the annexes, for more detailed information concerning the merger agreement and the merger. In particular, holders of Howard common stock are directed to the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and incorporated in this joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference.

Item 2. Howard Adjournment Proposal

The Howard special meeting may be adjourned to another time or place, if necessary or appropriate, to permit, among other things, the solicitation of additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the Howard special meeting to approve Howard's issuance of its common stock in the merger.

If, at the Howard special meeting, the number of shares of Howard common stock present or represented and voting in favor of the Howard merger proposal is insufficient to approve the Howard merger proposal, Howard intends to move to adjourn the Howard special meeting in order to enable the Howard board of directors to solicit additional proxies for approval of the Howard merger proposal. In that event, Howard will ask the Howard stockholders to vote only upon the Howard adjournment proposal, and not the Howard merger proposal.

In the Howard adjournment proposal, Howard is asking the Howard stockholders to authorize the holder of any proxy solicited by the Howard board of directors to vote in favor of granting discretionary authority to the proxy holders to adjourn the Howard special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies. If the Howard stockholders approve the Howard adjournment proposal, Howard could adjourn the Howard special meeting and any adjourned session of the Howard special meeting and use the additional time to solicit additional proxies, including the solicitation of proxies from Howard stockholders who have previously voted.

Other Matters to Come Before the Howard Special Meeting

No other matters are intended to be brought before the Howard special meeting by Howard, and Howard does not know of any matters to be brought before the Howard special meeting by others. If, however, any other matters properly come before the Howard special meeting, the persons named in the proxy will vote the shares represented thereby in accordance with their best judgment on any such matter.

Recommendation of the Board of Directors of Howard

The Howard board of directors has determined that the merger is advisable and in the best interests of Howard and its stockholders and recommends that Howard's stockholders vote "**FOR**" approval of Howard's issuance of the shares of its common stock to be issued in the merger.

Record Date; Stockholders Entitled to Vote

Stockholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2015, which the Howard board of directors has set as the record date, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting. As of the close of business on that date, there were outstanding and entitled to vote 6,345,727 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, each of which is entitled to one vote.

Quorum

The presence, in person or by proxy, of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the special meeting (or 3,172,864) shares of Howard common stock) will be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the special meeting. Abstentions are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the special meeting.

Under Maryland law, broker non-votes are also counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at stockholder meetings. In general, with respect to shares held in street name, the holders of record have the authority to vote shares for which their customers do not provide voting instructions only on certain routine, uncontested items. In the case of non-routine or contested items, the institution holding street name shares cannot vote the shares if it has not received voting instructions. These are considered to be "broker non-votes." Since there are no routine items to be voted on at the special meeting, nominee record holders of Howard common stock that do not receive voting instructions from the beneficial owners of such shares (unless, with respect to non-broker record holders, such record holder had been granted discretionary authority to vote such shares) will not be able to return a proxy card with respect to such shares; as a result, these shares will not be considered present at the special meeting and will not count towards the satisfaction of a quorum.

Vote Required

Nasdaq rules provide that the issuance of the shares to be issued in the merger must be approved by a majority of the shares cast on the matter at the special meeting. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock cast on the matter is required to adjourn the special meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary.

Directors and executive officers of Howard and their affiliates, who beneficially own approximately 14.24% of Howard common stock outstanding as of the record date, are expected to vote for approval of Howard's issuance of its shares of common stock to be issued in the merger.

Abstentions and Failure to Vote

Under Nasdaq rules, an abstention counts as a vote cast. Therefore abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against the approval of Howard's issuance of its shares of common stock in the merger, but the failure to vote and broker non-votes are not included in calculating votes cast with respect to this proposal and therefore will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal (assuming a quorum is present).

As noted above, approval of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary, requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all votes cast on the matter at the special meeting. Abstentions, the failure to vote and broker non-votes are not included in calculating votes cast with respect to this proposal and therefore will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

Voting of Proxies

The enclosed proxy with respect to the Howard special meeting is solicited by the board of directors of Howard. The board of directors has selected Nasser Basir, Paul I. Latta, Jr., and Donna Hill Staton, or any of them, to act as proxies with full power of substitution.

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, you may submit a proxy to vote your shares via Internet, telephone or mail as outlined below. You will need information from your proxy card or electronic delivery notice to submit your proxy to vote your shares by Internet or telephone.

By Internet: Go to www.investorvote.com/HBMD and follow the instructions.

By Telephone: Call 1-800-951-2405 and follow the voice mail prompts.

By Mail: Mark your vote, sign your name exactly as it appears on your proxy card, date your proxy card and return it in the envelope provided.

All proxies will be voted as directed by the stockholder on the proxy form. A proxy, if executed and not revoked, will be voted in the following manner (unless it contains instructions to the contrary, in which event it will be voted in accordance with such instructions):

- **“FOR”** approval of Howard’s issuance of the shares of its common stock to be issued in the merger; and
- **“FOR”** approval of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary.

At the date hereof, management has no knowledge of any business that will be presented for consideration at the special meeting and that would be required to be set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or in the related Howard proxy card, other than the matters set forth in the Notice of Special Meeting of Stockholders of Howard. In accordance with Maryland law, business transacted at the Howard special meeting will be limited to those matters set forth in the notice. Nonetheless, if any other matter is properly presented at the Howard special meeting for consideration, proxies will be voted in the discretion of the proxy holder on such matter.

Your vote is important. Accordingly, please sign and return the enclosed proxy card, or indicate your vote by phone or Internet as described above, as soon as possible whether or not you intend to attend the Howard special meeting.

Shares Held in Street Name

If you hold your shares in a stock brokerage account or if your shares are held by a bank or other nominee (that is, in street name), you must provide the record holder of your shares with instructions on how to vote your shares if you wish them to be counted, unless your shares are held of record by a bank or other nominee and you have an arrangement with the nominee granting such nominee discretionary authority to vote your shares. Please follow the voting instructions provided by your bank, broker or other nominee. Please note that you may not vote shares held in street name by returning a proxy card directly to Howard or by voting in person at the meeting unless you provide a "legal proxy," which you must obtain from your bank, broker or other nominee. Further, brokers who hold shares of Howard common stock on behalf of their customers may not give a proxy to Howard to vote those shares without specific instructions from their customers.

If you are a Howard stockholder and you do not instruct your broker on how to vote your shares, your broker may not vote your shares at the special meeting.

Your vote is important. Accordingly, please sign and return your broker's or other nominee's instructions whether or not you plan to attend the Howard special meeting in person.

Revocability of Proxies

A proxy is revocable at any time prior to or at the special meeting by written notice to Howard, by executing a proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the special meeting and voting in person. A written notice of revocation of a proxy should be sent to the Secretary, Howard Bancorp, Inc., 6011 University Boulevard, Suite 370, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043, and will be effective if received by the Secretary prior to the special meeting. The presence of a stockholder at the special meeting alone will not automatically revoke such stockholder's proxy.

Solicitation of Proxies

Howard will pay the costs of soliciting proxies from Howard stockholders. These costs may include reasonable out of pocket expenses in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners. Howard will reimburse brokers and other persons for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy materials to customers who are beneficial owners of the common stock of Howard registered in the name of nominees.

In addition to solicitation by mail, officers and directors of Howard may solicit proxies personally or by telephone. Howard will not specifically compensate these persons for soliciting such proxies, but may reimburse them for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, if any. Howard may also engage an outside firm to assist in the solicitation of the proxies, and will pay the fees and expenses of any such firm that it so engages in connection with the special meeting.

OWNERSHIP OF HOWARD BANCORP COMMON STOCK

The following table sets forth, as of June 3, 2015, information with respect to the beneficial ownership of Howard's common stock by each director, by its executive officers and by all of its directors and executive officers as a group, as well as information regarding each other person that Howard believes owns in excess of 5% of the outstanding common stock. Unless otherwise noted below, Howard believes that each person named in the table has or will have the sole voting and sole investment power with respect to each of the securities reported as owned by such person.

	Position	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned (1)	Stock Options and Warrants Exercisable Within 60 Days	Total	Percent of Common Shares	
Board of Directors:						
Richard G. Arnold	Director	106,973	8,035	115,008	1.81	%
Nasser Basir (2)	Director	36,563	304	36,867	*	
Andrew E. Clark (3)	Director	43,668	6,877	50,545	*	
Robert J. Hartson (4)	Director	199,468	3,760	203,228	3.20	%
Donna Hill Staton	Director	7,903	—	7,903	*	
John J. Keenan	Director	1,997	—	1,997	*	
Paul I. Latta, Jr.	Director	85,816	13,187	99,003	1.56	%
Kenneth C. Lundeen (5)	Director	154,373	5,939	160,312	2.53	%
Karen D. McGraw	Director	350	—	350	*	
Richard J. Morgan	Director	2,185	—	2,185	*	
Mary Ann Scully (6)	Director, Chairman of Board, Chief Executive Officer and President	109,900	39,173	149,073	2.35	%
Robert W. Smith, Jr.	Director	27,830	—	27,830	*	
Executive Officers:						
Robert A. Altieri (7)	Executive Vice President	7,667	—	7,667	*	
Paul G. Brown (8)	Executive Vice President	34,540	30,752	65,292	1.03	%
George C. Coffman (9)	Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	45,703	30,752	76,455	1.20	%
Dennis E. Finnegan (10)	Executive Vice President	1,000	—	1,000	*	
Charles E. Schwabe (11)	Executive Vice President and Secretary	37,873	30,752	68,625	1.08	%
All directors & executive officers as a group (17 persons)		903,809	169,531	1,073,340	16.91	%

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Holdings of More Than 5%:					
EJF Capital LLC (12)	434,782	—	434,782	6.85	%
Stieven Capital Advisors, L.P. (13)	391,304	—	391,304	6.17	%
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. (14)	478,260	—	478,260	7.54	%

* Less than 1%

For purposes of this table, beneficial ownership has been determined in accordance with the provisions of Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, under which, in general, a person is deemed to be the (1) beneficial owner of a security if he has or shares the power to vote or direct the voting of the security or the power to dispose of or direct the disposition of the security, or if he has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of the security within 60 days.

(2) Includes 6,850 shares held in an Individual Retirement Account in the name of Mr. Basir. Also includes 8,000 shares held in UTMA accounts for Mr. Basir's children, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership

(3) Does not include 1,500 shares held in UTMA accounts for Mr. Clark's children, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership.

(4) Includes 27,5000 shares owned by Hartson Family Trust, for which Mr. Hartson serves as co-trustee and over which he has shared voting and investment power; 20,600 shares held by ATEC Profit Sharing Plan, for which Mr. Hartson is the trustee. Does not include 16,200 shares held in the name of Mr. Hartson's spouse, for which Mr. Hartson disclaims beneficial ownership.

(5) Includes 25,600 shares held in an Individual Retirement Account in the name of Mr. Lundeen, of which he is the beneficial owner. Also includes 6,668 shares held by Mr. Lundeen's spouse and 14,674 shares held in trust by Mr. Lundeen's spouse as trustee for benefit of members of her family, for which Mr. Lundeen disclaims beneficial ownership.

(6) Includes 25,547 shares held in an Individual Retirement Account in the name of Ms. Scully. Also includes 3,332 shares of restricted stock over which Ms. Scully has voting control. Does not include 16,666 restricted stock units awarded to Ms. Scully over which Ms. Scully will not have voting control until vesting occurs, which will not be within 60 days of June 3, 2015.

(7) Includes 1,666 shares of restricted stock over which Mr. Altieri has voting control. Does not include 13,333 restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Altieri over which Mr. Altieri will not have voting control until vesting occurs, which will not be within 60 days of June 3, 2015.

(8) Includes 23,540 shares owned by Mr. Brown which are pledged as security. Includes 3,332 shares of restricted stock over which Mr. Brown has voting control. Does not include 13,333 restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Brown over which Mr. Brown will not have voting control until vesting occurs, which will not be within 60 days of June 3, 2015.

(9) Includes 8,200 shares held in an Individual Retirement Account in the name of Mr. Coffman. Also includes 3,332 shares of restricted stock over which Mr. Coffman has voting control. Does not include 13,333 restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Coffman over which Mr. Coffman will not have voting control until vesting occurs, which will not be within 60 days of June 3, 2015.

- (10) Does not include 8,000 restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Finnegan over which Mr. Finnegan will not have voting control until vesting occurs, which will not be within 60 days of June 3, 2015.

- (11) Includes 3,332 shares of restricted stock over which Mr. Schwabe has voting control. Does not include 13,333 restricted stock units awarded to Mr. Schwabe over which Mr. Schwabe will not have voting control until vesting occurs, which will not be within 60 days of June 3, 2015.

- (12) The shares listed are owned by EJV Financial Services Fund, LP. EJV Capital LLC is the sole member of EJV Financial Services GP, LLC. EJV Financial Services GP, LLC is the general partner of EJV Financial Services Fund, LP. Emanuel J. Friedman, the Chief Executive Officer of EJV Capital LLC, is deemed to have voting power over these shares. The address for EJV Capital LLC is 2107 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 410, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

- (13) 320,550 of the shares listed are owned by Stieven Financial Investors, L.P. and 70,754 of the shares listed are owned by Stieven Financial Offshore Investors, Ltd. Stieven Capital Advisors, L.P. is the investment manager of Stieven Financial Investors, L.P. and Stieven Financial Offshore Investors, Ltd. Joseph A. Stieven, Stephen L. Covington, Daniel M. Ellefson and Mark J. Ross are managing directors of Stieven Capital Advisors, L.P., and are all members of Stieven Capital GP, LLC, the general partner of Stieven Financial Investors, L.P., and therefore share voting and investment power of the shares held by Stieven Financial Investors, L.P. and Stieven Financial Offshore Investors, Ltd.

- (14) 434,781 of the shares listed are owned by T. Rowe Price Small-Cap Value Fund, Inc., 41,972 of the shares listed are owned by T. Rowe Price U.S. Small-Cap Value Equity Trust and 1,507 of the shares listed are owned by T. Rowe Price U.S. Equities Trust. T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. ("TRPA") serves as an investment advisor with the power to direct investments and/or sole power to vote the shares owned by the advisory clients listed herein. For purposes of reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, TRPA may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of all of the shares listed; however, TRPA expressly disclaims that it is, in fact, the beneficial owner of such shares. The address of TRPA and each fund is 100 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

TRPA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of T. Rowe Price Group, Inc., which is a publicly traded financial services holding company. T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc. ("TRPIS"), a registered broker-dealer, is a subsidiary of T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc., the investment adviser to the accounts listed herein. TRPIS was formed primarily for the limited purpose of acting as the principal underwriter of shares of the funds in the T. Rowe Price fund family. TRPIS does not engage in underwriting or market-making activities involving individual securities. T. Rowe Price provides brokerage services through this subsidiary primarily to complement the other services provided to shareholders of the T. Rowe Price funds.

THE PATAPSCO BANCORP ANNUAL MEETING

Date, Time and Place

Patapsco will hold its annual meeting of stockholders at its office located at 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland 21222 at 4:00 p.m. on July 22, 2015.

Purpose of the Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting, Patapsco's stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon proposals to:

Approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger by and between Howard and Patapsco dated as of March 2, 2015, as the agreement may be amended from time to time, and the merger of Patapsco with and into Howard pursuant to the merger agreement;

- Elect two directors to serve for a term expiring at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders;

Ratify the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015;

- Adjourn the annual meeting if more time is needed to solicit additional proxies; and
- Transact any other business that may properly be brought before the annual meeting.

Recommendation of the Board of Directors of Patapsco

The Patapsco board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger, has unanimously declared them to be advisable and in the best interests of Patapsco's stockholders, and unanimously recommends that Patapsco's stockholders vote "**FOR**" the approval of the merger agreement and the merger.

The Patapsco board of directors also recommends that Patapsco's stockholders vote "**FOR**" each of the nominees for director, "**FOR**" the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm and "**FOR**" the approval of the adjournment of the annual meeting if necessary to solicit additional proxies.

Record Date; Stockholders Entitled to Vote

Stockholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2015, which the Patapsco board of directors has set as the record date, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting. As of the close of business on that date, there were 1,974,843 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, outstanding and entitled to vote, each of which is entitled to one vote.

Quorum

The presence, in person or by proxy, of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the annual meeting (or 987,422 shares of Patapsco common stock) will be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting. Abstentions are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting.

Under Maryland law, broker non-votes are also counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at stockholder meetings. If your shares are held in the name of a bank, brokerage firm or other similar holder of record (referred to as "in street name"), you will receive instructions from the holder of record that you must follow for you to specify how your shares will be voted. In general, under the rules of the various national and regional securities exchanges, holders of record have the authority to vote shares for which their customers do not provide voting instructions on certain routine, uncontested items, but not on non-routine proposals. In the case of non-routine items for which specific voting instructions have not been provided, the institution holding street name shares cannot vote those shares. These are considered to be "broker non-votes."

Vote Required

The proposal at the Patapsco annual meeting to approve the merger agreement and the merger requires the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock entitled to vote on the proposal.

In voting on the election of directors for Patapsco, you may vote in favor of an individual nominee or withhold your votes as to any of the nominees. There is no cumulative voting for the election of directors. Directors must be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting. This means that the nominees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected.

In voting on the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2015, you may vote in favor of the proposal, vote against the proposal or abstain from voting. To ratify the appointment of TGM Group, LLC, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting is required.

The approval of the proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary, requires the affirmative vote of the majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote on the matter.

Directors of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank and their affiliates, who beneficially own approximately 17.98% of Patapsco common stock as of the record date, have agreed in writing to vote for approval of the merger agreement and the merger.

Abstentions and Failure to Vote

Because approval of the merger agreement and the merger requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock entitled to vote at the annual meeting, abstentions, the failure to vote and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against this matter. In other words, if you are a Patapsco stockholder and fail to vote, fail to instruct your broker or nominee to vote, or vote to abstain, it will have the effect of a vote *against* the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger. Accordingly, the Patapsco board of directors urges you to submit your proxy to vote as instructed below.

In the election of directors, votes that are withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election. In counting votes on the proposal to ratify the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of the voting on the proposal.

As noted above, approval of the proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary, requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all votes cast on the matter at the annual meeting. Abstentions, the failure to vote and broker non-votes are not included in calculating votes cast with respect to this proposal and therefore will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

Voting of Proxies

The enclosed proxy with respect to the Patapsco annual meeting is solicited by the board of directors of Patapsco. The board of directors has selected Gary R. Bozel, Nicole N. Glaeser and J. Thomas Hoffman, or any of them, to act as proxies with full power of substitution.

Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, you may submit a proxy to vote your shares via Internet, telephone or mail as outlined below. You will need information from your proxy card to submit your proxy to vote your shares by Internet or telephone.

By Internet: Go to www.investorvote.com/PATD and follow the instructions.

By Telephone: Call 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) and follow the voice mail prompts.

By Mail: Mark your vote, sign your name exactly as it appears on your proxy card, date your proxy card and return it in the envelope provided.

All proxies will be voted as directed by the stockholder on the proxy form. A proxy, if executed and not revoked, will be voted in the following manner (unless it contains instructions to the contrary, in which event it will be voted in accordance with such instructions):

“FOR” the approval of the merger agreement and the merger;

“FOR” each of the director nominees;

“FOR” the ratification of the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco’s independent registered public accounting firm; and

“FOR” approval of the proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to solicit additional proxies, if necessary.

If any matters not described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus are properly presented at the annual meeting, the persons named in the proxy card will vote your shares as directed by a majority of the board of directors. If the annual meeting is postponed or adjourned, your Patapsco common stock may be voted by the persons named in the proxy card on the new annual meeting date, provided that the new meeting occurs within 90 days of the record date for the annual meeting, unless you have not revoked your proxy. We do not know of any other matters to be presented at the annual meeting.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before the vote is taken at the meeting. Unless so revoked, the shares represented by properly executed proxies will be voted at the annual meeting and all adjournments thereof. To revoke your proxy, you must send written notice to Nicole N. Glaeser, Secretary of Patapsco Bancorp, at 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland 21222-2194, by filing a later-dated proxy before your common stock has been voted at the annual meeting or by attending the annual meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the annual meeting will not in itself constitute revocation of your proxy.

Your vote is important. Accordingly, please sign and return the enclosed proxy card, or indicate your vote by phone or Internet as described above, as soon as possible whether or not you intend to attend the Patapsco annual meeting.

Shares Held in Street Name

If you hold your shares in a stock brokerage account or if your shares are held by a bank or other nominee (that is, in street name), you must provide the record holder of your shares with instructions on how to vote your shares if you wish them to be counted, unless your shares are held of record by a bank or other nominee and you have an arrangement with the nominee granting such nominee discretionary authority to vote your shares. Please follow the voting instructions provided by your bank, broker or other nominee. Please note that you may not vote shares held in street name by returning a proxy card directly to Patapsco or by voting in person at the meeting unless you provide a "legal proxy," which you must obtain from your bank, broker or other nominee. Further, brokers who hold shares of Patapsco common stock on behalf of their customers may not give a proxy to Patapsco to vote those shares without specific instructions from their customers.

If you are a Patapsco stockholder and you do not instruct your broker on how to vote your shares, your broker may not vote your shares at the annual meeting except on the proposal to ratify the appointment of TGM Group, LLC as Patapsco's independent registered public accounting firm.

Your vote is important. Accordingly, please sign and return your broker's instructions whether or not you plan to attend the Patapsco annual meeting in person.

Revocability of Proxies

A proxy is revocable at any time prior to or at the annual meeting by written notice to Patapsco, by executing a proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the annual meeting and voting in person. A written notice of revocation of a proxy should be sent to the Secretary, Patapsco Bancorp, Inc., 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland 21222 and will be effective if received by the Secretary prior to the annual meeting. The presence of a stockholder at the annual meeting alone will not automatically revoke such stockholder's proxy.

Solicitation of Proxies

Patapsco will pay the costs of soliciting proxies from Patapsco stockholders. These costs may include reasonable out of pocket expenses in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners. Patapsco will reimburse banks, brokers and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses in sending proxy materials to beneficial owners of the common stock of Patapsco and obtaining their proxies.

In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, Laurel Hill Advisory Group, LLC, a proxy solicitation firm, will assist Patapsco in soliciting proxies for the annual meeting. Patapsco will pay \$6,000 (and expenses) for these services and will reimburse Laurel Hill Advisory Group, LLC for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. Additionally, directors, officers and employees of Patapsco may solicit proxies personally, by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail. Patapsco will not specifically compensate these persons for soliciting such proxies, but may reimburse them for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, if any.

OWNERSHIP OF PATAPSCO BANCORP COMMON STOCK

The following table sets forth, as of June 3, 2015, unless otherwise noted, the number and percentage of shares of Patapsco common stock that are beneficially owned by each executive officer and director of Patapsco and all directors and executive officers of Patapsco as a group, and each other person that Patapsco is aware of that owns in excess of 5% of its outstanding common stock. A person owns his shares directly as an individual unless otherwise indicated.

Name	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock	Percent of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding (1)	%
Directors:			
Gary R. Bozel	130,391	(2)	6.60
Nicole N. Glaeser	19,386	(3)	*
J. Thomas Hoffman	96,008	(4)	4.85
Thomas P. O'Neill	62,435		3.16
William R. Waters	46,884	(5)	2.37
Executive Officers Who Are Not Directors:			
John M. Wright	—		*
Philip P. Phillips	6,000		*
All executive officers and directors as a group (7 persons)	361,104		18.29

*Less than 1.0%.

(1) Based on 1,974,843 shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding and entitled to vote as of June 3, 2015.

(2) Includes 34,609 shares owned by partnerships in which Mr. Bozel is involved and 575 shares held by Mr. Bozel's spouse's IRA.

(3) Includes 489 shares held by Ms. Glaeser as custodian for her child.

(4) Includes 2,163 shares owned by Mr. Hoffman's spouse.

(5) Includes 2,994 shares owned by Mr. Waters' spouse.

THE MERGER AGREEMENT AND THE MERGER

The following information describes the material terms and provisions of the merger agreement and the merger. This discussion is subject, and qualified in its entirety by reference, to the merger agreement, as amended, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Except for its status as the contractual document between the parties with respect to the merger described therein, the merger agreement attached as Annex A hereto is not intended to provide factual information about the parties. The representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement were made solely for the purposes of such agreement as of specified dates, and are not intended to provide factual, business or financial information about Howard or Patapsco. Moreover, some of those representations and warranties may not be accurate or complete as of any specified date, may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality different from those generally applicable to stockholders or may have been used for purposes of allocating risk between Howard and Patapsco rather than establishing matters as facts. For the foregoing reasons, you should not rely on the representations and warranties as accurate or complete or as characterizations of the actual state of facts as of any specified date. We urge you to read the full text of the merger agreement carefully.

General

The merger agreement provides that:

Patapsco will merge with and into Howard with Howard as the surviving corporation;

if you are a stockholder of Patapsco, you will receive, at your election (subject to adjustment pursuant to the allocation and proration provisions as described herein), for each share of Patapsco common stock that you own (i) \$5.09 in cash or (ii) a fraction of a share (the “exchange ratio”) of Howard common stock determined by dividing \$5.09 by the 20 trading day average closing price of the Howard common stock on the date that is five business days prior to the closing of the merger (which we refer to as the “Average Price”), provided that if the Average Price is \$9.00 or less the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.5656 and if the Average Price is \$16.80 or more the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.3030, provided that 80% of the shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding as of the effective time of the merger (approximately 1,579,874 shares) will be exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and 20% of the outstanding shares (approximately 394,969 shares) of Patapsco common stock will be exchanged for cash (subject to the right of Howard to adjust these percentages as long as at least 50% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco are exchanged for shares of Howard common stock), as further described herein, and that cash will be paid in lieu of fractional shares of Howard common stock;

pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger by and between Howard Bank and Patapsco Bank, dated as of March 2, 2015, immediately after the merger Patapsco Bank will be merged with and into Howard Bank, with Howard Bank as the surviving bank, which we refer to as the bank merger; and

Thomas P. O'Neill and Gary R. Bozel will be appointed as members of the Howard and Howard Bank boards of directors.

Assuming the requisite approval of each company's stockholders and the satisfaction of other conditions to closing, we currently expect the merger to close on or about August 28, 2015. The merger will result in an institution with pro forma assets of approximately \$1.0 billion. Howard expects the merger to be accretive to earnings in the first year after closing.

Background of the Merger

In October 2005, Patapsco, seeing growth opportunities in its market area, set up a trust subsidiary, Patapsco Statutory Trust I (the "Trust"), that issued \$5.0 million of preferred securities, commonly known as "trust preferred securities." The Trust's payment of dividends on the trust preferred securities were funded through payments of interest on subordinated debentures issued by Patapsco to the Trust. The interest rate on the subordinated debentures was equal to the dividend rate on the trust preferred securities, which, after a seven-year fixed-rate period, became an adjustable rate equal to three-month LIBOR plus 1.48%. The documents governing the trust preferred securities permitted Patapsco to defer the payment of interest on the subordinated debentures for up to 20 quarters before Patapsco would be deemed to have caused an event of default under the relevant documents. Patapsco guaranteed the payment of all amounts owed to holders of the trust preferred securities.

Subsequently and primarily as a result of the onset of loan losses following significantly deteriorating economic conditions nationally and in its market area, Patapsco Bank experienced its first operating losses beginning during the quarter ended June 30, 2008 (Patapsco's fourth fiscal quarter). Following these initial losses, and as a means of supplementing Patapsco Bank's regulatory capital ratios in case of potential future losses, Patapsco elected to participate in the Capital Purchase Program offered by Treasury as part of TARP. Pursuant to this program, in December 2008, Patapsco issued \$6.0 million of Series A preferred stock and \$0.3 million of Series B preferred stock to Treasury. Dividends on the Series A preferred stock were to be paid quarterly at the rate of 5%, increasing to 9% after five years, and dividends on the Series B preferred stock were to be paid quarterly at a rate of 9%. Dividends on both series were cumulative, which means that dividends continue to accrue even if such dividends are not declared and paid by Patapsco.

Economic conditions continued to worsen, however, and Patapsco's financial condition continued to deteriorate. In 2010, in order to preserve capital, Patapsco ceased paying dividends on its preferred stock issued to Treasury and, beginning with the interest payment due on June 15, 2010, began deferring interest and dividend payments on its subordinated debentures and trust preferred securities. On October 18, 2012, Patapsco and Patapsco Bank entered into a written agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner. Pursuant to the written agreement, among other requirements, Patapsco and Patapsco Bank were required to submit to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner a capital plan, which capital plan would set forth certain minimum regulatory capital ratios that Patapsco Bank would be required to meet. In addition, under the written agreement, Patapsco and the Trust were prohibited from making any distributions of interest, principal, or other sums on subordinated debentures or trust preferred securities without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank, and Patapsco and Patapsco Bank were not permitted to declare or pay any dividends without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank and, as to Patapsco Bank, the Maryland Commissioner. The written agreement also required that Patapsco serve as a source of strength to Patapsco Bank.

To increase capital and enable Patapsco to serve as a source of strength to Patapsco Bank, the board of directors anticipated that it would need to raise capital. However, the board of directors also concluded, taking into consideration feedback from prospective financial advisors, that it would be more successful in completing a capital raise, and could complete such a raise on more favorable terms, if first it were able to improve Patapsco Bank's financial condition. Accordingly, the board of directors focused its efforts on improving Patapsco Bank's financial condition, with particular emphasis placed on reducing nonperforming assets.

While Patapsco management and the board of directors focused on improving Patapsco's financial condition and returning to profitability, Patapsco continued to not make any dividend payments on its outstanding preferred stock and to defer dividend and interest payments on its trust preferred securities and the related subordinated debentures. The dividend rate on the Series A preferred stock increased to 9% in November 2013, resulting in annual dividends on the preferred stock increasing from \$327,000 to \$567,000. Moreover, Patapsco was getting closer to the end of the 20-quarter deferral period on its subordinated debentures and trust preferred securities, which period ends with the interest payment due on June 15, 2015. If by that time Patapsco fails to bring current all deferred interest owed on the subordinated debentures, it will trigger an event of default under the indenture. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, the indenture trustee, on behalf of the holders of the trust preferred securities, may declare all amounts of principal and deferred interest owing on the subordinated debentures immediately due and payable and may pursue

remedies to collect such amounts, including enforcing the guarantee of Patapsco.

Throughout 2013, as Patapsco Bank improved its financial condition and returned to profitability, its board of directors explored the possibility of raising capital for the purpose of redeeming its preferred stock, possibly at a discount to liquidation preference, which would reduce the dividend burden at the holding company level, paying the deferred interest on its subordinated debentures and contributing additional capital to Patapsco Bank. Improved capital levels, combined with the elimination of the dividend requirement on the preferred stock, would allow Patapsco to achieve compliance with the last remaining provisions of the written agreement with which it continued to be in non-compliance, specifically, those relating to the requirement that it serve as a source of strength to Patapsco Bank. Management engaged in occasional discussions with representatives of Treasury, which held Patapsco's preferred stock, as well as with prospective financial advisors and a potential purchaser of the preferred stock, to assess the likelihood that Patapsco could successfully complete a capital raise and whether Treasury would be receptive to selling the preferred stock at a discount to its liquidation preference in order to facilitate a capital raise. Patapsco also kept in close contact with its regulators to best ensure that any transaction it elected to pursue would be one that was likely to be acceptable to them.

At a meeting of the Patapsco board of directors on April 17, 2014, representatives of KBW were invited to discuss with the board potential strategic alternatives that Patapsco might wish to consider, including a private placement capital raise of approximately \$15 million of common equity plus an additional smaller amount to be offered to Patapsco stockholders in a rights offering. The proceeds of these offerings would be used to repurchase Patapsco's preferred stock at a discount, pay all deferred interest on Patapsco's subordinated debentures and to enhance Patapsco Bank's capital position. The board and KBW also discussed a potential business combination transaction between Patapsco and another financial institution. After considering these alternative transactions to achieve full compliance with the written agreement, the board of directors concluded that the best alternative was to pursue the capital raise transaction.

During the summer and fall of 2014, in accordance with the board's directives, management and KBW acting as Patapsco's financial advisor engaged in discussions with prospective lead investors for a private placement common equity offering. Concurrently, management and KBW engaged in discussions with representatives of Treasury regarding the potential for a discount that Treasury would accept on the sale of its preferred stock in conjunction with the capital raise.

In September 2014, KBW received one preliminary non-binding pricing indication, from a private equity firm that is a frequent investor in bank holding company offerings, to serve as lead investor in a \$10 million private placement offering. The purchase price proposed by the prospective investor was \$0.90 per share of Patapsco common stock, and the offer assumed Treasury's acceptance of a 40% discount on the liquidation preference on the sale of its preferred stock investment. Following further discussions, the prospective investor agreed to raise its potential investment price to \$1.15 per share of Patapsco common stock, subject to its due diligence review of Patapsco. On October 22, 2014, the prospective investor submitted a non-binding term sheet reflecting the potential investment price of \$1.15 per share, contingent on Treasury's acceptance of a 25% discount on liquidation preference on the sale of its preferred stock investment in conjunction with the capital raise.

The Patapsco board of directors had multiple concerns with this proposal, including that the offering price represented a substantial discount to Patapsco's book value and would be highly dilutive to Patapsco's stockholders. In addition, in their continuing discussions, Treasury indicated that it would not be receptive to the high discount on which this proposal was predicated.

At its October 15, 2014 meeting, the Patapsco board of directors received an update from KBW regarding the status of the capital raise. The board was informed that all other parties that had been contacted regarding serving as lead investor in a capital raising transaction had declined to be the lead investor in a transaction. KBW also discussed with the board of directors the present bank merger and acquisition environment and the possibility of a business combination transaction and reviewed publicly available business, financial and stock market information of certain financial institutions that might have potential interest in acquiring Patapsco. The board of directors also discussed the possibility of pursuing a smaller offering to a select group of local investors, but the board of directors was uncertain whether it would be able to complete such an offering.

Following discussion and deliberation, it was the consensus of the Patapsco board of directors that it would be in the best interests of Patapsco's stockholders to solicit indications of interest for a potential business combination with Patapsco and authorized KBW to contact parties that were identified, in conjunction with management's input, as having potential interest in pursuing a potential business combination transaction with Patapsco. The board of directors further directed KBW to continue discussions with the private equity firm which had submitted the non-binding term sheet to serve as lead investor for the proposed private placement offering as a fall back should no indications of interest be received regarding a potential business combination transaction.

KBW contacted Howard and 15 other parties during the month of November 2014. Howard, as well as ten other financial institutions, executed confidentiality agreements, with Howard executing its confidentiality agreement on November 7, 2014. Parties who executed confidentiality agreements were provided access to a confidential information memorandum prepared by Patapsco, with the assistance of KBW, as well as an online data room that contained additional confidential due diligence information regarding Patapsco. Interested parties, including Howard, were instructed to submit their preliminary indications of interest by December 1, 2014.

On December 1, 2014, Howard sent KBW a preliminary written indication of interest for the acquisition of Patapsco. In its letter, Howard proposed an 80% stock/20% cash transaction at a price within the range of \$3.92 to \$4.31 per Patapsco common share, or approximately \$7.7 million to \$8.5 million in the aggregate, with the exchange ratio to be set based on Howard's average closing stock price for the 20 trading days immediately preceding the closing and with caps and collars to be negotiated. Howard also proposed initially to retain Patapsco's preferred stock and to retire it over time and to assume Patapsco's obligations under its trust preferred securities. Howard further proposed to provide Patapsco with the capital and liquidity to permit Patapsco to pay the deferred interest on its subordinated debentures prior to June 15, 2015 so as to avert an event of default. Howard also proposed to invite one mutually agreed upon member of Patapsco's board of directors to join Howard's board of directors and two members of Patapsco's board of directors to join Howard Bank's board of directors and to appoint the remaining Patapsco directors to an advisory board.

On December 1 and December 2, 2014, Patapsco also received written indications of interest from three additional depository institutions. "Company A" proposed an all cash transaction at a price of \$3.50 per Patapsco common share. In subsequent conversations with Company A, Company A indicated it might be willing to increase its price to \$4.00 per Patapsco common share. Company A indicated that it intended to redeem Patapsco's outstanding TARP preferred stock and to assume Patapsco's obligations under its trust preferred securities. "Company B" proposed an all-stock transaction valued at 100% of Patapsco's tangible common equity book value at September 30, 2014 less unaccrued and unpaid dividends on Patapsco's TARP preferred stock. This valuation was estimated by Company B to represent \$4.09 per share of Patapsco common stock. Shares of Company B common stock issued to Patapsco common stockholders in the merger would be valued at 100% of Company B's book value at closing, which represented approximately a 32% premium to Company B's December 1, 2014 market value based on Company B's book value at September 30, 2014. Company B's proposal was predicated on Patapsco's being able to redeem its TARP preferred stock on terms acceptable to Company B. Company B proposed to invite up to two members of Patapsco's board of directors to join the board of directors of Company B. "Company C" proposed an all cash transaction valued within the range of \$2.75 to \$3.25 per Patapsco common share, but indicated a willingness to provide a portion of the consideration in the form of Company C stock. Company C further indicated that it would need additional capital to complete the transaction and therefore would include in the definitive agreement a financing contingency, the amount of which would be reduced by the amount of the transaction consideration that was in the form of Company C stock. Company C indicated that the redemption of Patapsco's outstanding TARP preferred stock would be a condition to closing a transaction and that it intended to assume Patapsco's obligations under its trust preferred securities. Company C also proposed to invite one independent member of Patapsco's board of directors to join Company C's board of directors.

On December 3, 2014, the Patapsco board of directors held a special meeting that was also attended by representatives from KBW and Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, Patapsco's legal counsel. KBW reviewed with the board the four preliminary indications of interest that had been received. After discussion, the board of directors instructed KBW to discuss with each of the four interested parties any arrangements that they would be willing to consider to enable Patapsco to pay deferred interest on its subordinated debentures prior to the occurrence of an event of default on June 15, 2015. In addition to matters relating to the potential business combination transaction, KBW informed the board of directors that the private equity firm that had proposed to lead a private capital raising transaction indicated that it would withdraw its proposal on December 11, 2014 if by then Patapsco had not agreed to enter into exclusive due diligence and negotiations with the private equity firm.

The Patapsco board of directors met again on December 5, 2014. The board of directors reviewed and discussed in greater detail the four preliminary indications of interest that had been received. KBW reported that in their subsequent conversations after the December 3, 2014 meeting of the board of directors, all four interested parties indicated a willingness to work with Patapsco to find a mechanism to allow Patapsco to pay deferred interest on its subordinated debentures on or prior to June 15, 2015 and thereby avert an event of default. The board of directors authorized Howard, Company A and Company B to perform due diligence on Patapsco so that they might submit revised indications of interest. In addition, the board of directors instructed Patapsco's legal counsel to perform limited due diligence on the three interested parties for the purpose of assessing the ability of each party to consummate the proposed transaction. The board of directors also instructed KBW to advise Company C that they were not being invited to perform additional due diligence at this time. Also at that meeting, legal counsel explained the board's fiduciary duties and responsibilities in the context of a change in control or other business combination transaction.

In light of the three pending indications for a business combination transaction and the concerns of the board of directors regarding the terms of the proposed capital raising transaction, the board of directors directed KBW to inform the private equity firm that Patapsco would not enter into exclusive negotiations and due diligence with them.

On December 8, 2014, Company C submitted a revised indication of interest for an all cash transaction valued within the range of \$3.75 to \$4.15 per Patapsco common share with the rest of the terms of the indication unchanged. Subsequent to submitting this revised indication of interest, and prior to performing onsite due diligence review of Patapsco, Company C informed KBW that it was no longer interested in pursuing a business combination transaction with Patapsco and ultimately did not conduct onsite due diligence on Patapsco.

The three remaining parties conducted on-site due diligence reviews of Patapsco during the remainder of December 2014 and early January 2015, with Howard conducting its onsite due diligence review on December 10 and December 11, 2014. Additional due diligence review was conducted through the online data room by Howard. Howard, Company A and Company B all submitted revised indications of interest, as requested by KBW at Patapsco's direction, on January 7, 2015. In addition, Patapsco's legal counsel was able to schedule visits to perform limited due diligence on Howard and Company A, which due diligence was completed in early January 2015.

In its revised indication of interest, Howard proposed an 80% stock/20% cash transaction at a price of \$4.70 per Patapsco common share, with the exchange ratio to be derived by dividing the per share Patapsco transaction value by Howard's average closing stock price for the 20 trading days immediately preceding the fifth business day prior to the closing, with collars, if any, and single or double trigger walkaway provisions to be negotiated.

In its revised indication of interest, Company A proposed an all cash transaction at a price of \$4.40 per Patapsco common share, or approximately \$9.3 million in the aggregate. Company A also indicated that it would consider expanding its board to offer one board seat to a Patapsco board member, with such member to be selected by Company A. Company A's valuation, however, was subject to adjustment if the sum of executive change in control expenses and investment advisory expenses related to the transaction exceeded \$1.2 million in the aggregate. Company A further provided that it would be willing to provide a loan to Patapsco for the purpose of paying deferred interest on Patapsco's debentures.

In its revised indication of interest, Company B continued to propose an all-stock transaction, but reduced its proposed consideration value from 100% to 80% of Patapsco's tangible common equity book value at September 30, 2014 less unaccrued and unpaid dividends on Patapsco's TARP preferred stock. This reduced valuation was estimated by Company B to represent \$3.23 per share of Patapsco common stock. Shares of Company B common stock issued to Patapsco common stockholders in the merger would continue to be valued at 100% of Company B's book value at closing, which represented approximately a 37% premium to Company B's January 6, 2015 market value based on Company B's book value at September 30, 2014. Company B's proposal continued to be predicated on Patapsco being able to redeem its TARP preferred stock on terms acceptable to Company B. Company B indicated that it would be

willing to lend Patapsco up to \$1.25 million that could be used to pay the deferred interest on its subordinated debentures.

On January 9, 2015, Patapsco's board of directors held a special meeting that was also attended by representatives from KBW and legal counsel. Shortly prior to the commencement of the board of directors meeting, KBW received a phone call from Howard's financial advisor indicating that Howard was increasing its proposed transaction value from \$4.70 per Patapsco common share, or approximately \$9.3 million in the aggregate, to \$5.09 per Patapsco common share, or approximately \$10.05 million in the aggregate. The board of directors reviewed and discussed the revised indications of interest that had been received from Howard (including the recently revised pricing proposal), Company A and Company B. Patapsco's legal counsel also reviewed with the board of directors the results of its limited due diligence review of Howard and Company A. With respect to Howard, Patapsco's legal counsel and financial advisor advised the board of directors that it believed that Howard would be more likely to be successful in obtaining regulatory approval for the proposed transaction if it were to raise additional capital. KBW informed the board of directors that prior to the board of directors meeting KBW had raised with Howard's financial advisor the possibility that Howard raise additional capital and that Howard's financial advisor responded that Howard would be willing to do so. Following discussion and deliberation, the board of directors determined that, subject to Howard's agreement to raise at least \$10 million of additional capital, with commitments from investors to be obtained no later than the date of the execution of a definitive merger agreement, it would negotiate exclusively with Howard a definitive merger agreement based on the terms outlined in the revised indication of interest. The board of directors also authorized management to conduct a more detailed due diligence review of Howard.

Effective as of January 14, 2015, Howard and Patapsco entered into a confidentiality agreement to protect any information that Howard would provide to Patapsco in response to due diligence requests. Patapsco conducted an on-site due diligence review of Howard on February 6, 2015, during which Patapsco representatives met with Howard management to discuss Howard's financial condition and results of operations.

In January and February 2015, Howard met with prospective investors to secure investment commitments for a capital raising transaction of between \$10 million and \$30 million, and from February 4 through March 2, 2015, Patapsco and Howard negotiated the terms of the merger agreement and the ancillary documents appearing as exhibits to the merger agreement. During this time, Patapsco and Howard also continued their due diligence investigations of each other.

During the afternoon of March 2, 2015, Patapsco's board of directors held a special meeting to consider the definitive merger agreement and ancillary documents, which meeting was also attended by representatives of KBW and legal counsel. At this meeting, KBW reviewed the financial aspects of the proposed merger and rendered an opinion to the board of directors to the effect that, as of such date and subject to the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered, and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by KBW as set forth in such opinion, the merger consideration in the proposed merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Patapsco common stock. In addition, representatives of Kilpatrick Stockton reviewed in detail with the board of directors the definitive merger agreement and all related documents, copies of which were delivered to each director before the meeting. Following extensive review and discussion, the board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement and authorized and directed management to execute and deliver the merger agreement and ancillary documents, subject to confirmation that Howard's Board also had approved the merger agreement and authorized the execution and delivery of the merger agreement and ancillary documents.

During the evening of March 2, 2015, Howard's board of directors held a special meeting to consider the definitive merger agreement and ancillary documents, at which representatives of its financial advisor, Griffin, and of OberlKaler, Howard's outside legal counsel were also present. Howard management, Griffin and representatives of OberlKaler updated the Howard board of directors on the status of negotiations with Patapsco. At the request of the Howard board of directors, Griffin reviewed with the Howard board of directors Griffin's financial analysis of the proposed merger and the methodologies and assumptions underlying its analysis. Frank C. Bonaventure of OberlKaler presented the board with an overview of the material terms of the merger agreement and related documents, copies of which were provided to each director before the meeting, and the regulatory process relating thereto, and the board asked questions of Mr. Bonaventure about those terms and process. Mr. Bonaventure also answered questions about the fiduciary duties of the Howard board of directors in connection with evaluating the proposed acquisition of Patapsco. Also at this meeting, Griffin reviewed the financial aspects of the proposed merger and provided its opinion to Howard's board of directors that, as of such date, and subject to factors, qualifications, limitations and assumptions set forth in the opinion, the merger consideration to be paid by Howard in connection with the proposed merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to the common equity stockholders of Howard. At the conclusion of these presentations and discussion and deliberation, and after considering all of the factors that it deemed relevant, the Howard board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, up to and including the merger, approved the related support agreements, declared the merger advisable, and authorized execution of the merger agreements and the support agreements.

Prior to the open of trading markets on March 3, 2015, Patapsco and Howard issued a joint press release announcing the approval, adoption and execution of the merger agreement.

Howard's Reasons for the Merger

In evaluating acquisition opportunities, Howard looks for financial institutions with business philosophies that are similar to those of Howard and that operate in markets that geographically complement its operations. In evaluating acquisition opportunities, Howard also considers its long-range strategies, including financial, customer and employee strategies. Howard, from time to time, reviews its strategic plan to analyze its geographic scope, financial performance and growth opportunities. Howard generally believes that greater size and scale can help a community-oriented commercial bank address the costs of anticipated additional regulation as well as provide additional revenue opportunities. Prior to entering into the merger agreement, Howard considered a number of opportunities to expand its presence in its primary market areas; however the Strategic Growth Initiatives Committee concluded that the acquisition of Patapsco was the best currently available opportunity to further this business objective. In connection with its approval of the merger with Patapsco, Howard's board of directors reviewed the terms of the proposed acquisition and definitive merger agreement and the merger's potential impact on Howard's constituencies. In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement and the merger, Howard's board of directors considered a number of factors, including the following:

- the understanding of the business operations, management, financial condition, asset quality, product offerings and prospects of Patapsco based on, among other things, input from management and Howard's financial advisor;

- the view that Patapsco provides Howard with opportunities to accelerate loan growth as well as opportunities to expand Howard's mortgage banking activities;

- the results of due diligence of Patapsco and its business operations, including asset quality;

- the view that the combined company will have the potential for a stronger competitive position in a marketplace where relatively greater size and scale may become increasingly more important factors for financial performance and success;

- the acquisition of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank represents an attractive opportunity for Howard Bank to broaden its reach within its market areas and provides entry into Baltimore City while remaining a community bank;

- the advantageous geographic location of Patapsco Bank's branches as they relate to Howard's long-term strategic plan to expand its presence in its target market;

- the expectation that the merger would be accretive to earnings in light of potential cost savings and revenue enhancements;

the acquisition of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank will increase Howard Bank's branch locations by four and increase Howard's total assets by more than \$220 million;

the increase in shares outstanding will somewhat increase the visibility of and liquidity in Howard's common stock and likely improve access to equity and debt markets;

- the acquisition of Patapsco will better position Howard to acquire other community banks in the future;

- Patapsco's customer service-oriented emphasis with local decision-making ability and a clear focus on the community and local customers, which are consistent with Howard's business approach;

- Patapsco's priority in serving the small and mid-size business sectors as well as individuals;

the potential operating efficiencies of combining the two entities, potential revenue enhancements, Patapsco's asset quality, and fee income sources;

the historical and pro forma financial information and analysis presented, including, among other things, pro forma book value and earnings per share information, dilution analysis, and capital ratio impact information;

a review of comparable transactions, including a comparison of the price being paid in the merger with the prices paid in other comparable financial institution mergers from an earnings, deposit premium and tangible book value perspective;

belief that Patapsco has a compatible business culture and shared approach to customer service and increasing stockholder value;

perceived opportunities to increase the combined company's commercial and residential lending and to reduce the combined company's operating expenses, following the merger;

the magnitude of the variance in terms of absolute purchase price between Howard's initial and final bid for Patapsco;

the fixed value/floating exchange pricing structure of the merger that limits book value dilution because of the Howard board of directors' view that Howard's earnings and tangible book value will increase between announcement and closing; and

the opinion of Griffin to the effect that as of the date of such opinion, based on and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in the opinion, the consideration to be paid in the merger is fair to Howard and its stockholders from a financial point of view.

All business combinations, including the merger, also include certain risks and disadvantages. The material potential risks and disadvantages to Howard and its stockholders that Howard's board of directors and management identified and the board of directors considered include the following material matters, the order of which does not necessarily reflect their relative significance:

potential run-off of deposits and loans following announcement and/or the closing;

execution risk;

the risk that Patapsco's loans and other items were not appropriately valued;

the potential for diversion of management attention during the period prior to the completion of the merger and after the merger while merging Patapsco Bank's business with Howard Bank;

the risk that projected earnings, tangible book value increases and/or cost savings will not materialize or will be less than expected;

· that Howard might have to pass on other acquisitions in the near-term if proceeding with the merger with Patapsco;

· the possibility that the merger will strain Howard's management;

· the likelihood that Howard common stock may trade down post-announcement and/or post-merger;

· the risk that Howard's stock price declines to \$9.00 per share or below, resulting in the maximum number of shares being issued; and

· the risk that Patapsco terminates the merger by reason of a superior proposal.

The discussion and factors considered by Howard's board of directors is not intended to be exhaustive, but includes all material factors considered. Howard's board of directors considered these factors as a whole, and considered them to be favorable to, and supportive of, its determination. Howard's board of directors did not consider it practical, nor did it attempt, to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors that it considered in reaching its decision. In considering the factors described above, individual members of Howard's board of directors may have given different weights or priority to different factors. Howard's board of directors realized there can be no assurance about future results, including results expected or considered in the factors listed above. However, the board concluded that the potential positive factors outweighed the potential risks of completing the merger.

After deliberating with respect to the proposed merger with Patapsco, considering, among other things, the factors discussed above and the opinion of Griffin discussed below, the Howard board of directors approved the merger agreement and the merger with Patapsco and declared the merger advisable.

There can be no certainty that the above benefits of the merger anticipated by the Howard board of directors will occur. Actual results may vary materially from those anticipated. For more information on the factors that could affect actual results, see “Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” and “Risk Factors.”

Opinion of Howard’s Financial Advisor

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated May 23, 2012, as amended July 14, 2013, Howard engaged Griffin to serve as its exclusive financial advisor in connection with potential business combinations as well as certain capital market and other strategic advice on an ongoing basis. Griffin is a nationally recognized, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority-licensed investment banking firm which is regularly engaged in the valuation of financial institutions and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions and other corporate transactions. Howard hired Griffin on the basis of Griffin’s qualifications, experience in transactions similar to the merger and its reputation in the investment community. Pursuant to this engagement, the board of directors of Howard requested Griffin to provide its opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration (as defined in the merger agreement) to be paid by Howard in the proposed merger of Patapsco with Howard.

At a meeting of the Howard board of directors held on March 2, 2015, to evaluate the proposed merger with Patapsco, Griffin reviewed the financial aspects of the proposed merger and provided its opinion to Howard’s board that, as of such date, and subject to factors, qualifications, limitations and assumptions set forth in the opinion, the merger consideration to be paid by Howard in connection with the proposed merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to the common equity stockholders of Howard.

The full text of Griffin’s written opinion is attached as Annex B to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated herein by reference. Howard’s stockholders are urged to read the opinion in its entirety for a description of the assumptions made, matters considered, procedures followed and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by Griffin. Griffin’s opinion is subject to the assumptions and conditions contained in its opinion and is necessarily based on economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to Griffin as of, the date of its opinion. The description of the opinion set forth herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion.

Griffin's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion is addressed to the Howard board of directors and is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to be paid by Howard in the merger to the common equity stockholders of Howard. Griffin does not express an opinion as to the underlying decision by Howard to engage in the merger or the relative merits of the merger compared to other strategic alternatives which may be available to Howard.

In providing its opinion, Griffin, among other things:

· reviewed a draft of the merger agreement;

· reviewed and discussed with Howard its financial information as of and for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as well as budgets for 2015 and projections for 2016 and 2017;

· reviewed and discussed with Patapsco its financial information as of and for the six months ended December 31, 2014 and as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, as well as budgets for 2015 and projections for 2016 and 2017;

discussed with Howard and Patapsco matters relating to their respective financial condition, growth, liquidity, earnings, profitability, asset quality, capital adequacy, and related matters as of such dates and for the periods then ended, as well as their future prospects on a standalone basis and together;

analyzed and discussed with Howard and Patapsco the potential strategic implications and operational benefits anticipated by the managements of Howard and Patapsco;

evaluated the potential pro forma financial effects of the proposed merger on Howard as of December 31, 2014 and on a forward-looking basis;

reviewed and discussed with Howard and Patapsco certain publicly available business and financial information concerning Howard and Patapsco and the economic and regulatory environments in which they operate;

compared the proposed financial terms of the merger with the publicly available financial terms of certain transactions involving whole bank acquisitions as deemed relevant by Griffin;

compared the financial condition and implied valuation of Patapsco to the financial condition and valuation of certain institutions deemed relevant by Griffin;

considered Howard's then-pending private placement, \$10 million of which Griffin noted had been notionally allocated to provide the capital to support the merger;

considered Howard's historical and recent stock market performance through the date of the opinion and on a pro forma basis based on its management's projections and expectations and on Griffin's knowledge of Howard's present and reasonably expected market structure as a result of Howard's then-pending private placement; and

performed a discounted cash flow analysis, and such other financial studies and analyses and considered such other information as deemed appropriate for the purpose of its opinion.

Griffin's opinion has been approved by its fairness opinion committee in conformity with its policies and procedures established under the requirement of Rule 5150 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. In conducting its review and providing its opinion, Griffin relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial and other information provided to, or discussed with, it or otherwise publicly available. Griffin did not independently verify the accuracy or completeness of any such information or assume any responsibility for such verification or accuracy. Griffin did not review individual loan files or deposit information of Howard or Patapsco, nor did Griffin conduct or was Griffin provided with any valuation or appraisal of any assets, deposits or other liabilities of Howard or Patapsco. Griffin is not an expert in the evaluation of loan and lease portfolios for purposes of assessing the adequacy of the allowance for losses with respect thereto, and accordingly, Griffin assumed that such allowances for losses are

adequate In relying on financial analyses provided to or discussed with Griffin by Howard or Patapsco or derived therefrom, Griffin assumed that such analyses have been reasonably prepared based on assumptions reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments by management. Griffin expresses no view as to the reasonableness of such analyses, forecasts, estimates, or the assumptions on which they were based. Griffin is not a legal, regulatory, or tax expert and has relied on the assessments made by advisors to Howard with respect to such issues.

For purposes of providing its opinion, Griffin assumed that, in all respects material to its analysis:

the merger will be completed substantially in accordance with the terms set forth in the draft merger agreement provided to Griffin;

the representations and warranties of each party in the merger agreement are true and correct in all respects material to Griffin's analysis;

each party to the merger agreement will perform all of the covenants and agreements required to be performed by such party under such agreement in all respects material to Griffin's analysis in a manner that will not give Patapsco the ability to terminate the merger agreement or decline to close under the merger agreement;

all conditions to the completion of the merger, including required approvals by federal and state banking regulators and by Patapsco's and Howard's stockholders, will be satisfied without any waivers or modifications to the merger agreement in all respects material to Griffin's analysis in a manner that will not give Patapsco the ability to terminate the merger agreement or decline to close under the merger agreement;

all material governmental, regulatory, stockholder and any other consents and approvals necessary for the completion of the merger will be obtained without any adverse effect to Howard or Patapsco or to the contemplated benefits of the merger;

with Howard's consent, Howard will use its ability to change the cash/stock mix of the merger consideration on a financially prudent basis.

Griffin's opinion is necessarily based on economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to it, as of the date of its opinion. Subsequent developments may affect Griffin's opinion, and Griffin does not have any obligation to update, revise, confirm or reaffirm its opinion. Griffin's opinion is limited to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the common equity stockholders of Howard with regards to the merger consideration to be paid by Howard in the transaction as of the date of the opinion. Griffin expressed no opinion as to the fairness of the merger to creditors or other stakeholders of Howard or as to the underlying decision by Howard to engage in the merger or any other transaction, the relative merits of the merger compared to other transactions available to Howard, or the relative merits of the merger compared to other strategic alternatives that may be available to Howard. Furthermore, Griffin did not take into account, and expresses no opinion with respect to, the amount or nature of any bonuses and any other compensation or consideration to any officers, directors, or employees of Howard or Patapsco paid or payable by reason or as a result of the merger.

The forecasts, projections and estimates of Howard and Patapsco prepared and provided to Griffin by the management of Howard and Patapsco, respectively, were not prepared with the expectation of public disclosure. All such information was based on numerous variables and assumptions that are inherently uncertain, including, without limitation, factors related to general economic and competitive conditions and that, accordingly, actual results could vary significantly from those set forth in such forecasts, projections and estimates. Griffin assumed, based on discussions with the management of Howard and Patapsco, respectively, and at the direction of such management and with the consent of the Howard board of directors, that all such forecasts, projections and estimates referred to above provided a reasonable basis upon which Griffin could form its opinion and Griffin expressed no view as to any such information or the assumptions or bases therefor. Griffin relied on all such information without independent verification or analysis and did not in any respect assume any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness thereof.

The preparation of the fairness opinion is a comprehensive and complex analytical process, involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. Therefore, a fairness opinion is not readily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In accordance with customary investment banking practice, Griffin employed generally accepted valuation methods in reaching its opinion. Estimates of the value of businesses or securities do not purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which such businesses or securities might actually be sold. Accordingly, these analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty. The following is a summary of the material financial analyses undertaken by Griffin and presented by Griffin to the Howard board of directors in connection with rendering Griffin's opinion. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the financial analyses performed by Griffin or the presentation made by Griffin to the Howard board of directors. In arriving at its opinion, Griffin did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor that it considered, but rather made qualitative judgments as to the significance and relevance of each analysis and factor. The financial analyses summarized within include information presented in tabular format. Accordingly, Griffin believes that its analyses and the summary of its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on the information presented below in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the process underlying its analyses and opinion. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses.

Summary of Proposal for Purposes of the Fairness Opinion

Pursuant to the merger agreement by and between Howard and Patapsco, Patapsco will merge with and into Howard. The 1,974,843 issued and outstanding shares of Patapsco's common stock, other than shares of Patapsco common stock owned by Howard and its subsidiaries, will be converted into the right to receive, subject to allocation and proration procedures described in the merger agreement, a fixed price of \$10,053,000 (\$5.09 per share) with 20% payable in cash and with 80% payable in shares of Howard's common stock. Shares of Patapsco's common stock owned by Howard and its subsidiaries will be cancelled. The number of shares of Howard's common stock constituting the stock portion of the merger consideration will be determined by dividing \$8,042,400 by the average closing price of Howard's common stock for the 20 trading days prior to the five business days prior to the effective time (as defined in the merger agreement), except that in no event will (i) such number of shares be more than 893,577 or less than 478,202 or (ii) will the per share exchange ratio (as defined in the merger agreement) be more than 0.5656 or less than 0.3030. Therefore, under certain circumstances, the value of the merger consideration to be received by Patapsco's stockholders may be somewhat more or less than \$10,053,000. Howard has the right to change the mix of cash and stock payable as part of the merger consideration at its election, but in no event will the cash portion exceed 50% of the total merger consideration.

Target Market Price and Structure

Using publicly available information, Griffin reviewed the market price and structure of Patapsco. Shares of Patapsco's common stock, which are quoted over the counter on the OTCBB, has very little trading volume. Griffin identified the following information as of February 27, 2015.

Last reported sale	\$3.02
52-week high (7/7/14)	\$3.59
52-week low (4/2/14)	\$2.25
Market Cap (in millions)	\$6.0
3-month average daily volume ("ADTV")	604
Price/Tangible Book Value ("TBV") (%)	60.1
Price/Last Trailing Twelve Months ("LTM") Earnings (x)	4.6

Selected Companies Analysis

Using publicly available information, Griffin compared the financial performance and condition of Patapsco to publicly traded banks and bank holding companies with between \$150 million and \$250 million in total assets, non-performing assets ("NPAs") as a percentage of total assets less than 2.5%, positive return on average assets ("ROAA") and average daily trading volume of at least 250 shares during the last three months. Griffin looked at banks

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and bank holding companies nationwide and those headquartered in the Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania (collectively, the “Mid-Atlantic”). Companies included in this group were (with an asterisk next to those headquartered in the Mid-Atlantic):

ASB Financial Corp.	Choice Bancorp, Inc.	Pinnacle Bank
Community 1 st Bank	American Riviera Bank	Community Bank of the Bay
Pacific Commerce Bank	Bank of McKenney	Community Business Bank
Community Bank of Santa Maria	Birmingham Bloomfield Bancshares, Inc.	Orange County Business Bank
High Country Bancorp, Inc.	AMB Financial Corp.	Suncrest Bank
Bank of Napa, N.A.	Summit Bank	Home Loan Financial Corp.
Brunswick Bancorp*	Lighthouse Bank	First Bancshares, Inc.
T Bancshares, Inc.	ProAmérica Bank	Americas United Bank
Enterprise National Bank N.J.*	Quaint Oak Bancorp, Inc.*	Eureka Financial Corp.*
OCB Bancorp	Home City Financial Corp.	

To perform this analysis, Griffin used financial information as of the most recently available quarter, and market price information as of February 27, 2015 as reported by SNL Financial. Griffin's analysis showed the following concerning Patapsco's and its peers' financial condition, risk profile, valuation and liquidity:

Financial Condition & Performance

	Patapsco Bancorp	Nationwide Peers			Mid-Atlantic Peers		
		Low	Median	High	Low	Median	High
Total Assets (\$000)	226,396	151,552	180,907	246,837	154,451	156,744	174,677
Core ROAA (%)	0.57	0.22	0.87	3.62	0.22	0.90	1.03
Core ROAE (%)	8.65	1.07	7.43	18.70	1.07	6.81	7.31
NIM (%)	3.42	3.19	4.07	5.49	4.09	4.18	4.36
NPAs/Assets (%)	2.01	0	0.90	2.76	0.49	0.70	0.90
TCE/TA (%)	3.50	7.18	11.16	22.64	11.29	14.21	20.46

Liquidity and Pricing

	Patapsco Bancorp	Nationwide Peers			Mid-Atlantic Peers		
		Low	Median	High	Low	Median	High
ADTV	560	269	827	3,112	269	315	602
Price/LTM Earnings (x)	4.8	4.1	13.6	36.5	12.3	14.7	36.5
Price/TBV (%)	79.8	38.9	97.1	180.2	38.9	91.7	103.1

No company used as a comparison in the above analysis is identical to Patapsco. In addition, Griffin presumed that the trading valuations for peers exclude any change in control premium. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not purely mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies and of the banking environment at the time of the opinion.

Selected Transactions Analysis

Griffin reviewed publicly available information as reported by SNL Financial related to acquisitions announced between January 1, 2014 and February 27, 2015 of (a) banks and bank holding companies headquartered in the

Mid-Atlantic and (b) banks and bank holding companies with between \$150 million and \$250 million in total assets, NPAs as a percentage of total assets less than 2.5%, and positive ROAA with under \$300 million in total assets (i) nationwide and (ii) those headquartered in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Mid-Atlantic Selected Transactions

Acquirer

Cathay General Bancorp
Bridge Bancorp, Inc.
BB&T Corp.
Sterling Bancorp
S&T Bancorp, Inc.
Riverview Financial Corp.
WesBanco, Inc.
Putnam County Savings Bank
Cape Bancorp, Inc.
Mid Penn Bancorp, Inc.
Bank of the Ozarks, Inc.
Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc.
Univest Corp. of Pennsylvania
National Penn Bancshares, Inc.
Bryn Mawr Bank Corp.
CB Financial Services, Inc.
F.N.B. Corp.
Salisbury Bancorp, Inc.
Center Bancorp, Inc.
Southern National Bancorp of Virginia, Inc.

Acquiree

Asia Bancshares, Inc.
Community National Bank
Susquehanna Bancshares, Inc.
Hudson Valley Holding Corp.
Integrity Bancshares, Inc.
Citizens National Bank of Meyersdale
ESB Financial Corp.
CMS Bancorp, Inc.
Colonial Financial Services, Inc.
Phoenix Bancorp, Inc.
Interinvest Bancshares Corp.
Madison Bancorp, Inc.
Valley Green Bank
TF Financial Corp.
Continental Bank Holdings, Inc.
FedFirst Financial Corp.
OBA Financial Services, Inc.
Riverside Bank
ConnectOne Bancorp, Inc.
Prince George's Federal Savings Bank

Nationwide Selected Transactions

Acquirer

Sunshine Bancorp, Inc.
 First NBC Bank Holding Company
 ESB Bancorp MHC
 Pacific Continental Corp.
 Durant Bancorp, Inc.
 ServisFirst Bancshares, Inc.
 Wintrust Financial Corp.
 NewBridge Bancorp
 First Busey Corp.
 Puntam County Savings Bank
 American National Bankshares Inc.
 Banner Corp.
 Home BancShares, Inc.
 Magnolia Banking Corp.
 Univest Corp. of Pennsylvania
 BNC Bancorp
 Old National Bancorp
 Independent Bank Group, Inc.
 Little London Bancorp Inc.
 First Business Financial Services, Inc.
 Sturm Financial Group, Inc.
 Green Bancorp, Inc.
 Home BancShares, Inc.
 Institution for Savings in Newburyport and Its Vicinity
 CB Financial Services, Inc.
 F.N.B. Corp.
 Peoples Bancorp Inc.
 Platte Valley Financial Service Companies, Inc.
 First Citizens Bancshares, Inc.
 Salisbury Bancorp, Inc.
 CBFH, Inc.

Acquiree

Community Southern Holdings, Inc.
 State Investors Bancorp, Inc.
 Citizens National Bancorp, Inc.
 Central Pacific Bancorp
 Consolidated Equity Corp.
 Metro Bancshares, Inc.
 Delavan Bancshares, Inc.
 Premier Commercial Bank
 Herget Financial Corp.
 CMS Bancorp, Inc.
 MainStreet BankShares, Inc.
 Siuslaw Financial Group, Inc.
 Broward Financial Holdings, Inc.
 First National Bancshares of Hempstead County
 Valley Green Bank
 Harbor Bank Group, Inc.
 LSB Financial Corp.
 Houston City Bancshares, Inc.
 5Star Bank
 Aslin Group, Inc.
 First Capital West Bancshares, Inc.
 SP Bancorp, Inc.
 Florida Traditions Bank
 Rockport National Bancorp, Inc.
 FedFirst Financial Corp.
 OBA Financial Services, Inc.
 Ohio Heritage Bancorp, Inc.
 Mountain Valley Bancshares, Inc.
 Southern Heritage Bancshares, Inc.
 Riverside Bank
 MC Bancshares, Inc.

Maryland and Pennsylvania Selected Transactions

Acquirer

Univest Corp. of Pennsylvania
 CB Financial Services, Inc.
 F.N.B. Corp.

Acquiree

Valley Green Bank
 FedFirst Financial Corp.
 OBA Financial Services, Inc.

For each transaction referred to above, Griffin derived and compared, among other things, the following implied ratios:

Price per common share paid for the acquired company to last twelve months earnings per share of the acquired
1. company based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the
announcement of the acquisition;

Price per common share paid for the acquired company to tangible book value per share of the acquired company
2. based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the announcement of the
acquisition; and

Tangible book value premium for the acquired company to deposits, less time deposit accounts with balances over 3.\$100,000, foreign deposits and unclassified deposits of the acquired company (“Core Deposits”) based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the announcement of the acquisition.

The results of the analysis are set forth in the following table:

	Patapsco Bancorp	Mid-Atlantic Selected Transactions			Nationwide Selected Transactions			Maryland and Pennsylvania Selected Transactions		
		Low	Median	High	Low	Median	High	Low	Median	High
Target Financials										
Total Assets (\$000)	226,396	81,413	492,002	18,583,327	157,119	268,880	385,555	319,027	370,261	385,555
ROAA (%)	0.57	(0.36)	0.51	1.51	0.25	0.67	1.51	0.32	0.73	1.57
ROAE (%)	8.65	(2.51)	4.28	17.19	1.49	6.02	17.30	1.74	4.28	17.49
NPAs/Assets (%)	2.01	0.36	1.20	7.13	0	1.20	2.40	0.36	1.30	1.54
TCE/TA (%)	3.50	7.90	10.18	18.76	7.86	10.79	21.93	8.97	15.96	18.76
Deal Value/Deal Ratios										
Deal Value (\$ in millions)	10.1	7.8	98.8	2,500.9	12.5	38.0	98.8	55.0	77.7	98.8
Price/LTM Earnings (x)	19.5	13.7	22.8	68.9	9.3	23.3	51.8	14.7	20.0	25.2
Price/TBV (%)	127.0	87.8	133.2	262.7	89.4	145.3	234.0	106.8	133.2	234.0
TB Prem./Core Deposits (%)	5.55	(1.87)	8.31	25.29	(1.23)	7.89	25.29	2.37	10.80	25.29

No company or transaction used as a comparison in the above analyses is identical to Patapsco, Howard or the merger. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not purely mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies and of the banking environment at the time of the opinion.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

Griffin performed a discounted cash flow analysis to estimate a range of the present value of estimated free cash flows that Patapsco could generate on a stand-alone basis. In performing this analysis, Griffin utilized the following assumptions, among others:

a required tangible common equity to tangible assets capitalization level of 8% with any earnings in excess of required capital retention treated as distributable earnings;

earnings assumptions for 2015 based on budget information for Patapsco and discussions with Howard's management, with subsequent earnings for Patapsco developed based upon historical trends and assumptions and inputs that Griffin considered reasonable;

a range of discount rates of 14% to 18% based on a normalized risk free interest rate as recommended by Duff & Phelps, the latest published Duff & Phelps U.S. Equity Risk Premium recommendation, a size premium, also published by Duff & Phelps, and a computed weighted average cost of capital of 14.99%; and

a projected terminal value multiple range of 120% to 170% of Patapsco's forecasted 2020 tangible common equity based on observed transaction multiples, industry practice, and Griffin's professional judgment.

These calculations resulted in a range of implied per share values of between \$3.47 to \$8.54 without any cost-savings and \$5.37 to \$10.70 with \$1.9 million of cost-savings estimated by Howard's management. The discounted cash flow present value analysis is a widely used valuation methodology that relies on numerous assumptions, including asset and earnings growth rates, terminal values and discount rates and is not necessarily indicative of the actual value or expected value of Patapsco.

The summary set forth above is not a complete description of the analyses and procedures performed by Griffin in the course of arriving at its opinion.

Howard retained Griffin as its exclusive financial adviser to its board of directors with respect to mergers, acquisitions and similar transactions, acquisitions of branches and other financial institutions, and capital raising transactions. As part of its investment banking business, Griffin is, from time to time, engaged in the valuation of bank and bank holding company securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, public and private placement of listed and unlisted securities, rights offerings and other forms of valuations for various purposes. As specialists in the securities of banking companies, Griffin has experience in, and knowledge of, the valuation of banking enterprises. In the ordinary course of its business as a broker-dealer, Griffin may, from time to time, purchase securities from, and sell securities to, Howard and Patapsco. As a market maker in securities, Griffin may from time to time have a long or short position in, and buy or sell, debt or equity securities of institutions like and possibly including Howard and Patapsco for Griffin's own account and for the accounts of its customers. To the extent Griffin held any such positions, it was disclosed to Howard and Patapsco.

Pursuant to Griffin's engagement letter, Howard agreed to pay Griffin a fee of \$250,000 contingent on the completion of the merger. In addition, Griffin served as placement agent in the private placement, as previously described. Upon completion of the private placement, Howard paid Griffin a fee of \$1.7 million. Pursuant to Griffin's engagement letter, Howard pays Griffin quarterly retainer fees of \$20,000 for merger and acquisition evaluation, capital markets and strategic advice on an ongoing basis. In addition, Howard has paid Griffin success fees totaling \$385,000 for its advisory service in connection with branch acquisitions in August 2013 and August 2014 and Howard's federally-assisted acquisition of a failed institution from the FDIC in October 2014.

Howard has agreed to reimburse Griffin for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in connection with Griffin's engagement and to indemnify and hold harmless partners, officers, agents, employees and affiliates from and against all losses, claims, judgments, liabilities, costs, damages and expenses based upon or arising from Griffin's engagement. Except as set forth above, during the two years preceding the date of its opinion to Howard, Griffin did not receive compensation for investment banking services from Howard.

Other than as disclosed above, there have been no material relationships between Griffin or its affiliates and representatives and (i) Howard or its affiliates or (ii) Patapsco or its affiliates, during the past two years. Griffin may in the future provide investment banking and financial advisory services to Howard or Patapsco and receive compensation for such services.

Patapsco's Reasons for the Merger

In approving the merger agreement, Patapsco's board of directors consulted with KBW regarding the financial aspects of the transaction and with Patapsco's legal counsel as to the board of directors' fiduciary duties and the terms of the merger agreement. In arriving at its decision to approve the merger agreement, the board of directors also considered a number of factors, including:

the form and amount of the merger consideration, including the tax effects of stock consideration compared to cash consideration;

Patapsco common stockholders will receive Howard common stock in exchange for their shares of Patapsco common stock, enabling them to participate in any growth opportunities of the combined company;

the perceived risks to shareholder value presented by the present inability of Patapsco to pay the deferred interest on its subordinated debentures avoid and thereby avert an event of default;

information concerning the business, earnings, operations, financial condition, valuation and prospects of Patapsco and Howard, both individually and as a combined company;

Patapsco's community banking orientation and its compatibility with Howard and its subsidiaries;

Howard's access to capital and managerial resources;

the premium represented by the value of the merger consideration over the trading prices of Patapsco's common stock before the announcement of the merger;

the likelihood of the transaction receiving the requisite regulatory approvals in a timely manner and without imposition of burdensome conditions;

the terms of the merger agreement and the structure of the merger, including that the merger is intended to qualify as a transaction of a type that is generally tax-free for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

The opinion, dated March 2, 2015, of KBW to Patapsco's board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the opinion, to the holders of Patapsco common stock of the merger consideration in the proposed merger, as more fully described under "Opinion of Patapsco's Financial Advisor;"

Patapsco Bank's potential to better serve its customers and enhance its competitive position in the communities in which it operates due the ability to offer more diverse financial products and services through a larger and more highly capitalized institution;

the interests of certain executive officers and directors of Patapsco, which are different from, or in addition to, the interests of Patapsco's stockholders generally; and

the effect of the merger on Patapsco's employees, customers and community.

Patapsco's board of directors also considered potential risks associated with the merger in connection with its decision to approve the merger agreement, including that other parties that might be interested in proposing a transaction with Patapsco could be discouraged from doing so given the terms of the merger agreement generally prohibiting Patapsco from soliciting, engaging in discussions or providing information regarding an alternative transaction, requiring Patapsco to pay a termination fee to Howard under certain circumstances, and requiring Patapsco's directors to execute agreements requiring them to vote in favor of the merger with Howard, all of which Howard required in order that it agree to enter into the merger agreement.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by Patapsco's board of directors is not exhaustive, but includes the material factors that the board of directors considered and discussed in approving and recommending the merger. In view of the wide variety of factors considered and discussed by Patapsco's board of directors in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the complexity of these factors, the board of directors did not quantify, rank or assign any relative or specific weight to the foregoing factors. Rather, it considered all of the factors as a whole. The board of directors discussed the foregoing factors, including asking questions of Patapsco's management and legal and financial advisors, and reached general consensus that the merger was in the best interests of Patapsco and its stockholders. In considering the foregoing factors, individual directors may have assigned different weights to different factors. The board of directors did not undertake to make any specific determination as to whether

any factor, or particular aspect of any factor, supported or did not support its ultimate decision to approve the merger agreement and the merger. The foregoing explanation of the reasoning of Patapsco's board of directors and all other information presented in this section is forward-looking in nature and, therefore, should be read in light of the cautionary statements set forth in "Forward-Looking Statements."

Opinion of Patapsco's Financial Advisor

Patapsco engaged Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. to render financial advisory and investment banking services to Patapsco, including an opinion to the Patapsco board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Patapsco common stock of the merger consideration to be received by such stockholders in the proposed merger of Patapsco with and into Howard. Patapsco selected KBW because KBW is a nationally recognized investment banking firm with substantial experience in transactions similar to the merger. As part of its investment banking business, KBW is continually engaged in the valuation of financial services businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions.

As part of its engagement, representatives of KBW attended the meeting of the Patapsco board held on March 2, 2015, at which the Patapsco board evaluated the proposed merger. At this meeting, KBW reviewed the financial aspects of the proposed merger and rendered an opinion to the effect that, as of such date and subject to the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered, and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by KBW as set forth in such opinion, the merger consideration in the proposed merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Patapsco common stock. The Patapsco board approved the merger agreement at this meeting.

The description of the opinion set forth herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion, which is attached as Annex C to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated herein by reference, and describes the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered, and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by KBW in preparing the opinion.

KBW's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion was for the information of, and was directed to, the Patapsco board (in its capacity as such) in connection with its consideration of the financial terms of the merger. The opinion addressed only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration in the merger to the holders of Patapsco common stock. It did not address the underlying business decision of Patapsco to engage in the merger or enter into the merger agreement or constitute a recommendation to the Patapsco board in connection with the merger, and it does not constitute a recommendation to any holder of Patapsco common stock or any stockholder of any other entity as to how to vote in connection with the merger or any other matter (including, with respect to holders of Patapsco common stock, what election any such stockholder should make with respect to the stock consideration or the cash consideration), nor does it constitute a recommendation regarding whether or not any such stockholder should enter into a voting, stockholders' or support agreement with respect to the merger or exercise any dissenters' or appraisal rights that may be available to such stockholder.

KBW's opinion was reviewed and approved by KBW's Fairness Opinion Committee in conformity with its policies and procedures established under the requirements of Rule 5150 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

In connection with the opinion, KBW reviewed, analyzed and relied upon material bearing upon the financial and operating condition of Patapsco and Howard and the merger, including, among other things:

- a draft of the merger agreement as of February 27, 2015 (the most recent draft then made available to KBW);
- certain regulatory filings of Patapsco and Howard, including the quarterly call reports filed with respect to each quarter during the three years ended December 31, 2014 for Patapsco and Howard;
- the audited financial statements for the three fiscal years ended June 30, 2014 of Patapsco;
- the audited financial statements and Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the three fiscal years ended December 31, 2013 of Howard;

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the unaudited quarterly financial statements for the fiscal quarters ended September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2014 of Patapsco (provided to KBW by representatives of Patapsco);

the unaudited quarterly financial statements and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2014, June 30, 2014 and September 30, 2014 of Howard;

the unaudited quarterly and fiscal year-end financial results for the period ended December 31, 2014 of

Howard (contained in the Current Report on Form 8-K filed by Howard with the SEC on January 20, 2015);

certain other interim reports and other communications of Patapsco and Howard to their respective stockholders; and

other financial information concerning the businesses and operations of Patapsco and Howard furnished to KBW by Patapsco and Howard or which KBW was otherwise directed to use for purposes of KBW's analyses.

KBW's consideration of financial information and other factors that it deemed appropriate under the circumstances or relevant to its analyses included, among other things, the following:

- the historical and current financial position and results of operations of Patapsco and Howard;
 - the assets and liabilities of Patapsco and Howard;
- the nature and terms of certain other merger transactions and business combinations in the banking industry; a comparison of certain financial and stock market information for Patapsco and Howard with similar information for certain other companies the securities of which are publicly traded;
- financial and operating forecasts and projections of Patapsco that were prepared by, and provided to KBW and discussed with KBW by, Patapsco management and that were used and relied upon by KBW at the direction of such management with the consent of the Patapsco board;
- financial and operating forecasts and projections of Howard and estimates regarding certain pro forma financial effects of the merger on Howard (including, without limitation, the cost savings, related expenses and operating synergies expected to result from the merger), that were prepared by, and provided to KBW and discussed with KBW by, Howard management and that were used and relied upon by KBW based on such discussions with the consent of the Patapsco board.

KBW also performed such other studies and analyses as it considered appropriate and took into account its assessment of general economic, market and financial conditions and its experience in other transactions, as well as its experience in securities valuation and knowledge of the banking industry generally. KBW also held discussions with senior management of Patapsco and Howard regarding the past and current business operations, regulatory relations, financial condition and future prospects of their respective companies and such other matters as KBW deemed relevant to its inquiry. In addition, KBW considered the results of the efforts undertaken by Patapsco, with KBW's assistance, to solicit indications of interest from third parties regarding a potential transaction with Patapsco.

In conducting its review and arriving at its opinion, KBW relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial and other information provided to it or that was publicly available and KBW did not independently verify the accuracy or completeness of any such information or assume any responsibility or liability for such verification, accuracy or completeness. KBW relied upon the respective managements of Patapsco and Howard as to the reasonableness and achievability of the financial and operating forecasts and projections of Patapsco and Howard (and the assumptions and bases therefor) that were prepared by, and provided to KBW and discussed with KBW by such managements. KBW assumed, with the consent of Patapsco, that such forecasts and projections were reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of such managements and that such forecasts and projections would be realized in the amounts and in the time periods estimated by such managements. KBW further relied upon Howard management as to the reasonableness and achievability of the estimates regarding certain pro forma financial effects of the merger on Howard (and the assumptions and bases therefor, including without limitation, cost savings, related expenses and operating synergies expected to result from the merger) that were prepared and provided to KBW by, and discussed with KBW by, such management. KBW assumed, with the consent of Patapsco, that all such estimates were reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of such management and that such estimates would be realized in the amounts and in the time periods estimated by such management.

The forecasts, projections and estimates of Patapsco and Howard provided to KBW were not prepared with the expectation of public disclosure, that all such forecasts, projections and estimates were based on numerous variables and assumptions that are inherently uncertain, including, without limitation, factors related to general economic and competitive conditions and that, accordingly, actual results could vary significantly from those set forth in such information. KBW assumed, based on discussions with the respective managements of Patapsco and Howard, that such information of Patapsco and Howard referred to above provided a reasonable basis upon which KBW could form its opinion and KBW expressed no view as to any such information or the assumptions or bases therefor. KBW relied on all such information without independent verification or analysis and did not in any respect assume any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness thereof.

KBW also assumed that there were no material changes in the assets, liabilities, financial condition, results of operations, business or prospects of either Patapsco or Howard since the date of the last financial statements of each such entity that were made available to KBW. KBW is not an expert in the independent verification of the adequacy of allowances for loan and lease losses and KBW assumed, without independent verification and with Patapsco's consent, that the aggregate allowances for loan and lease losses for Patapsco and Howard were adequate to cover such losses. In rendering its opinion, KBW did not make or obtain any evaluations or appraisals or physical inspection of the property, assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of Patapsco or Howard, the collateral securing any of such assets or liabilities, or the collectability of any such assets, nor did KBW examine any individual loan or credit files, nor did it evaluate the solvency, financial capability or fair value of Patapsco or Howard under any state or federal laws, including those relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or other matters. Estimates of values of companies and assets do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the prices at which companies or assets may actually be sold. Because such estimates are inherently subject to uncertainty, KBW assumed no responsibility or liability for their accuracy.

KBW assumed that, in all respects material to its analyses:

the merger and any related transaction (including the subsidiary bank merger, the private placement, the Howard Preferred Stock Retirement, as defined below, and, if necessary, the additional Patapsco preferred stock issuance) would be completed substantially in accordance with the terms set forth in the merger agreement (the final terms of which KBW assumed would not differ in any respect material to KBW's analyses from the draft reviewed by KBW) and any related documents and instruments referred to in the merger agreement, and as further described to KBW by representatives of Patapsco and/or Howard in the case of the related transactions, with no additional payments or adjustments to the merger consideration; the representations and warranties of each party in the merger agreement and in all related documents and instruments referred to in the merger agreement were true and correct; each party to the merger agreement and all related documents would perform all of the covenants and agreements required to be performed by such party under such documents; there are no factors that would delay or subject to any adverse conditions, any necessary regulatory or governmental approval for the merger or any related transaction and that all conditions to the completion of the merger and any related transaction would be satisfied without any waivers or modifications to the merger agreement; and in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory, contractual, or other consents or approvals for the merger and any related transaction, no restrictions, including any divestiture requirements, termination or other payments or amendments or modifications, would be imposed that would have a material adverse effect on the future results of operations or financial condition of Patapsco, Howard, the combined entity, or the contemplated benefits of the merger, including the cost savings, related expenses and operating synergies expected to result from the merger.

KBW assumed, in all respects material to KBW's analysis, that the merger would be consummated in a manner that complied with the applicable provisions of the Securities Act, the Securities Exchange Act, and all other applicable federal and state statutes, rules and regulations. KBW further assumed that Patapsco relied upon the advice from its advisors (other than KBW) or other appropriate sources as to all legal, financial reporting, tax, accounting and regulatory matters with respect to Patapsco, Howard, the merger, any related transaction (including the subsidiary bank merger, the private placement, the Howard Preferred Stock Retirement and the additional Patapsco preferred stock issuance) and the merger agreement. KBW did not provide advice with respect to any such matters.

KBW's opinion addressed only the fairness, from a financial point of view, as of the date of such opinion, of the merger consideration to be received by the holders of Patapsco common stock in the merger to such stockholders. KBW expressed no view or opinion as to any other terms or aspects of the merger or any related transaction (including the subsidiary bank merger, the private placement, Howard Preferred Stock Retirement and the additional Patapsco preferred stock issuance), including without limitation, the form or structure of the merger (including the form of merger consideration or the allocation of the merger consideration between stock and cash) or any related transaction, any consequences of the merger or any related transaction to Patapsco, its stockholders, creditors or otherwise, or any terms, aspects, merits or implications of any employment, consulting, voting, support, stockholder or other agreements, arrangements or understandings contemplated or entered into in connection with the merger or otherwise. KBW's opinion was necessarily based upon conditions as they existed and could be evaluated on the date of such opinion and the information made available to KBW through such date. Developments subsequent to the date of

KBW's opinion may have affected, and may affect, the conclusion reached in KBW's opinion and KBW did not and does not have an obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its opinion. KBW's opinion did not address, and KBW expressed no view or opinion with respect to:

· the underlying business decision of Patapsco to engage in the merger or enter into the merger agreement;

· the relative merits of the merger as compared to any strategic alternatives that are, have been or may be available to or contemplated by Patapsco or the Patapsco board;

· the fairness of the amount or nature of any compensation to any of Patapsco's officers, directors or employees, or any class of such persons, relative to any compensation to the holders of Patapsco common stock;

· the effect of the merger or any related transaction on, or the fairness of the consideration to be received by, holders of any class of securities of Patapsco (other than the holders of Patapsco common stock (solely with respect to the merger consideration, as described in KBW's opinion, and not relative to the consideration to be received by holders of any other class of securities)) or holders of any class of securities of Howard or any other party to any transaction contemplated by the merger agreement;

· whether Howard has sufficient cash, available lines of credit or other sources of funds to enable it to pay the aggregate cash consideration to the holders of Patapsco common stock at the closing of the merger, or to fund the Howard Preferred Stock Retirement;

· any adjustment (as provided in the merger agreement) in the amount of merger consideration (including the allocation thereof among cash and stock) assumed to be paid in the merger for purposes of KBW's opinion;

· the election by holders of Patapsco common stock to receive the stock consideration or the cash consideration, or any combination thereof, the actual allocation between the stock consideration and the cash consideration among such holders (including, without limitation, any reallocation thereof as a result of proration pursuant to the merger agreement), or the relative fairness of the stock consideration and the cash consideration;

· the actual value of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger;

· the prices, trading range or volume at which Patapsco common stock or Howard common stock would trade following the public announcement of the merger or the prices, trading range or volume at which Howard common stock would trade following consummation of the merger;

· any advice or opinions provided by any other advisor to any of the parties to the merger or any other transaction contemplated by the merger agreement; or

· any legal, regulatory, accounting, tax or similar matters relating to Patapsco, Howard, their respective stockholders, or relating to or arising out of or as a consequence of the merger or any related transaction (including the subsidiary bank merger, the private placement, the Howard Preferred Stock Retirement or the additional Patapsco preferred stock issuance), including whether or not the merger would qualify as a tax-free reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes.

In performing its analyses, KBW made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters, which are beyond the control of KBW, Patapsco and Howard. Any estimates contained in the analyses performed by KBW are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by these analyses. Additionally, estimates of the value of businesses or securities do not purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which such businesses or securities might actually be sold. Accordingly, these analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty. In addition, the KBW opinion was among several factors taken into consideration by the Patapsco board in making its determination to approve the merger agreement and the merger. Consequently, the analyses described below should not be viewed as determinative of the decision of the Patapsco board with respect to the fairness of the merger consideration. The type and amount of consideration payable in the merger were determined through negotiation between Patapsco and Howard and the decision to enter into the merger agreement was solely that of the Patapsco board.

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses presented by KBW to the Patapsco board in connection with its opinion. The summary is not a complete description of the financial analyses underlying the opinion or the presentation made by KBW to the Patapsco board, but summarizes the material analyses performed and presented in connection with such opinion. The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex analytic process involving various determinations as to appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. Therefore, a fairness opinion is not readily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In arriving at its opinion, KBW did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor that it considered, but rather made qualitative judgments as to the significance and relevance of each analysis and factor. Accordingly, KBW believes that its analyses and the summary of its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on the information presented below in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the process underlying its analyses and opinion.

Patapsco Selected Companies Analysis. Using publicly available information, KBW compared the financial performance, financial condition and market performance of Patapsco to eight selected U.S. banks and thrifts that were traded on Nasdaq, the New York Stock Exchange or NYSE MKT with total assets less than \$750 million, a tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio less than 7.0% and a non-performing assets to total assets ratio greater than 1.0%. Merger targets and Howard were excluded from the selected companies.

The selected companies included:

Royal Bancshares of Pennsylvania, Inc.	Plumas Bancorp
Carolina Bank Holdings, Inc.	Village Bank and Trust Financial Corp.
Carver Bancorp, Inc.	Citizens First Corporation
Emclair Financial Corp.	OptimumBank Holdings, Inc.

To perform this analysis, KBW used profitability and other financial information for or, in the case of information for the latest 12 month period (“LTM”), through the most recent completed quarter available (“MRQ”) (which in the case of Patapsco was the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014 as provided by Patapsco management to the extent not publicly available) or as of the end of such quarter and market price information as of February 27, 2015. Where consolidated holding company level financial data for the selected companies as of or for periods ended December 31, 2014 was unreported, either such data reported as of or for periods ended September 30, 2014 or subsidiary bank level data as of or for periods ended December 31, 2014 was utilized to calculate ratios. Certain financial data prepared by KBW, and as referenced in the tables presented below, may not correspond to the data presented in Patapsco’s historical financial statements, or the data presented under the section “– Opinion of Howard’s Financial Advisor,” as a result of the different periods, assumptions and methods used by KBW to compute the financial data presented.

KBW’s analysis showed the following concerning the financial performance and financial condition of Patapsco and the selected companies:

	Patapsco		Selected Companies					
	Patapsco	Patapsco Adjusted ⁽¹⁾	Bottom Quartile	Median	Average	Top Quartile		
LTM Core Return on Average Assets ⁽²⁾	0.64 %	0.42 %	0.15 %	0.59 %	0.45 %	0.77 %		
LTM Core Return on Average Equity ⁽²⁾	9.75 %	6.34 %	4.53 %	8.82 %	7.74 %	10.66 %		
LTM Net Interest Margin	3.30 %		3.33 %	3.63 %	3.58 %	3.82 %		
LTM Efficiency Ratio	77.9 %		90.2 %	83.1 %	84.2 %	71.7 %		
Tangible Common Equity/Tangible Assets	4.39 %	3.50 %	2.25 %	6.03 %	4.62 %	6.51 %		
Leverage Ratio	9.30 %		7.66 %	8.76 %	8.61 %	9.69 %		
Tier 1 Capital Ratio	15.4 %		10.8 %	11.5 %	12.2 %	13.9 %		
Total Capital Ratio	16.7 %		12.3 %	14.1 %	14.3 %	15.5 %		

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Loans/Deposits	93.1	%	77.9%	79.5	%	81.7	%	84.6	%
Loan Loss Reserves/Loans	1.50	%	1.36%	1.50	%	1.82	%	2.15	%
Nonperforming Assets ⁽³⁾ /Loans + OREO	2.64	%	8.25%	4.35	%	6.21	%	2.96	%
Nonperforming Assets ⁽³⁾ /Assets	2.01	%	5.62%	3.15	%	4.86	%	2.04	%
LTM Net Charge-Offs/Average Loans	0.01	%	0.53%	0.31	%	0.34	%	0.08	%

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Adjusted to assume income is tax effected at 35% in the case of LTM core return on average assets and LTM core (1) return on average equity and to reduce Patapsco's common equity by the amount of undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends in the case of tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio.

(2) Excludes the impact of Patapsco's deferred tax asset ("DTA") valuation allowance reversal and a one-time legal expense and excludes one-time items in the case of the selected companies.

(3) Nonperforming assets include nonaccrual loans, restructured loans, loans 90+ days past due and accruing and OREO.

KBW's analysis also showed the following concerning the market performance of Patapsco and the selected companies (excluding the impact of certain selected company LTM and MRQ annualized earnings per share ("EPS") multiples considered to be not meaningful because they were either below 0.0x or greater than 30.0x):

	Patapsco		Selected Companies									
	Patapsco ⁽¹⁾	Patapsco Adjusted ⁽²⁾	Bottom Quartile	Median	Average	Top Quartile						
Stock Price/Book Value per Share	0.60	x	0.75	x	0.92	x	1.14	x	1.07	x	1.18	x
Stock Price/Tangible Book Value Per Share	0.60	x	0.75	x	0.95	x	1.17	x	1.11	x	1.22	x
Stock Price/LTM EPS ⁽³⁾	15.1	x			9.7	x	12.1	x	11.4	x	12.2	x
Stock Price/MRQ Annualized EPS ⁽⁴⁾	11.3	x			8.3	x	8.7	x	8.6	x	9.0	x
1-Year Price Change	31.3	%			-29.0%		-13.8%		-10.0%		10.4%	
1-Year Total Return	31.3	%			-29.0%		-13.8%		-9.6%		13.1%	
YTD Price Change	4.1	%			-5.7%		1.2%		-0.8%		6.4%	
Dividend Yield	0.0	%			0.0%		0.0%		0.4%		0.0%	
LTM Dividend Payout	0.0	%			0.0%		0.0%		5.0%		0.0%	

(1) Patapsco earnings data reflected the impact of a 35% normalized tax rate and undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends and excluded the impact of its DTA valuation allowance reversal and a one-time legal expense.

(2) Adjusted to reduce Patapsco's common equity by the amount of undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends.

(3) Excluding as not meaningful the impact of the LTM EPS multiples for Carver Bancorp, Inc., Village Bank and Trust Financial Corp. and Optimum Bank Holdings, Inc.

(4) Excluding as not meaningful the impact of the MRQ Annualized EPS multiples for Royal Bancshares of Pennsylvania, Inc., Carver Bancorp, Inc., Village Bank and Trust Financial Corp. and Optimum Bank Holdings, Inc.

No company used as a comparison in the following selected companies analyses is identical to Patapsco. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies involved.

Howard Selected Companies Analysis. Using publicly available information, KBW compared the financial performance, financial condition and market performance of Howard to 21 selected banks headquartered in the Mid-Atlantic region that were traded on Nasdaq, the New York Stock Exchange or NYSE MKT and had total assets

between \$500 million and \$1.5 billion and a nonperforming assets to total assets ratio less than 3.0%. Merger targets were excluded from the selected companies.

The selected companies included:

Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc.	Mid Penn Bancorp, Inc.
Penns Woods Bancorp, Inc.	Evans Bancorp, Inc.
Citizens & Northern Corporation	CB Financial Services, Inc.
Old Line Bancshares, Inc.	Bancorp of New Jersey, Inc.
Republic First Bancorp, Inc.	DNB Financial Corporation
Orrstown Financial Services, Inc.	Norwood Financial Corp.
ACNB Corporation	First Bank
AmeriServ Financial, Inc.	Sussex Bancorp
The Community Financial Corporation	Emclair Financial Corp.
Unity Bancorp, Inc.	Elmira Savings Bank
1st Constitution Bancorp	

To perform this analysis, KBW used LTM profitability and other financial information through the most recent completed quarter available (which in the case of Howard was the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014) or as of the end of such quarter and market price information as of February 27, 2015. KBW also used 2015 and 2016 EPS estimates taken from consensus “street estimates” for the selected companies, to the extent publicly available, and financial forecasts and projections relating to the earnings of Howard provided to KBW by Howard management. Where consolidated holding company level financial data for the selected companies as of or for periods ended December 31, 2014 was unreported, either such data reported as of or for periods ended September 30, 2014 or subsidiary bank level data as of or for periods ended December 31, 2014 was utilized to calculate ratios. Using publicly available information, applicable financial data for certain selected companies reflected pro forma adjustments for the estimated impact of pending acquisitions and completed financings and redemptions. Certain financial data prepared by KBW, and as referenced in the tables presented below, may not correspond to the data presented in Howard’s historical financial statements, or the data presented under the section “– Opinion of Howard’s Financial Advisor,” as a result of the different periods, assumptions and methods used by KBW to compute the financial data presented.

KBW’s analysis showed the following concerning the financial performance and financial condition of Howard and the selected companies:

	Selected Companies							
	Howard	Bottom Quartile			Average	Top Quartile		
LTM Core Return on Average Assets ⁽¹⁾	0.40 %	0.61 %	0.67 %	0.74 %	0.74 %	0.97 %	0.97 %	
LTM Core Return on Average Equity ⁽¹⁾	4.45 %	5.68 %	7.65 %	7.60 %	7.60 %	9.51 %	9.51 %	
LTM Net Interest Margin	4.00 %	3.47 %	3.56 %	3.63 %	3.63 %	3.84 %	3.84 %	
LTM Efficiency Ratio	77.8 %	73.3 %	68.1 %	69.7 %	69.7 %	65.1 %	65.1 %	
Tangible Common Equity/Tangible Assets	6.62 %	7.56 %	8.54 %	8.83 %	8.83 %	9.51 %	9.51 %	

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Leverage Ratio	8.62	%	9.01	%	9.72	%	9.92	%	10.60	%
Tier 1 Capital Ratio	10.1	%	11.6	%	13.1	%	13.4	%	13.9	%
Total Capital Ratio	10.8	%	12.7	%	14.5	%	14.7	%	15.3	%
Loans/Deposits	99.8	%	80.0	%	92.5	%	89.3	%	97.9	%
Loan Loss Reserves/Loans	0.65	%	1.05	%	1.15	%	1.22	%	1.36	%
Nonperforming Assets ⁽²⁾ /Loans + OREO	1.46	%	2.32	%	2.10	%	2.01	%	1.33	%
Nonperforming Assets ⁽²⁾ /Assets	1.17	%	1.56	%	1.46	%	1.45	%	1.13	%
LTM Net Charge-Offs/Average Loans	0.46	%	0.30	%	0.22	%	0.25	%	0.11	%

(1) Excludes one-time items. Excluded one-time items for Howard per Howard management.

(2) Nonperforming assets include nonaccrual loans, restructured loans, loans 90+ days past due and accruing and OREO.

KBW's analysis also showed the following concerning the market performance of Howard and, to the extent publicly available, the selected companies (excluding the impact of LTM and 2015 EPS multiples of one of the selected companies considered to be not meaningful because the multiples were greater than 30.0x):

	Howard		Howard Pro		Selected Companies								
	Howard	Howard Pro	Howard Pro	Howard Pro	Bottom Quartile	Median	Average	Top Quartile					
Stock Price/Book Value per Share	1.21	x	1.16	x	0.97	x	0.95x	1.11	x	1.08	x	1.17	x
Stock Price/Tangible Book Value Per Share	1.25	x	1.23	x	1.03	x	1.05x	1.14	x	1.17	x	1.23	x
Stock Price/LTM EPS	25.6	x					12.0x	14.4	x	14.6	x	17.3	x
Stock Price/2015 Estimated EPS ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	11.9	x					12.2x	13.1	x	13.8	x	13.8	x
Stock Price/2016 Estimated EPS ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	9.4	x	10.7	x	9.0	x	11.4x	12.3	x	14.1	x	13.8	x
1-Year Price Change	31.7	%					-6.3 %	-0.4	%	1.2	%	8.8	%
1-Year Total Return	31.7	%					-6.1 %	3.7	%	3.5	%	11.1	%
YTD Price Change	20.6	%					-6.1 %	-1.6	%	-2.4	%	0.4	%
Dividend Yield	0.0	%					1.3 %	2.1	%	2.2	%	3.7	%
LTM Dividend Payout	0.0	%					15.8%	29.3	%	31.8	%	44.8	%

Pro forma for (a) the proposed merger using Patapsco and Howard estimated book value and tangible book value data as of September 30, 2015 provided by Howard management, Patapsco 2016 projected earnings data provided by Patapsco management, pro forma assumptions (including purchase accounting adjustments, cost savings and related expenses) provided by Howard management and the total number of Howard common shares issuable in the merger based on the implied value of the merger consideration of \$5.09 per share of Patapsco common stock, the closing stock price of Howard of \$13.75 as of February 27, 2015 and the 80% stock / 20% cash aggregate merger consideration mix in the merger agreement and (b) a \$25 million capital raise by Howard at \$11.50 per share in the private placement.

(2) Multiples calculated as if Howard common stock trades at \$11.50 per share.

(3) Estimated earnings not publicly available for Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc., Penns Woods Bancorp, Inc., ACNB Corporation, AmeriServ Financial, Inc., Unity Bancorp, Inc., 1st Constitution Bancorp, Mid Penn Bancorp, Inc., CB Financial Services, Inc., Bancorp of New Jersey, Inc., Norwood Financial Corp., Sussex Bancorp, Emclair Financial Corp. and Elmira Savings Bank.

No company used as a comparison in the following selected companies analyses is identical to Howard. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies involved.

Selected Transactions Analyses. KBW performed selected transaction analyses as described below. For each selected transaction, KBW derived the following implied transaction statistics, in each case based on the transaction consideration paid for the acquired company and using financial data based on the acquired company's then latest publicly available financial statements prior to the announcement of the acquisition:

price per common share as a percentage of book value per share of the acquired company (in the case of selected transactions involving a private acquired company, this transaction statistic was calculated as total transaction consideration divided by total common equity);

price per common share as a percentage of tangible book value per share of the acquired company (in the case of selected transactions involving a private acquired company, this transaction statistic was calculated as total transaction consideration divided by total tangible common equity); and

tangible common equity premium to core deposits (total deposits less time deposits greater than \$100,000) of the acquired company, referred to as core deposit premium.

The resulting transaction statistics for the selected transactions were compared with corresponding transaction statistics for the proposed merger based on the implied value of the merger consideration of \$5.09 per share of Patapsco common stock and using historical financial information for Patapsco as of December 31, 2014 as provided by Patapsco management to the extent not publicly available.

Selected Transactions Analysis – Similar Financial Performance. KBW reviewed publicly available information related to 17 selected U.S. bank and thrift merger and acquisition transactions announced since January 1, 2012 in which the acquired company had total assets between \$150 million and \$400 million, a nonperforming assets to total assets ratio less than 8.0%, a tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio between 2.0% and 9.0% and a LTM return on average assets ratio less than 1.0%. Transactions where either the acquiror was not a depository institution or with no announced transaction value were excluded from the selected transactions.

The selected transactions included:

Acquiror	Acquired Company
Talmer Bancorp, Inc.	First of Huron Corp.
First Business Financial Services, Inc.	Aslin Group, Inc.
Heritage Financial Group, Inc.	Alarion Financial Services, Inc.
Institution for Savings in Newburyport	Rockport National Bancorp, Inc.
Platte Valley Financial Service Companies	Mountain Valley Bancshares, Inc.
Mascoma Mutual Financial Services Corp	Connecticut River Bancorp, Inc.
Arvest Bank Group, Inc.	National Banking Corp.
Cardinal Financial Corporation	United Financial Banking Companies, Inc.
1st Constitution Bancorp	Rumson-Fair Haven Bank & Trust Co.
BNC Bancorp	Randolph Bank & Trust Company
Independent Bank Corp.	Mayflower Bancorp, Inc.
New Hampshire Thrift Bancshares, Inc.	Central Financial Corporation
First Bancshares, Inc.	First National Bank of Baldwin County
Wintrust Financial Corporation	HPK Financial Corporation
Umpqua Holdings Corporation	Circle Bancorp
First Priority Financial Corp.	Affinity Bancorp, Inc.
IBERIABANK Corporation	Florida Gulf Bancorp, Inc.

The results of the analysis are set forth in the following table:

	Proposed	Proposed	Selected Transactions		
	Proposed	Merger	Bottom	Median	Top
	Merger	Adjusted ⁽¹⁾	Quartile	Average	Quartile

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Price / Book Value	101	%	127	%	104%	122	%	131	%	165	%	
Price / Tangible Book Value	101	%	127	%	107%	122	%	133	%	165	%	
Core Deposit Premium	0.1	%	1.3	%	0.8	%	2.0	%	3.8	%	6.5	%

(1) Adjusted to reduce Patapsco's common equity by the amount of undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends.

Selected Transactions Analysis – Capital Constrained Targets. KBW reviewed publicly available information related to 16 selected U.S. bank and thrift merger and acquisition transactions announced since January 1, 2012 with an announced transaction value less than \$50 million in which the acquired company had total assets between \$100 million and \$750 million, a tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio less than 7.0% and a nonperforming assets to total assets ratio between 1.0% and 10.0%. Transactions where the acquiror was not a depository institution and transactions where the acquired company had negative tangible common equity were excluded from the selected transactions.

The selected transactions included:

Acquiror	Acquired Company
OceanFirst Financial Corp.	Colonial American Bank
Kentucky Bancshares, Inc.	Madison Financial Corporation
Talmer Bancorp, Inc.	First of Huron Corp.
First American Bank Corporation	Bank of Coral Gables
Independence Bank	Premier Service Bank
Arvest Bank Group, Inc.	National Banking Corp.
Bridge Bancorp, Inc.	FNBNY Bancorp, Inc.
Wintrust Financial Corporation	Diamond Bancorp, Inc.
First Bank	Heritage Community Bank
C&F Financial Corporation	Central Virginia Bankshares, Inc.
Ameris Bancorp	Prosperity Banking Company
HCBF Holding Company, Inc.	BSA Financial Services, Inc.
First Bancshares, Inc.	First National Bank of Baldwin County
Equity Bancshares, Inc.	First Community Bancshares, Inc.
First Priority Financial Corp.	Affinity Bancorp, Inc.
WashingtonFirst Bankshares, Inc.	Alliance Bankshares Corporation

The results of the analysis are set forth in the following table:

	Proposed		Selected Transactions					
	Proposed Merger	Merger Adjusted ⁽¹⁾	Bottom Quartile	Median	Average	Top Quartile		
Price / Book Value	101 %	127 %	77 %	92 %	87 %	114 %		
Price / Tangible Book Value	101 %	127 %	77 %	93 %	89 %	114 %		
Core Deposit Premium	0.1 %	1.3 %	-1.3 %	-0.3 %	-0.6 %	0.9 %		

(1) Adjusted to reduce Patapsco's common equity by the amount of undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends.

No company or transaction used as a comparison in the above selected transactions analyses is identical to Patapsco or the proposed merger. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies involved.

Relative Contribution Analysis. KBW analyzed the relative standalone contribution of Howard and Patapsco to various pro forma balance sheet and income statement items. This analysis did not include purchase accounting or transaction adjustments. To perform this analysis, KBW used (i) balance sheet data for Howard and Patapsco as of

December 31, 2014 and (ii) financial forecasts and projections relating to the earnings of Howard and Patapsco (as adjusted to reflect the impact of a 35% normalized tax rate and annual TARP dividends) provided to KBW by Howard and Patapsco managements, respectively. The results of KBW's analysis are set forth in the following table, which also compares the results of KBW's analysis with the implied pro forma ownership percentage of Patapsco stockholders in the combined company (giving effect to the issuance of \$25 million of Howard common shares at a price of \$11.50 per share in the private placement) based on the implied exchange ratios derived from the implied value of the merger consideration of \$5.09 per share of Patapsco common stock using the closing stock price of Howard as of February 27, 2015 under both the 80% stock / 20% cash aggregate merger consideration mix in the merger agreement and assuming hypothetical 100% stock consideration scenario for illustrative purposes:

	Howard as a Percentage of Total		Patapsco as a Percentage of Total	
Ownership				
Ownership at 80% Stock / 20% cash ⁽¹⁾	92	%	8	%
Ownership at 100% Stock ⁽¹⁾	90	%	10	%
Balance Sheet				
Total Assets	75	%	25	%
Total Assets Pro Forma ⁽¹⁾	76	%	24	%
Gross Loans Held for Investment	76	%	24	%
Total Deposits	75	%	25	%
Total Tangible Common Equity ⁽²⁾	85	%	15	%
Total Tangible Common Equity Pro Forma ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	90	%	10	%
Income Statement				
2015 Estimated Earnings ⁽³⁾	90	%	10	%
2016 Estimated Earnings ⁽³⁾	91	%	9	%
2017 Estimated Earnings ⁽³⁾	91	%	9	%

(1) Included the effect of the issuance of \$25 million of Howard common shares at a price of \$11.50 per share in the private placement.

(2) Patapsco tangible common equity reduced by the amount of undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends.

(3) Patapsco earnings data reflected the impact of a 35% normalized tax rate and annual TARP dividends.

Pro Forma Financial Impact Analysis. KBW performed a pro forma financial impact analysis that combined projected income statement and balance sheet information of Howard (giving effect to the issuance of \$25 million of Howard common shares at a price of \$11.50 per share in the private placement) and Patapsco. Using closing balance sheet estimates as of September 30, 2015 for Howard and Patapsco per Howard management, financial forecasts and projections relating to the earnings of Howard and Patapsco (as adjusted to reflect the impact of a 35% normalized tax rate and annual TARP dividends) provided by Howard and Patapsco managements, respectively, and pro forma assumptions (including purchase accounting adjustments, cost savings and related expenses) provided by Howard management, KBW analyzed the potential financial impact of the merger on certain projected financial results. This analysis indicated, among other things, that the merger, including the \$25 million capital raise, could be dilutive to Howard's 2016 and 2017 estimated EPS and Howard's estimated closing book value per share and tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2015. Furthermore, the analysis indicated that, pro forma for the proposed merger (including the \$25 million capital raise), each of Howard's tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio, Tier 1 Leverage Ratio, Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio and Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio as of September 30, 2015 could be higher.

In addition, using the same information referred to in the paragraph above, KBW reviewed with the Patapsco board for informational purposes the potential financial impact of the merger on certain projected financial results including only \$10 million of the \$25 million capital raise in the private placement and also reviewed with the Patapsco board for informational purposes the potential financial impact of the merger on certain projected financial results assuming the private placement does not occur in connection with the merger. Both indicated that the merger could be dilutive

to Howard's estimated closing tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2015 and could be accretive to Howard's 2016 and 2017 estimated EPS. With respect to Howard's book value per share as of September 30, 2015, the review indicated that the merger could be dilutive to Howard's book value per share as of September 30, 2015 including only \$10 million of the private placement and that the merger could be accretive to Howard's book value per share as of September 30, 2015 assuming the private placement does not occur.

For all of the above analyses, the actual results achieved by Howard following the proposed merger will vary from the projected results, and the variations may be material.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. KBW performed a discounted cash flow analysis to estimate ranges for the implied equity value of Patapsco on a standalone basis. In this analysis, KBW used financial forecasts and projections relating to the earnings and assets of Patapsco (as adjusted to reflect the impact of a 35% normalized tax rate and undeclared and unpaid TARP dividends) prepared by and provided to KBW by Patapsco management, and assumed discount rates ranging from 16.0% to 17.5%. The ranges of values were determined by adding (1) the present value of the estimated free cash flows that Patapsco could generate over the period from 2015 to 2019 as a standalone company and (2) the present value of Patapsco's implied terminal value at the end of such period. KBW assumed that Patapsco would maintain a tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio of 7.00% (which would require an initial cash inflow as Patapsco's tangible common equity to tangible assets ratio was below 7.00%) and would retain sufficient earnings to maintain that level. KBW derived implied terminal values using 2020 earnings multiples. Using implied terminal values for Patapsco calculated by applying a range of 11.0x to 15.0x estimated 2020 earnings, this discounted cash flow analysis resulted in a range of implied value per Patapsco common share that could be negative at the low end of the range and \$0.78 at the high end of the range. The discounted cash flow analysis is a widely used valuation methodology, but the results of such methodology are highly dependent on the assumptions that must be made, including asset and earnings growth rates, terminal values, dividend payout rates, and discount rates. The analysis did not purport to be indicative of the actual values or expected values of Patapsco.

Miscellaneous. KBW acted as financial advisor to Patapsco in connection with the proposed merger and did not act as an advisor to or agent of any other person. As part of its investment banking business, KBW is continually engaged in the valuation of bank and bank holding company securities in connection with acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for various other purposes. As specialists in the securities of banking companies, KBW has experience in, and knowledge of, the valuation of banking enterprises. In the ordinary course of KBW's business as a broker-dealer, KBW may from time to time purchase securities from, and sell securities to, Patapsco and Howard. In addition, further to an existing sales and trading relationship between Patapsco and a KBW affiliated broker-dealer, such affiliate from time to time purchases securities from, and sells securities to, Patapsco. As a market maker in securities, KBW and its affiliates may from time to time have a long or short position in, and buy or sell, debt or equity securities of Patapsco and Howard for KBW's own account and for the accounts of its customers.

Pursuant to the KBW engagement agreement, Patapsco has agreed to pay KBW a total cash fee equal to 3.00% of the aggregate merger consideration, \$25,000 of which became payable to KBW in connection with KBW's engagement, \$150,000 of which became payable to KBW upon the rendering of KBW's opinion and the balance of which is contingent upon the consummation of the merger. Patapsco also agreed to reimburse KBW for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements incurred in connection with its retention and to indemnify KBW against certain liabilities relating to or arising out of KBW's engagement or KBW's role in connection therewith. Other than in connection with this present engagement, in the two years preceding the date of its opinion, KBW did not provide investment banking and financial advisory services to Patapsco. In the two years preceding the date of its opinion, KBW did not provide investment banking and financial advisory services to Howard. KBW may in the future provide investment banking and financial advisory services to Patapsco or Howard and receive compensation for such services.

Terms of the Merger

Effects of the Merger

Upon completion of the merger, Patapsco will be merged with and into Howard and the separate legal existence of Patapsco will cease. All property, rights, powers, duties, obligations and liabilities of Patapsco will automatically be deemed transferred to Howard, as the surviving corporation in the merger. Howard will continue to be governed by its articles of incorporation and bylaws as in effect immediately prior to the merger.

The merger agreement provides that, pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger by and between Howard Bank and Patapsco Bank, dated as of March 2, 2015, immediately after the merger Patapsco Bank will be merged with and into Howard Bank, with Howard Bank as the surviving bank in the bank merger. Howard Bank will continue to be governed by its articles of incorporation and bylaws in effect immediately prior to the bank merger.

Consideration to be Paid in the Merger

Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, Howard will acquire Patapsco for aggregate consideration of between approximately \$10,051,000 and \$10,053,000 (assuming an Average Price of Howard common stock between \$9.00 and \$16.80), including approximately \$2,010,600 and between 478,702 and 893,577 shares of its common stock (based on the Average Price of its common stock as calculated as set forth in the merger agreement), with the cash/stock mix being subject to adjustment in Howard's discretion as described herein and in the merger agreement, which we refer to as the aggregate merger consideration.

Changes in the Average Price below \$9.00 or above \$16.80 will not, however, impact the number of shares of Howard common stock that will be issued in exchange for a share of Patapsco common stock in the merger (i.e., the per-share stock consideration) since at such point the exchange ratio will be fixed. Therefore, to the extent the Average Price falls below \$9.00, the aggregate merger consideration will be below \$10,053,000, and to the extent the Average Price increases above \$16.80, the aggregate merger consideration will be above \$10,053,000. In either case, the amount of the per-share cash consideration will remain \$5.09.

What Patapsco Stockholders Will Receive in the Merger

Upon completion of the merger, each share of Patapsco common stock that you hold at the effective time of the merger will be automatically converted into the right to receive either cash, which we refer to as the per-share cash consideration, or shares of Howard common stock, which we refer to as the per-share stock consideration, as discussed below, except for shares of Patapsco common stock held by stockholders who perfect their dissenters' rights as discussed in "– Dissenters' Rights." The merger agreement provides that Patapsco stockholders will have the right, with respect to each of their shares of Patapsco common stock, to elect to receive, subject to adjustment pursuant to the allocation and proration provisions as described below, either (i) \$5.09 in cash, or (ii) a fraction of a share (the "exchange ratio") of Howard common stock determined by dividing \$5.09 by the 20 trading day average closing price of the Howard common stock on the date that is five business days prior to the closing of the merger, which we refer to as the Average Price, provided that if the Average Price is \$9.00 or less the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.5656 and if the Average Price is \$16.80 or more the exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.3030 (we sometimes refer to this as the "per-share stock consideration"). Patapsco stockholders may also elect to receive a combination of cash and Howard common stock for their shares of Patapsco common stock in the merger. Therefore, Howard will issue between approximately 478,702 and 893,577 shares of common stock and pay cash consideration of approximately \$2,010,600 in the merger (subject to the right of Howard to adjust the mix of the cash and stock consideration as discussed below), for a total value of between approximately \$10,051,000 and \$10,053,000. To the extent the Average Price is between \$9.00 and \$16.80, the value of the stock consideration will fluctuate with the market price of Howard common stock. Because, as noted above, the exchange ratio is fixed at 0.5656 if the Average Price is \$9.00 or below and 0.3030 if the Average Price is \$16.80 or above, then the value of the per-share stock consideration will be greater than \$5.09 if the Average Price is above \$16.80 and less than \$5.09 if the Average Price is below \$9.00. Accordingly, any change in the price of Howard common stock outside of these parameters prior to the merger will affect the

market value of the stock consideration that stockholders of Patapsco will receive as a result of the merger.

Examples of the potential effects of fluctuations in the Average Price on the merger consideration are illustrated in the following table, based upon a range of hypothetical Average Prices. The Average Prices set forth in the following table have been included for illustrative purposes only. The Average Price may be less than \$7.50 or more than \$18.50. We cannot assure you as to what the Average Price will be or what the value of the Howard common stock to be issued in the merger will be at the effective time of the merger and the Average Price at the effective time could be different than at the time of the stockholder meetings.

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Assumed Average Price	Exchange Ratio	Aggregate Number of Howard Shares to be received	Per Share Value of Howard Shares to be received (2) (\$)	Aggregate Value of Howard Shares to be received (\$000)	Per Share Value of Cash Consideration to be received (\$)	Aggregate Value of Cash Consideration to be received (\$000s)	Total Aggregate Value of Merger Consideration to be received (\$000s)
\$ 7.20	(1) 0.5656	893,577	4.07	6,434	5.09	2,011	8,445
\$ 7.50	0.5656	893,577	4.24	6,702	5.09	2,011	8,712
\$ 8.00	0.5656	893,577	4.52	7,149	5.09	2,011	9,159
\$ 8.50	0.5656	893,577	4.81	7,595	5.09	2,011	9,606
\$ 9.00	0.5656	893,577	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,053
\$ 9.50	0.5358	846,497	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 10.00	0.5090	804,156	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 10.50	0.4848	765,923	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,053
\$ 10.80	0.4713	744,595	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 11.00	0.4627	731,008	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 11.50	0.4426	699,252	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 12.00	0.4242	670,183	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,053
\$ 12.50	0.4072	643,325	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 13.00	0.3915	618,521	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,051
\$ 13.20	0.3856	609,200	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 13.50	0.3770	595,613	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,051
\$ 14.00	0.3636	574,442	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,053
\$ 14.50	0.3510	554,536	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,051
\$ 15.00	0.3393	536,051	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,051
\$ 15.50	0.3284	518,831	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 16.00	0.3181	502,558	5.09	8,041	5.09	2,011	10,052
\$ 16.50	0.3085	487,391	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,053
\$ 16.80	0.3030	478,702	5.09	8,042	5.09	2,011	10,053
\$ 17.00	0.3030	478,702	5.15	8,138	5.09	2,011	10,149
\$ 17.50	0.3030	478,702	5.30	8,377	5.09	2,011	10,388
\$ 18.00	0.3030	478,702	5.45	8,617	5.09	2,011	10,627
\$ 18.50	0.3030	478,702	5.61	8,856	5.09	2,011	10,867

(1) First prong of Patapsco's termination right can be triggered if the Average Price is less than \$7.20. For more information, see "--Patapsco Price Termination Right" below for more information.

(2) Assumes value per share of Howard common stock equals the Average Price at closing.

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Howard will not issue fractional shares of Howard common stock to Patapsco stockholders. If you are otherwise entitled to receive a fractional share of Howard common stock under the exchange procedure described above, you will instead have the right to receive cash, without interest, in an amount equal to the product of (i) the fraction of a share that would otherwise be due to you and (ii) the Average Price.

To illustrate the calculation of the per-share merger consideration, for example, based on a Howard closing sales price of \$14.00 on June 2, 2015, the most recent practical date prior to the date hereof, an assumed Average Price for the 20 trading days ending on May 22, 2015, five business days prior to the most recent practical date prior to the date hereof, of \$13.79 and a corresponding exchange ratio of 0.3691 shares of Howard common stock per share of Patapsco common stock, the tables below indicates the consideration which a Patapsco stockholder would receive, based on the values on that date, for 100 shares of Patapsco common stock assuming that a stockholder elects to receive, as consideration and no proration or change to consideration mix occurs, (a) all shares of Howard common stock, (b) 50% cash and 50% shares of Howard common stock, and (c) all cash.

Consideration to be Received as of June 2, 2015 by a Patapsco Stockholder Who Makes a 100% Stock Election and No Proration or Change to Consideration Mix Occurs			
Number of Howard Shares to be Received	Value of Howard Shares to be Received ⁽¹⁾	Cash Consideration to be Received ⁽²⁾	Total Value to be Received
For 100 Shares of Patapsco common stock	36 \$ 504.00	\$ 12.55	\$ 516.55

(1)Based on the closing sales price of \$14.00 on June 2, 2015.

(2)Consists of \$12.55 of cash in lieu of a fractional share of Howard common stock.

Consideration to be Received as of June 2, 2015 by a Patapsco Stockholder Who Makes a 50% Cash and 50% Stock Election and No Proration or Change to Consideration Mix Occurs

	Number of Howard Shares to be Received	Value of Howard Shares to be Received ⁽¹⁾	Cash Consideration to be Received ⁽²⁾	Total Value to be Received
For 100 Shares of Patapsco common stock	18	\$ 252.00	\$ 260.77	\$ 512.77

(1)Based on the closing sales price of \$14.00 on June 2, 2015.

(2)Including \$6.27 of cash in lieu of a fractional share of Howard common stock.

Consideration to be Received as of June 2, 2015 by a Patapsco Stockholder Who Makes a 100% Cash and No Proration or Change to Consideration Mix Occurs

	Number of Howard Shares to be Received	Value of Howard Shares to be Received	Cash Consideration to be Received	Total Value to be Received
For 100 Shares of Patapsco common stock	-	-	\$ 509.00	\$ 509.00

Because, in these examples, the Average Price is between \$9.00 and \$16.80, the value of the per-share stock consideration would be \$5.09 based on the Average Price. Because, as noted above, the exchange ratio is fixed at 0.5656 if the Average Price is \$9.00 or below and 0.3030 if the Average Price is \$16.80 or above, then the value of the per-share stock consideration on the determination date will be greater than \$5.09 if the Average Price is above \$16.80 and less than \$5.09 if the Average Price is below \$9.00, and will fluctuate based on changes in the market value of the common stock after the determination date. No fractional shares will be issued in the merger, and cash will be paid in lieu thereof.

The merger agreement contains allocation provisions that are designed to ensure that 80% (or approximately 1,579,874 shares) of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock at the effective time of the merger will be exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and that 20% (or 394,969 shares) of the outstanding shares of

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Patapsco common stock will be exchanged for cash, including cash paid to Patapsco stockholders that perfect their dissenters' rights under Maryland law. This provision is subject, however, to Howard's right to adjust these percentages as long as at least 50% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock are exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and Howard issues at least 478,702, but no more than 893,577, of its shares of common stock in the merger.

Accordingly, after Patapsco stockholder elections have been tabulated, the elected amounts of stock or cash will be adjusted to ensure that 80% of the shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding at the effective time of the merger are exchanged for shares of Howard common stock and the remaining 20% are exchanged for cash, subject to adjustment of these percentages by Howard. Assuming no such adjustment, if holders of more than 20% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock elect to receive cash (including those that perfect dissenters' rights), the number of shares that you elected to exchange for cash (if any) will be reduced through an allocation formula and the rest of your shares will be exchanged for stock consideration. Similarly, if holders of less than 20% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock elect to receive cash (including those that perfect dissenters' rights), the number of shares that you elected to exchange for the stock consideration (if any) will be reduced and the rest of your shares will be exchanged for cash. Therefore, you may receive significantly less cash and more shares of Howard common stock than you elect, or you may receive significantly less shares of Howard common stock and more cash than you elect.

If you do not return the election form by the deadline to make a valid election, you will be deemed to have made no election. Stockholders not making an election may be paid in cash and/or shares of Howard common stock depending on, and after giving effect to, the allocation adjustments described below.

For more information about the allocation rules and the potential effects of the allocation procedures described above, see “– Terms of the Merger – Election and Exchange Procedures” and “– Terms of the Merger – Allocation Procedures and Proration.”

Patapsco Price Termination Right

Patapsco has the option, but is not required, to terminate the merger agreement if, at any time during the two business day period beginning on the fifth business day immediately prior to the closing of the merger (i) the Average Price of Howard common is less than \$7.20 and (ii) the quotient obtained by dividing the Average Price by \$9.00 is less than the Index Ratio minus 0.20, where the Index Ratio is equal to the quotient obtained by dividing (y) the closing price of the NASDAQ Bank Index (or if not available a similar index) on the date that is five business days before the closing of the merger, by (z) the closing price of the NASDAQ Bank Index (or similar index) on February 27, 2015. Patapsco cannot predict whether or not it would exercise its right to terminate the merger agreement if these conditions were met.

The merger agreement does not provide for a resolicitation of Patapsco stockholders in the event that these termination conditions are met and Patapsco chooses to complete the transaction.

Election and Exchange Procedures

Subject to allocation procedures as described below, each Patapsco stockholder may elect to receive with respect to his or her shares of Patapsco common stock all Howard common stock, all cash or a combination of common stock and cash.

Stock Election Shares. Patapsco stockholders who validly elect to receive shares of Howard common stock for some or all of their shares will receive the per-share stock consideration for that portion of the stockholder's shares of Patapsco common stock equal to the stockholder's stock election subject to allocation as further discussed in the following section. In our discussion below, we sometimes refer to shares held by stockholders who have made stock elections as "stock election shares."

Cash Election Shares. Patapsco stockholders who validly elect to receive cash for some or all of their shares will receive the per-share cash consideration for that portion of the stockholder's shares of Patapsco common stock equal to the stockholder's cash election, subject to allocation as further discussed in the following section. In our discussion below, we sometimes refer to shares held by Patapsco stockholders who have made cash elections as "cash election shares."

Objecting Shares. We refer to shares held by Patapsco stockholders (whom we sometimes refer to as objecting stockholders) that perfect their rights of objecting stockholders (which we sometimes refer to as dissenters' rights) under Maryland law with respect to the merger as "objecting shares."

No Election Shares. Shares held by Patapsco stockholders who (i) indicate that they have no preference as to whether they receive Howard common stock or cash, (ii) do not make a valid election, or (iii) attempt but fail to properly perfect their dissenters' rights will be deemed to be "no election shares." No election shares will be converted into the right to receive either the per-share stock consideration or the per-share cash consideration as discussed in "– Allocation Procedures and Proration" below.

Subject to the right of Howard to adjust these percentages, 20% of the shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding at the effective time of the merger will be exchanged for cash in the merger (including objecting shares) and the remaining outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock will be exchanged for shares of Howard common stock. Accordingly, there is no assurance that a Patapsco stockholder will receive the form of per-share consideration that stockholder elects with respect to his, her or its shares of Patapsco common stock. See “– Allocation Procedures and Proration” below.

Election Form; Letter of Transmittal. If you are a record holder of Patapsco common stock, an election form and letter of transmittal for use in surrendering your certificates representing your shares of Patapsco common stock will be sent to you no more than 40 nor less than 20 days before the anticipated effective date of the merger. The election form will include instructions for electing to receive Howard common stock or cash or a combination of stock and cash for your Patapsco common stock, or indicating that you have no preference as to whether you receive Howard common stock or cash for your shares of Patapsco common stock. The letter of transmittal will include instructions for submitting your Patapsco stock certificate(s) in exchange for the Howard common stock or the cash consideration. The deadline for making your election will be set forth in the election form, but will be no later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, five days prior to the anticipated closing date of the merger. You must carefully follow the instructions on the election form and letter of transmittal and return a properly executed election form, letter of transmittal and your Patapsco stock certificate(s) (or an appropriate guarantee of delivery of such stock certificate(s) as set forth in the election form from a firm that is an “eligible guarantor institution” (as defined in Rule 17Ad-15 under the Exchange Act) provided that such stock certificate(s) are in fact delivered to the exchange agent by the time set forth in such guarantee of delivery) to the exchange agent in order to receive the merger consideration for your shares. The Patapsco stock certificate(s) must be in a form that is acceptable for transfer (as explained in the letter of transmittal). Your election will be properly made only if, by the deadline date, you have submitted to Howard’s exchange agent at its designated office (i) a properly completed and signed election form, (ii) a properly completed and signed letter of transmittal together with your stock certificate(s) or guarantee of delivery of such stock certificate(s), and (iii) such other documents as Howard or the exchange agent may reasonably request.

If your election is not timely and properly made, or you revoke your election and fail to make a timely and proper new election, your shares of Patapsco common stock will be treated as “no election shares” and you will be entitled to receive solely the form of per-share consideration in exchange for your shares of Patapsco common stock that is allocated to you by the exchange agent in the allocation process, as discussed below in “– Allocation Procedures and Proration.”

You may revoke or change your election form by written notice to the exchange agent, but only if such written notice is actually received by the exchange agent at or prior to the election form deadline. If you revoke your election form, your certificates representing your shares of Patapsco common stock will be promptly returned to you without charge.

Neither Howard nor its exchange agent will be under any obligation to notify any person of any defects in an election form or letter of transmittal.

As soon as reasonably practicable after the later of its receipt of properly completed and signed letters of transmittal and accompanying Patapsco stock certificates and the closing of the merger, Howard's exchange agent will mail certificates representing shares of Howard common stock and/or checks representing the merger consideration for shares of Patapsco common stock (including cash in lieu of fractional share interests). No interest will be paid on any cash payment.

Certificates representing shares of Howard common stock will be dated the effective date of the merger and will entitle the holders to dividends, distributions and all other rights and privileges of a Howard stockholder from the effective date. Until the certificates representing Patapsco common stock are surrendered for exchange, holders of such certificates will not receive the cash or stock consideration or dividends or distributions on the Howard common stock into which such shares have been converted. When the certificates are surrendered to the exchange agent, any unpaid dividends or other distributions will be paid without interest. Howard has the right to withhold dividends or any other distributions on its shares until the applicable Patapsco stock certificates are surrendered for exchange.

Until surrendered, each Patapsco stock certificate, following the effective date of the merger, is evidence solely of the right to receive the proportionate amount of the aggregate per-share merger consideration. In no event will either Howard or Patapsco be liable to any former Patapsco stockholder for any amount paid in good faith to a public official or agency pursuant to any applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar law.

Howard will not issue any fractions of a share of common stock. Rather, Howard will pay cash for any fractional share interest any Patapsco stockholder would otherwise be entitled to receive in the merger. For each fractional share that would otherwise be issued, Howard will pay by check an amount equal to the value of such fractional share multiplied by the Average Price. Shares of Patapsco common stock held by Howard as of the effective date of the merger, if any, will be canceled.

Allocation Procedures and Proration

As a result of the merger, Patapsco will be merged with and into Howard. Each share of Patapsco common stock will then be converted into either cash or shares of Howard common stock as each Patapsco stockholder elects, subject to the limitations described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Specifically, notwithstanding the election of Patapsco stockholders to receive cash, Howard common stock or a combination of stock and cash in the merger, an aggregate of 20% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock (approximately 1,579,874 shares) will be exchanged for cash, including pursuant to the exercise and perfection of dissenters' rights by the holders thereof, with the remaining 80% (or approximately 394,969 shares) being exchanged for Howard common stock, subject to the right of Howard to adjust these percentages as described elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Therefore, the elections of Patapsco stockholders will be reallocated as necessary as discussed further below.

Too Many Stockholders Elect the Cash Consideration. If the aggregate number of cash election shares and objecting shares is more than 20% of the shares of Patapsco common stock outstanding on the effective date of the merger, as such percentage may be adjusted by Howard, which we refer to as the "target cash conversion number," then:

All stock election shares and no-election shares will be converted into the right to receive the per-share stock consideration; and

The exchange agent will reallocate, on a *pro rata* basis, a sufficient number of cash election shares (but not objecting shares) into stock election shares so that the number of cash election shares and objecting shares is equal to the target cash conversion number, and each such reallocated stock election share will be converted into the right to receive the per-share stock consideration and the cash election shares that are not so reallocated into stock election shares will be converted into the right to receive the per-share cash consideration.

Too Few Stockholders Elect the Cash Consideration. If the aggregate number of cash election shares and objecting shares is less than the target cash conversion number, then:

- All cash election shares will be converted into the right to receive the per-share cash consideration; and

The exchange agent will reallocate, on a *pro rata* basis, a sufficient number of no-election shares into cash election shares so that the aggregate number of cash election shares and objecting shares is equal to the target cash conversion number, and each such reallocated cash election share will be converted into the right to receive the per-share cash consideration and the remainder of the no-election shares, if any, will be converted into the right to receive the per-share stock consideration in the merger.

If all no-election shares are reallocated into cash election shares as set forth above and the total number of cash election shares and objecting shares remains less than the target cash conversion number, then the exchange agent will reallocate, on a *pro rata* basis, a sufficient number of stock election shares into cash election shares so that the aggregate number of cash election shares and objecting shares is equal to the target cash conversion number, and each such reallocated cash election share will be converted into the right to receive the per-share cash consideration and the remainder of the stock election shares will be converted into the right to receive the per-share stock consideration in the merger.

Because the United States federal income tax consequences of receiving Howard common stock, cash or both Howard common stock and cash will differ, Patapsco stockholders are urged to read carefully the information included under the caption “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences” and to consult their tax advisors for a full understanding of the merger’s tax consequences to them.

Howard Common Stock

Each share of Howard common stock outstanding immediately prior to completion of the merger will remain outstanding after and be unchanged by the merger.

Effective Date

The merger will take effect when all conditions, including obtaining stockholder and regulatory approval, have been fulfilled or waived, or as soon as practicable thereafter as Howard and Patapsco may mutually select. By law, however, regulatory and stockholder approval cannot be waived. We presently expect to close the merger on or about August 28, 2015. See “– Conditions to the Merger” and “– Regulatory Approvals.”

Outstanding Patapsco Preferred Stock under TARP

Pursuant to TARP, Patapsco issued to Treasury 6,000 shares of its Series A Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share with a stated liquidation amount \$1,000 per share (the “Series A Preferred Stock”) and 300 shares Series B Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share with a stated liquidation amount \$1,000 per share (the “Series B Preferred Stock”). Howard intends to retire each share of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock by either purchasing such shares from Treasury prior to the closing of the merger or by converting such shares into the right to receive one share of preferred stock of Howard with rights, powers and preferences that are not materially less favorable than the rights, powers and preferences of the Series A Perpetual Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock and, subsequent to the closing and with regulatory approval, repurchasing such shares (the “Howard Preferred Stock Retirement”). The merger agreement provides that each share of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, unless previously purchased from Treasury by Howard, will be converted automatically into and thereafter represent the right to receive one share of preferred stock of Howard to be designated, prior to the closing date of the merger, as Series A Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, stated liquidation amount \$1,000 per share and Series B Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, stated liquidation amount \$1,000 per share, respectively, and otherwise having rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers such that the rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers of the corresponding shares of the Series A

Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock are not adversely affected by such conversion and having rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions that, taken as a whole, are not materially less favorable than the rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions of the corresponding shares of the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock immediately prior to such conversion, taken as a whole.

Issuance of Preferred Stock to Howard; Assumption of Debentures Issued to Trust

Patapsco has issued and outstanding to Patapsco Statutory Trust I debentures in the principal amount of approximately \$5 million, not including deferred interest of approximately \$1.2 million. The merger agreement provides that at or prior to June 15, 2015, Patapsco will issue to Howard, and Howard will purchase from Patapsco, a sufficient number of shares of preferred stock at \$1,000 per share to bring current the payment of deferred interest through June 15, 2015 on the subordinated debentures. Patapsco is required to use the proceeds from the sale of the preferred stock to bring current interest on the subordinated debentures. Howard's obligation to purchase such preferred stock, and Patapsco's obligation to issue such preferred stock, is subject to the following conditions: (i) Patapsco must have made a diligent and good faith effort to obtain a waiver of any event of default under the applicable trust preferred security agreements caused by Patapsco Statutory Trust I's failure to make payment of amounts due and payable on the trust preferred securities and allowing continued deferral of dividends on the trust preferred securities until the effective time of the merger, and Patapsco has failed to obtain such waiver; (ii) Patapsco must have received prior regulatory approval or non-objection to bring current the payment of amounts due on its subordinated debentures by payment of any deferred payments plus any accrued interest and other charges and or fees; and (iii) Patapsco and Howard must have received all necessary regulatory approvals or non-objections and all consents from third parties as may be required for the issuance and purchase of the preferred stock and the use of the proceeds from such issuance to pay deferred interest on the subordinated debentures. If the waiver referred to in section (i) of the prior sentence is granted, Howard will not be obligated to purchase the preferred stock from Patapsco.

On June 5, 2015, Patapsco entered into an agreement with the trustee of Patapsco Statutory Trust I allowing it to defer the interest due on the debentures for an additional two consecutive quarterly periods, or until December 15, 2015. Therefore, we do not expect that Patapsco will issue the preferred stock to Howard in the manner contemplated in the merger agreement.

The merger agreement provides that Howard will assume Patapsco's obligations under the debentures issued to Patapsco Statutory Trust I upon the effective time of the merger. This will include any deferred interest amounts due on the debentures.

Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains customary representations and warranties relating to, among other things:

· Organization of Howard and Patapsco and their respective subsidiaries;

· Capital structures of Howard and Patapsco;

· Valid approval, valid execution and delivery, non-contravention, performance and enforceability of the merger agreement;

· Consents or approvals of regulatory authorities or third parties necessary to complete the merger;

· Consistency of financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP");

· Absence of material adverse changes, since June 30, 2014 in the case of Patapsco, and December 31, 2013 in the case of Howard, in assets, liabilities, liquidity, net worth, property, financial condition and results of operations, or any damage, destruction or loss;

· Filing of tax returns and payment of taxes;

· Absence of undisclosed material pending or threatened litigation, arbitration or other proceedings and actions or governmental investigations or inquiries;

· Compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

· Absence of labor or collective bargaining agreements, labor strike, labor suits and similar matters, and absence of pending or threatened legal proceedings with respect to labor matters;

· Retirement and other employee plans and matters relating to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974;

· Quality of title to assets and properties;

· Maintenance of adequate insurance;

· Absence of undisclosed brokers', finders' or similar fees or the retention of finders, brokers and similar persons;

· Absence of material environmental violations, actions or liabilities;

Accuracy of information supplied by Howard and Patapsco for inclusion in the registration statement, filed under the Securities Act, of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part, and all applications filed with regulatory authorities for approval of the merger;

· Intellectual property used or owned by Patapsco;

· Validity and binding nature of loans reflected as assets in the financial statements of Patapsco;

· Disclosure of loans and the extension of loans in compliance with applicable regulations;

· Disclosure of material contracts;

· Material compliance with the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (the "CRA");

· Material compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act, USA PATRIOT Act, anti-money laundering statutes, rules or regulations, and statutes, rules and regulations relating to customer privacy;

· Compliance with laws related to securities activities of employees;

· Disclosure of related party transactions;

· Establishment and maintenance of the allowance for loan losses;

· Investment securities status;

· Qualification of the merger as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

· Accuracy and completeness of corporate books and records;

· Receipt of opinions of the parties' financial advisors;

· Absence of certain enumerated changes with respect to Patapsco;

Absence of undisclosed liabilities;

With respect to Patapsco, absence of brokered deposits;

With respect to Patapsco, absence of option plans and convertible securities;

With respect to Patapsco, that it has not entered into certain risk management arrangements; and

With respect to Patapsco, that it does not have trust powers or act as trustee, agent, custodian, personal representative, guardian, conservator or investment advisor, does not originate, maintain or administer credit card accounts and has not provided merchant credit card processing services.

Conduct of Business Pending the Merger

In the merger agreement, Howard and Patapsco each agreed to use their commercially reasonable good faith efforts to preserve their business organizations intact, to maintain good relationships with employees, and to preserve the good will of customers and others with whom they do business.

In addition, Patapsco agreed to conduct its business and to engage in transactions only in the usual, regular and ordinary course of business, consistent with past practice, except as otherwise required by or contemplated in the merger agreement, required by regulators or consented to by Howard. Patapsco also agreed in the merger agreement that (except to the extent required in writing by its regulators and with notice to Howard) it will not, and will not allow any subsidiary to, without the written consent of Howard:

· Change its articles of incorporation or bylaws and the charter documents, bylaws, operating agreements and/or other governing documents of its subsidiaries;

· Change the number of authorized or issued shares of its capital stock, repurchase any shares of its capital stock, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of its capital stock, or issue or grant options or similar rights with respect to its capital stock or any securities convertible into its capital stock;

· Declare, set aside or pay any dividend or other distribution in respect of its capital stock;

· Grant any severance or termination pay, except in accordance with policies or agreements in effect on March 2, 2015;

· Enter into or amend any employment, consulting, severance, compensation, “change-in-control” or termination contract or arrangement;

· Grant job promotions or increase the rate of compensation of, or pay any bonus to, any director, officer, employee, independent contractor, agent or other person associated with Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary, except (i) with respect to officers and employees at the level of Vice President or below to the extent such promotion or increase is made in the normal course of its business consistent with past practices, or (ii) for routine periodic pay increases, selective merit pay increases and pay raises in the normal course of business and consistent with past practices, provided, however, that any increase in compensation for a director or an executive officer of Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary that is above the level of Vice President will require Howard’s prior written consent;

· Hire any new employees or fill any job vacancies above the level of Vice President;

· Sell or otherwise dispose of any material asset, other than in the ordinary course of business, consistent with past practice;

· Subject any material asset to a lien, pledge, security interest, mortgage, claim or other encumbrance, other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

Modify in any material manner the manner in which it has previously conducted its business or enter into any new line of business;

Except for Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta ("FHLB") advances with maturities not to exceed one year and deposits, incur any indebtedness for borrowed money or incur, assume or become subject to any obligations or liabilities of any other person or entity, except for the issuance of letters of credit in the ordinary course of business and in accordance with the restrictions otherwise set forth in the merger agreement;

Sell or otherwise dispose of any real property, except OREO in a reasonably acceptable commercial manner in the ordinary course of business, or sell or otherwise dispose of any securities held by Patapsco or Patapsco Bank other than pursuant to redemptions by the issuer thereof;

Take any action that would result in any of its representations and warranties set forth in the merger agreement becoming untrue or any of the condition to closing not being satisfied, except as may be required by applicable law, rule, regulation, order, decree, judgment, injunction, writ, regulatory policy or directive after written notice to Howard, or after written consent or waiver from Howard;

Waive, release, grant or transfer any rights of material value, or modify or change in any material respect any existing material agreement to which Patapsco is a party;

Change any accounting methods, principles or practices, except as may be required by GAAP or by any applicable regulatory authority;

Implement any new employee benefit plan, or amend any plans except as required by applicable law, rule, regulation, order, decree, judgment, injunction, writ, regulatory policy or directive and provided that amendments to the Pentegra DC Plan as adopted by The Patapsco Bank 401(k) plan to modify the available investment options will be permitted;

Implement or adopt any material change in its: (i) guidelines and policies in existence on March 2, 2015 with regard to underwriting and making extensions of credit, the establishment of reserves with respect to possible losses thereon, or the charge off of losses incurred thereon; (ii) investment policies and practices; or (iii) other material banking policies, or otherwise fail to conduct its banking activities in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice except as may be required by changes in applicable law or regulations, GAAP or the direction of a regulatory authority;

· Otherwise fail to conduct its lending activities in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

Enter into, modify, amend or renew any agreement under which Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries is obligated to pay more than \$50,000 and that is not terminable by Patapsco or such subsidiary with 60 days' notice or less without penalty, payment or other conditions (other than the condition of notice), or enter into, renew, extend or modify any transaction with any affiliate of Patapsco, other than deposit and loan transactions in the ordinary course of business and that comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders, decrees, judgments, injunctions, writs, regulatory policies or directives;

· Except as required by applicable law or regulation: (i) implement or adopt any material change in its interest rate and other risk management policies, procedures or practices; or (ii) fail to follow its existing policies or practices with respect to managing its exposure to interest rate and other risk;

Take any action that would give rise to a right of payment to any person under any employment agreement, except for contractually required compensation;

Purchase any securities other than (i) FHLB or Federal Farm Credit Bank obligations or other securities having the full faith and credit of the United States, and (ii) securities having a face amount of not more than \$1.0 million with a maturity date of three years or less; provided, however, that Patapsco may purchase other securities if Howard does not object to such purchase within 48 hours (counting by business days) of receipt of information regarding the security Patapsco proposes to purchase;

· Except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and involving an amount not in excess of \$50,000 (exclusive of any amounts paid directly or reimbursed to Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries under any insurance policy maintained by Patapsco or any subsidiary), settle any material action, suit, claim, arbitration,

investigation, inquiry, grievance or other proceeding (or basis therefor) pending or, to the knowledge of Patapsco, threatened against or affecting Patapsco or any subsidiary, any of their respective properties or any of their respective assets. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no settlement shall be made if it involves a precedent for other similar claims which, in the aggregate, could reasonably be determined to be material to Patapsco and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole;

Foreclose upon or otherwise take title to or possession or control of any real property without first obtaining a Phase I environmental report thereon, unless Patapsco or the subsidiary has no reason to believe that such property contains hazardous substances known or reasonably suspected to be in violation of, or require remediation under, applicable environmental laws;

· Make application for the opening or closing of any, or open or close any, branch or automated banking facility;

· Make any capital expenditure of \$50,000 or more or undertake or enter into any lease, contract or other commitment;

· Sell or acquire any loans (excluding originations) or loan participations, except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice (but in the case of a sale, after giving Howard or Howard Bank a first right of refusal to acquire such loan or participation);

· Sell or acquire any loan servicing rights;

· Take any action that would preclude the treatment of the merger as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

· Make any charitable or similar contributions, except in amounts not to exceed \$5,000 individually and \$20,000 in the aggregate;

· Enter into, grant, approve, renew, materially modify or extend any non-residential loan, lease, advance, credit facility, credit enhancement, guarantee, commitment, line of credit or letter of credit except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and, if in excess of \$1.0 million or, if to an existing customer of Patapsco, that increases the aggregate loan exposure to such customer by more than \$1.0 million, if Howard does not object to such credit extension by 5:00 p.m. on the second business day after receipt of information and documentation regarding such proposed credit extension;

· Enter into, grant, approve, modify or extend any loan, credit facility, line of credit or letter of credit for an owner-occupied residence that would result in credit exposure in excess of \$1.0 million to a single borrower, provided that Patapsco may make such a credit extension if Howard does not object to such credit extension by 5:00 p.m. on the second business day after receipt of information and documentation regarding such proposed credit extension;

· Issue any communication relating to the merger or other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement to employees (including general communications relating to benefits and compensation) without prior consultation with Howard and, to the extent relating to post-closing employment, benefit or compensation information, without the prior consent of Howard or issue any communication of a general nature to customers without the prior approval of Howard, except as required by law or for communications in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice that do not relate to the merger or other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; or

· Agree to do any of the foregoing.

Patapsco also agreed in the merger agreement, among other things:

To permit Howard, if Howard elects to do so at its own expense, to conduct environmental assessments with respect to all real property owned, leased or operated by Patapsco and its subsidiaries;

To dissolve any non-operating subsidiaries of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank prior to the closing of the merger; and

To use its reasonable best efforts to cause or facilitate Howard's purchase from Treasury or any other holders thereof the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock.

Howard and Patapsco jointly agreed, among other things:

To prepare all applications, registration statements and other documents necessary to obtain all required regulatory approvals;

To cooperate with each other in connection with the preparation of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part and other necessary documents;

That the information each party provides for inclusion in the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part shall be materially correct and comply with all applicable provisions of federal securities laws;

To submit the proposed merger and the merger agreement, in the case of Patapsco, and the shares of its common stock to be issued in the merger, in the case of Howard, to their stockholders for approval at a stockholders' meeting to be held as promptly as practicable, with an approval recommendation by each company's board of directors;

Subject to the terms of the merger agreement, to take all actions necessary to complete the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement as expeditiously as practicable;

To maintain adequate insurance;

To maintain books and records consistent with past practice;

To file all tax returns and pay all taxes when due;

To cooperate with each other in the interests of an orderly, cost-effective consolidation of operations;

To deliver to each other updated financial statements as provided in the merger agreement;

To deliver to each other all documents that may be filed with the SEC, Nasdaq, or with banking or other regulatory authorities;

To cooperate and use their commercially reasonable efforts to assist the sale by Treasury of the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock; and

To consult upon the form and substance of any press release related to the merger agreement or the proposed merger, and to not issue any press release or make any public statement regarding such matters without the prior written consent of the other party.

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In addition, Howard also agreed in the merger agreement, among other things, that it will purchase extended period officers' and directors' liability insurance for the officers and directors of Patapsco and that it will not, and will not allow any subsidiary to, without the consent of Patapsco or as required in writing by any of its regulators:

Take any action that would result in any condition to closing from being satisfied expeditiously, except as may be required by applicable law, rule, regulation, order, decree, judgment, injunction, writ, regulatory policy or directive with written notice to Patapsco, or after written consent or waiver from Patapsco;

Take any action that would preclude the treatment of the merger as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

Agree to do either of the foregoing.

Conditions to the Merger

Howard's and Patapsco's obligations to complete the merger are subject to various conditions, including, among other things, the following:

The merger and the merger agreement shall have been approved by the stockholders of Patapsco and Howard's issuance of the aggregate common stock consideration in the merger shall have been approved by the stockholders of Howard;

Howard's stockholders must have approved the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the private placement (this approval was obtained on May 27, 2015);

All necessary consents and approvals for the merger shall have been received, all necessary filings and registrations by Patapsco and Howard shall have been accepted or declared effective, and each landlord for which any of Patapsco or its subsidiaries is a tenant shall have consented to the merger and other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, except where the failure to obtain such consent or approval or for any such filing or registration to be accepted or declared effective would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on Howard or Howard Bank after the merger; all waiting periods relating to any necessary consents, approvals, filings and registration statements shall have expired; and no such consent or approval shall have imposed any condition or requirement that in the reasonable opinion of either Patapsco's board of directors or Howard's board of directors would: (i)(a) prohibit or materially limit the ownership or operation by Howard or any of its subsidiaries of all or any material portion of the business or assets of Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries, (b) compel Howard or any of its subsidiaries to dispose of or hold separate all or any material portion of the business or assets of Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries, (c) impose a material compliance burden, penalty or obligation on Howard or any of its subsidiaries, or (d) otherwise materially impair the value of Patapsco and its subsidiaries to Howard and its subsidiaries; or (ii) so materially and adversely impact the economic or business benefits of the merger to either Howard or Patapsco such as to render it inadvisable. See “– Terms of the Merger – Regulatory Approvals;”

There shall not be any order, decree or injunction in effect preventing the completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

Each of Howard and Patapsco shall have received an opinion of counsel or a letter from their independent certified public accountants that, among other things, the merger will be treated for federal income tax purposes as a tax-free “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and, with respect to the opinion received by Patapsco, that any gain realized in the merger will be recognized only to the extent of cash or other property (other than Howard common stock) is received in the merger, including cash received in lieu of fractional share interests. See “– Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences;” and

No material adverse change shall have occurred in the business, property, assets, liabilities, operations, business prospects, liquidity, income or financial condition of Patapsco or Howard, or any of their subsidiaries.

In addition to the foregoing, each party's obligations to close the merger are conditioned on:

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The accuracy in all material respects, as of March 2, 2015, and as of the effective date of the merger, of the representations and warranties of the other, except as to any representation or warranty that specifically relates to an earlier date and except as otherwise contemplated by the merger agreement;

The other's performance in all material respects of all obligations required to be performed by it at or prior to the effective date of the merger; and

Other conditions that are customary for transactions of the type contemplated by the merger agreement. See “– Terms of the Merger – Representations and Warranties” and “– Terms of the Merger – Conduct of Business Pending the Merger.”

In addition, Howard's obligation to close the merger is also contingent on:

Howard being satisfied that the recognized environmental conditions of any environmental assessments it conducted with respect to property of Patapsco or its subsidiaries will not have a material adverse effect on Patapsco; and

· Holders of no more than 10% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock perfecting their dissenters' rights.

Each party may waive each of the conditions described above in the manner and to the extent described in “– Terms of the Merger – Amendment; Waiver” immediately below.

Amendment; Waiver

Subject to applicable law, rule, regulation, order, decree, judgment, injunction, writ, regulatory policy or directive, at any time prior to the closing date of the merger, Howard and Patapsco may:

· Amend the merger agreement;

· Extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts required in the merger agreement;

· Waive any term or condition of the merger agreement, any inaccuracies in the representations or warranties contained in the merger agreement or in any document delivered pursuant thereto; or

· Waive compliance with any of the agreements or conditions contained in the merger agreement.

Termination

The merger agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the effective date of the merger by the mutual consent of Howard and Patapsco.

The merger agreement may also be terminated by either party if:

The merger is not completed on or prior to October 31, 2015 or, because of the failure to obtain any required regulatory approval or consent by such date, the merger is not completed by December 31, 2015, if the failure to complete the merger by that date is not due to a material breach of the merger agreement by the party seeking to terminate it;

There has been a definitive written denial of a required regulatory approval or an application for approval or consent has been permanently withdrawn at the request of a regulatory authority;

The other party has materially breached any representation, warranty, covenant or other agreement in the merger agreement, and such breach either by its nature cannot be cured prior to the closing of the merger or remains uncured 30 days after receipt by such party of written notice of such breach (provided that if such breach cannot reasonably be cured within such 30-day period but may reasonably be cured within 60 days and cure is being diligently pursued, then termination can occur only after expiration of such 60-day period), if the party terminating the merger agreement is not in material breach;

Howard's stockholders do not approve the issuance of the shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger and the private placement or Patapsco's stockholders do not approve the merger agreement and the merger;

Patapsco's board of directors withdraws, changes or modifies its recommendation to stockholders to approve the merger agreement and the merger (with respect to Howard's right to terminate) or if Howard's board of directors withdraws, changes or modifies its recommendation to stockholders to approve the issuance of the Howard common stock in the merger or in the private placement (with respect to Patapsco's right to terminate); or

Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary receives (with respect to Patapsco's right to terminate) or enters into, approves or resolves to approve (with respect to Howard's right to terminate) an agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar agreement with a view to being acquired, or more than 25% of its assets or liabilities being acquired, by any person other than Howard, or to sell 25% or more of its outstanding shares of common stock, in a transaction the Patapsco board of directors determines is more favorable to the stockholders of Patapsco (a "superior Patapsco transaction").

In addition, Patapsco may terminate the merger agreement if:

Howard or any Howard subsidiary enters into a definitive term sheet, letter of intent or similar agreement to merge, as a result of which Howard is not the surviving entity or Howard's directors as of March 2, 2015 do not comprise the majority of the surviving entity's board of directors, with any person other than Patapsco, and the Patapsco board of directors determines, after considering the advice of counsel, that such transaction is not in the best interests of Patapsco's stockholders; or

At any time during the two business day period beginning on the fifth business day immediately prior to the closing of the merger:

§ the Average Price is less than \$7.20; and

(a) the quotient obtained by dividing the Average Price by \$9.00 is less than (b) the Index Ratio minus 0.20, where the Index Ratio is equal to the quotient obtained by dividing (y) the closing price of the NASDAQ Bank Index (or if § not available a similar index) on the date that is five business days before the closing of the merger, by (z) the closing price of the NASDAQ Bank Index (or similar index) on February 27, 2015.

Termination Fee

Patapsco must pay Howard a termination fee in the amount of \$500,000 if the merger agreement is terminated because:

Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary has (i) received a proposal for, and entered into an agreement with respect to, a superior Patapsco transaction (with respect to termination by Patapsco) or (ii) entered into, approved or resolved to approve an agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument with respect to a superior Patapsco transaction (with respect to termination by Howard);

Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary has entered into an agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument for any other merger, acquisition or similar transaction or a transaction with respect to the sale of a material portion of its assets in violation of the merger agreement; or

The board of directors of Patapsco has withdrawn, changed or modified its recommendation to the stockholders of Patapsco to approve the merger agreement and the merger in a manner adverse to Howard.

No Solicitation of Other Transactions

Patapsco has agreed that it will not, and will not allow its representatives to, directly or indirectly:

Initiate, solicit, induce, encourage (including by way of furnishing information) or take any other action to facilitate the making of any inquiry, offer or proposal that constitutes, relates to or could reasonably be expected to lead to (i) a merger, consolidation or acquisition of 25% or more of the assets or liabilities of Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries, or any other business combination involving Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries, or (ii) a transaction involving the transfer of (or the right to acquire) beneficial ownership of securities representing 25% or more of the then outstanding shares of Patapsco common stock or any of its subsidiaries (we refer to each such transaction as an “acquisition proposal”);

Respond to any inquiry relating to an acquisition proposal or participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding any acquisition proposal or furnish, or otherwise afford access, to any person (other than Howard) any information or data with respect to Patapsco or any subsidiary or otherwise relating to an acquisition proposal;

Recommend or endorse an acquisition proposal;

Release any person or entity from, waive any provisions of, or fail to enforce any confidentiality agreement or standstill agreement to which Patapsco or any subsidiary is a party; or

Enter into any agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument with respect to any acquisition proposal or approve or resolve to approve any acquisition proposal or any agreement, agreement in principle, letter of intent or similar instrument relating to an acquisition proposal.

However, Patapsco may respond to an inquiry, furnish nonpublic information regarding Patapsco and its subsidiaries to, or enter into discussions with, any person in response to an unsolicited acquisition proposal if (i) Patapsco's board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with and having considered the advice of its outside legal counsel and its independent financial advisor, that such acquisition proposal constitutes or is reasonably likely to lead to an acquisition proposal that is more favorable to the stockholders of Patapsco than the merger (provided that such transaction is not conditioned on obtaining financing and would result in the acquisition of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco's common stock or all or substantially all of the assets of Patapsco and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis), which we refer to as a "superior proposal," (ii) Patapsco's board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with and based upon the advice of its outside legal counsel and financial advisor, that such action is required in order for the board of directors to comply with its fiduciary obligations under applicable law, and (iii) at least two business days prior to furnishing any nonpublic information to, or entering into discussions with, such person or entity, Patapsco provides Howard written notice of the identity of such person or entity and of Patapsco's intention to furnish nonpublic information to, or enter into discussions with, such person or entity and Patapsco receives from such person or entity an executed confidentiality agreement on terms no more favorable to such person or entity than the confidentiality agreement between Patapsco and Howard, which confidentiality agreement shall not provide such person or entity with any exclusive right to negotiate with Patapsco. Patapsco has also agreed to promptly provide to Howard any non-public information regarding Patapsco or any subsidiary provided to any other person or entity that was not previously provided to Howard, such additional information to be provided no later than the date of provision of such information to such other person or entity.

The agreement also provides that under certain circumstances as set forth therein the Patapsco board of directors can approve or recommend that Patapsco's stockholders approve what they have determined in good faith is a superior proposal and withdraw, qualify or modify its recommendation in connection with the merger agreement and the merger when the board of directors has in good faith determined that failure to do so would be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties after consultation with and having considered the advice of its outside legal counsel and financial advisor.

Patapsco has also agreed to notify Howard promptly (and in any event within 24 hours) if it receives any acquisition proposal or request for information, negotiations or discussions with respect to any acquisition proposal, and to keep Howard informed of the status and terms of any such proposal, offer, information request, negotiations or discussions. Patapsco has further agreed to provide Howard with the opportunity to present its own proposal to Patapsco's board of

directors in response to any such proposal or offer, and negotiate with Howard in good faith with respect to any such proposal.

For a discussion of circumstances under which certain actions relating to Patapsco or a subsidiary entering into an alternative transaction could result in Patapsco being required to pay a termination fee of \$500,000, see “The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Terms of the Merger – Termination Fee.”

Expenses

Each of Howard and Patapsco will pay all of the costs and expenses that it incurs in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including fees and expenses of financial consultants, accountants and legal counsel.

Regulatory Approvals

Completion of the merger is subject to the prior receipt of all approvals and consents of federal and state authorities required to complete the merger of Howard and Patapsco as well as the merger of Howard Bank and Patapsco Bank.

Howard and Patapsco agreed to use their reasonable best efforts to obtain all regulatory approvals required to complete the merger and the bank merger. These approvals include, with respect to the merger, approval from the FRB and the Maryland Commissioner and, with respect to the bank merger, approval from the FDIC and the Maryland Commissioner. The merger cannot proceed without these required regulatory actions.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Merger

Federal Reserve Board. The acquisition by a bank holding company of another bank holding company requires the prior approval of the FRB under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. Under this law, the FRB generally may not approve any proposed transaction:

That would result in a monopoly or that would further a combination or conspiracy to monopolize banking in the United States; or

That could substantially lessen competition in any section of the country, that would tend to create a monopoly in any section of the country, or that would be in restraint of trade, unless the FRB finds that the public interest in meeting the convenience and needs of the communities served outweighs the anti-competitive effects of the proposed transaction.

The FRB is also required to consider the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the companies and their subsidiary banks and the convenience and needs of the communities to be served. Under the CRA, the FRB also must take into account the record of performance of Howard and Patapsco in meeting the credit needs of their communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In addition, the FRB must take into account the effectiveness of the companies in combating money laundering activities. Among other things, the FRB will evaluate the capital adequacy of the combined company after completion of the merger. The FRB also will take into consideration the extent to which a proposed acquisition, merger or consolidation would result in greater or more concentrated risks to the stability of the U.S. banking or financial system. In connection with its review, the FRB will provide an opportunity for public comment on the application for the merger, and is authorized to hold a public meeting or other proceedings if it determines that would be appropriate. Any transaction approved by the FRB generally may not be completed until 30 days after such approval, during which time the U.S. Department of Justice

may challenge such transaction on antitrust grounds and seek divestiture of certain assets and liabilities.

Maryland Commissioner. The merger is subject to the prior approval of the Maryland Commissioner under Section 5-903 of the Financial Institutions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. In determining whether to approve the merger, the Maryland Commissioner will consider:

- Whether the merger may be detrimental to the safety and soundness of Patapsco Bank or Patapsco; and

· Whether the merger may result in an undue concentration of resources or a substantial reduction of competition in the State of Maryland.

The Maryland Commissioner will not approve any acquisition if upon consummation the combined entity (including any of its bank subsidiaries) would control 30% or more of the total amount of deposits of insured depository institutions in the State of Maryland, although the Maryland Commissioner may waive this limitation upon good cause shown. Howard Bank will not control 30% of the insured deposits in Maryland after the merger.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Bank Merger

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The bank merger is subject to the prior approval of the FDIC under the Bank Merger Act. In evaluating an application filed under the Bank Merger Act, the FDIC generally considers: (i) the competitive impact of the transaction; (ii) financial and managerial resources of each bank that is a party to the bank merger; (iii) each of the banks' effectiveness in combating money-laundering activities; (iv) the convenience and needs of the communities in which the banks serve; and (v) the extent to which the bank merger would result in greater or more concentrated risks to the stability of the U.S. banking or financial system. The FDIC also reviews the performance records of the relevant depository institutions under the CRA, including their CRA ratings. In connection with its review under the Bank Merger Act, the FDIC will provide an opportunity for public comment on the application for the bank merger, and is authorized to hold a public meeting or other proceeding if it determines that would be appropriate.

Maryland Commissioner. The bank merger is subject to the prior approval of the Maryland Commissioner under Section 3-703(c) of the Financial Institutions Articles of the Maryland Annotated Code. The Maryland Commissioner will approve the bank merger if it determines that: (i) Howard Bank meets all the requirements of Maryland law for the formation of a new commercial bank; (ii) the bank merger agreement provides an adequate capital structure, including surplus, for Howard Bank in relation to its deposit liabilities and other activities; (iii) the bank merger is fair; and (iv) the proposed bank merger is not against the public interest.

Applications: Approvals

Howard filed an application with the FRB and the Maryland Commissioner requesting approval of the merger of Patapsco with and into Howard on April 2, 2015. In addition, Howard Bank filed applications with the FDIC and Maryland Commissioner requesting the approval of the merger of Patapsco Bank into Howard Bank on April 2, 2015. In general, the applications and notice describe the terms of the merger or bank merger, the parties involved and the activities to be conducted by the combined entities following consummation of the transaction, and contain certain related financial and managerial information.

We received FRB approval for the merger as of May 12, 2015, Maryland Commissioner approval of the merger and the bank merger on June 1, 2015, and FDIC approval of the bank merger as of June 3, 2015.

We are not aware of any material governmental approvals or actions that are required to complete the merger or bank merger, except as described above. If any other approval or action is required, we will use our best efforts to obtain such approval or action.

Management and Operations After the Merger

The current officers and directors of Howard and Howard Bank, with the addition of Thomas P. O'Neill, Chairman of the Board of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank, and Gary R. Bozel, a member of the board of directors of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank (or such replacements as named in a schedule to the merger agreement if either of Messrs. O'Neill or Bozel become disqualified to serve as directors pursuant to the merger agreement before the effective date of the merger), to each entity's board of directors, will continue to be the officers and directors of Howard and Howard Bank, respectively, after the merger.

Employment; Severance

Following the merger, Howard is not obligated to continue the employment of any Patapsco employee. As a result of the merger, some Patapsco positions may be eliminated. Howard will, however, endeavor to continue the employment of all employees of Patapsco and its subsidiaries, including Patapsco Bank, in positions that will contribute to the successful performance of the combined organization. If a Patapsco or Patapsco Bank employee is not retained, however, Howard will grant an eligible employee who is terminated two weeks of severance pay for each full year of service up to a maximum of 26 weeks of severance pay, except that employees who are a party to any employment, severance or "change in control" agreement or any other agreement or arrangement that would provide for a payment triggered by the merger or the bank merger, including as described under "- Interest of Directors and Officers in the Merger - Change in Control Payments to be Made to Patapsco Bank Executive Officers," will not be eligible for such severance benefits unless such person waives or relinquishes his or her right to such change in control payment. Each person eligible for severance benefits will remain eligible for such benefits if his or her employment is terminated, other than for cause (as defined in the merger agreement), within 12 months after the date that the merger is effective. Any former Patapsco employee whose employment with Howard or a subsidiary of Howard is terminated without cause after 12 months from the effective date of the merger will receive such severance benefits from Howard as is provided for in Howard's general severance policy for such terminations (with full credit being given for each year of service with Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary).

Employee Benefits

The merger agreement provides that as of the effective date of the merger, each employee of Patapsco or any Patapsco subsidiary who becomes an employee of Howard or a subsidiary thereof will be entitled to full credit for each year of service with Patapsco or any subsidiary thereof for purposes of determining eligibility for participation, vesting and benefit accrual in Howard's, or as appropriate, in the Howard subsidiary's, employee benefit plans, programs and policies. Howard will use the original date of hire by Patapsco or a Patapsco subsidiary in making such determinations. After the effective date of the merger, Howard may discontinue or amend, or convert to or merge with a Howard benefit plan, any Patapsco benefit plan, subject to the plan's provisions and applicable law.

Interests of Directors and Officers in the Merger

Certain members of management of Patapsco and its board of directors may have interests in the merger in addition to their interests as stockholders of Patapsco. The Patapsco board of directors was aware of these factors and considered them, among other factors, in approving the merger agreement.

You should note, however, that if after the merger Howard and Howard Bank remain subject to the written agreement originally entered into between Patapsco and Patapsco Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner, as discussed elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, Howard may be prohibited from paying the change in control payments discussed below.

Change in Control Payments to be Made to Patapsco Bank's Executive Officers

Patapsco Bank has severance agreements with its named executive officers, which were entered into prior to any discussions with Howard. Under each of these agreements, the executive is entitled to a lump sum cash payment equal to two times the amount of his base salary and bonus paid in the prior year (subject to certain limitations as set forth in the agreement) if his employment with Patapsco Bank is terminated without his consent and other than for cause, as defined in the agreement, in connection with or within 12 months after a change in control of Patapsco or Patapsco Bank. The merger and the bank merger constitute a change in control for purposes of these agreements.

The following table describes the change in control payment each such executive will be entitled to under his severance agreement upon consummation of the merger and the bank merger, assuming he is not offered employment with Howard Bank or is offered employment but then terminated within 12 months of the merger and the bank merger. The payment of such change in control payments is subject to the receipt of approvals or non-objections from

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applicable regulatory authorities required pursuant to the terms of the written agreement between Patapsco and Patapsco Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner.

Name	Position	Change in Control Payment Amount
Philip P. Phillips	President and Chief Executive Officer	\$ 487,702
John Wright	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$ 336,006

Employment Agreement Between Howard Bank and Philip P. Phillips

The merger agreement provides that Howard Bank will offer Philip P. Phillips, President and Chief Executive Officer of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank, an employment agreement with terms set forth in an exhibit thereto. Pursuant to the terms of such form of employment agreement, Howard Bank will employ Mr. Phillips as an Executive Vice President responsible for Howard Bank's Baltimore market. The form of employment agreement provides for an initial term commencing on the effective date of the bank merger and terminating one year thereafter and, unless written notice that the agreement will not be renewed is provided to Mr. Phillips, will be renewed for an additional year on each anniversary date of the bank merger.

Mr. Phillips' form of employment agreement provides for an initial annual salary of \$200,000, subject to annual increases as may be determined by Howard Bank's board of directors. The form of agreement also provides for a grant of 5,000 shares of restricted stock of Howard on the effective date of the agreement and a car allowance payment of \$750 per month. Mr. Phillips will also be entitled to participate in any other bonus, incentive and other executive compensation programs as are made available to Howard Bank's executive management.

Under the terms of the form of employment agreement, Howard Bank may terminate Mr. Phillips' employment under the agreement for certain events constituting cause as defined in the agreement. In addition, Howard Bank may terminate the agreement without cause upon written notice to Mr. Phillips or upon Mr. Phillips' permanent disability as defined in the agreement.

If Howard Bank terminates Mr. Phillips' employment without cause or upon Mr. Phillips' permanent disability, or Mr. Phillips terminates his employment for good reason, as defined in the agreement, or upon his permanent disability, and a change in control, as defined in the agreement, has not occurred, then Mr. Phillips will be entitled to receive an amount equal to his current base salary plus all benefits he is then receiving for a period equal to the remaining term of the agreement plus any incentive compensation already accrued for that year. In addition, all of his stock awards and stock options will immediately vest upon the effective date of such termination. If the termination is due to permanent disability, then such amount payable will be reduced if and to the extent that Mr. Phillips receives payments under any disability insurance or other program maintained by Howard Bank.

If, within 12 months following a change in control, Mr. Phillips' employment is terminated under the agreement by Mr. Phillips for any reason or by Howard Bank without cause, then, instead of the payments provided for above, Mr. Phillips will be entitled to: (i) a lump sum payment equal to the sum of (a) his average annual compensation (consisting of base pay and bonus) during the most recent three years minus the aggregate present value of any other payments he receives that are treated as contingent upon the change in control (not including (ii), (iii) and (iv) of this sentence), and (b) a pro-rated bonus; (ii) immediate vesting of all stock awards; (iii) immediate exercisability of any unexercised stock options; and (iv) continued medical coverage for the remaining term of the agreement as available to the Bank's other employees.

Mr. Phillips' employment will also terminate upon mutual agreement of the parties or immediately upon his death. If his employment is terminated upon death, all of Mr. Phillips's stock awards and stock options shall immediately vest.

The form of employment agreement also contains confidentiality and non-solicitation provisions.

Board Positions and Compensation; Payment of Accrued but Unpaid Director Fees

Upon completion of the merger and the subsequent bank merger, Thomas P. O’Neill and Gary R. Bozel will be appointed as Howard and Howard Bank directors and will be entitled to compensation in such capacity on the same basis as other Howard and Howard Bank directors. See the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled “Director Compensation” under the heading “Executive Compensation – Howard Bancorp, Inc.” for further information about such compensation.

In addition, Howard has agreed to pay to each director of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank all accrued but unpaid director fees for their service on the boards of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank as of the closing date of the merger. Currently Patapsco’s directors are being paid meeting fees while their retainer fees, which accrue monthly, are being deferred. The table below sets forth the accrued unpaid director fees we expect to be due to the Patapsco directors upon closing of the merger, assuming a closing date of September 30, 2015.

Director	Accrued Fees
Thomas P. O’Neill	\$12,600
Nicole N. Glaeser	\$11,375
William R. Waters	\$10,500
J. Thomas Hoffman	\$10,500
Gary R. Bozel	\$10,500

Advisory Board Positions

Effective as of the closing date of the merger, Howard Bank will constitute the Howard Bank Towson Area Regional Advisory Board and appoint to such advisory board for an initial term of one year the members of Patapsco Bank's board of directors that are not appointed to the board of directors of Howard or Howard Bank, provided that any such advisory board director will be removed if the director becomes subject to a disqualification event as set forth in the merger agreement. While such persons serve on the advisory board they will each be paid annual compensation in an amount that is equal to the annual amount they received for serving as members of the board of directors of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank during the period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The below table sets forth the directors of Patapsco Bank that the parties expect to be appointed to the advisory board and the amount of fees each will receive for service on the advisory board.

Director	Fees for Service on Advisory Board
Nicole N. Glaeser	\$ 28,000
William R. Waters	\$ 26,500
J. Thomas Hoffman	\$ 24,000

After the initial one-year period, Howard Bank has the right to remove any member of the advisory board or to dissolve the advisory board.

No Compensation Payable to Howard's Executive Officers or Directors

None of Howard's executive officers or directors will receive any type of compensation that is based on or that otherwise relates to the merger.

Indemnification and Insurance

Howard has agreed that for six years after the effective time of the merger, it will indemnify and hold harmless each present and former director and officer of Patapsco against any costs or expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, losses, claims, damages or liabilities and amounts paid in settlement incurred thereafter in connection with any claim, action, suit, proceeding or investigation, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, arising out of matters existing or occurring at or prior to the effective time of the merger, based or arising out of, or pertaining to the fact that he or she was a director or officer of Patapsco or is or was serving at the

request of Patapsco or any of its subsidiaries as a director, officer, employee, trustee or other agent of any other organization or in any capacity with respect to any employee benefit plan of Patapsco, including any matters arising in connection with or related to the negotiation, execution and performance of the merger agreement or the merger or the bank merger, to which such indemnified parties would be entitled to have the right to advancements of expenses or to be indemnified under the articles of incorporation and bylaws of Patapsco as in effect on the date of the merger agreement as though such articles of incorporation and bylaws continue to remain in effect after the effective time of the merger and to the fullest extent as permitted by applicable law.

Howard has further agreed that for a minimum of six years after the merger's effective date, Howard will, at its expense, maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance for the former directors and officers of Patapsco and its subsidiaries with respect to matters occurring at or prior to the merger's effective date (a "tail" policy), so long as the policy can be obtained at a cost not in excess of an aggregate of \$70,000 for the six-year period. If Howard is unable to obtain a directors' and officers' liability insurance tail policy at a cost not in excess of \$70,000, Howard will obtain a directors' and officers' liability insurance tail policy with the maximum coverage reasonably available for a cost that is not in excess of \$70,000.

Support Agreements

As a condition to Howard entering into the merger agreement, each of the directors of Patapsco entered into an agreement with Howard, dated as of March 2, 2015, pursuant to which each director agreed to vote all of their shares of Patapsco common stock in favor of the merger. A form of support agreement is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Howard's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 2, 2015 and filed with the SEC on March 3, 2015. See "Where You Can Find More Information." The support agreements may have the effect of discouraging persons from making a proposal for an acquisition transaction involving Patapsco. The following is a brief summary of the material provisions of the support agreements:

Each director of Patapsco agreed, among other things, to vote, or cause to be voted, at any meeting of Patapsco stockholders or other circumstance in which the vote, consent or other approval of stockholders is sought, all of the Patapsco common stock as to which he or she is the record or beneficial owner (and including shares held of record by such director's spouse, minor children and adult children living in the director's household) (a) for approval of the merger and the execution and delivery by Patapsco of the merger agreement, (b) against any alternative acquisition transaction, and (c) against certain other actions or proposals that are intended, or could reasonably be expected, to impede, interfere with, delay, postpone or materially adversely affect the merger, the merger agreement or the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Each director of Patapsco agreed to take all reasonable actions and to assist in the consummation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and to use his best efforts to cause Patapsco and its subsidiaries to take the actions set forth in the merger agreement.

Each director of Patapsco agreed to continue to hold his or her shares of Patapsco until the earlier of the time the merger is effective or the date the stockholders of Patapsco approve the merger agreement.

Each director agreed not to take any action that could reasonably be expected to have the effect of preventing or disabling him from performing his obligations under the support agreement.

Regulatory Matters Regarding Patapsco and Patapsco Bank

On October 18, 2012, Patapsco and Patapsco Bank entered into a written agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner. The written agreement sets forth the actions that Patapsco, Patapsco Bank and their boards of directors must undertake to address certain issues. The written agreement will remain in effect until stayed, modified, terminated or suspended in writing by the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner.

The written agreement provides as follows:

By December 17, 2012, Patapsco Bank's board of directors was required to submit an acceptable written plan to strengthen board oversight of the management and operations of Patapsco Bank;

By December 17, 2012, Patapsco Bank was required to submit an acceptable written plan to strengthen credit risk management practices, including strategies to limit and reduce concentrations in commercial real estate credit and strategies to minimize credit losses and reduce the level of problem assets;

Patapsco Bank may not extend, renew, or restructure any credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose loans have been criticized by the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner without the prior approval of a majority of its full board of directors or a designated committee thereof;

By December 17, 2012, Patapsco Bank was required to submit an acceptable written plan designed to improve its position through repayment, amortization, liquidation, additional collateral, or other means on each loan, relationship or other asset in excess of \$600,000, including OREO, that was past due as to principal or interest more than 90 days as of December 17, 2012, was on Patapsco Bank's problem loan list or was adversely classified by the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner, and submit such a plan with respect to each additional asset that subsequently meets such description within 30 days of such loan, relationship or other asset becoming past due as to principal or interest more than 90 days, being on Patapsco Bank's problem loan list or being adversely classified by the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner;

Patapsco Bank was required to eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified "loss" in the report of examination that have not been previously collected in full or charged off by October 28, 2012;

Patapsco Bank must maintain a sound process for determining, documenting and recording an adequate allowance for loan and lease losses ("ALLL") in accordance with regulatory guidance and by December 17, 2012 was required to submit an acceptable written program for the maintenance of an adequate ALLL;

By December 17, 2012, Patapsco and Patapsco Bank were required to submit to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner an acceptable joint written plan to maintain sufficient capital at Patapsco Bank;

By January 16, 2013, Patapsco Bank was required to submit to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner a strategic plan to improve Patapsco Bank's earnings and a budget for 2013, and Patapsco Bank was and is required to submit a strategic plan and budget for each calendar year subsequent to 2013 at least 30 days prior to the beginning of that calendar year;

Patapsco and Patapsco Bank may not declare or pay dividends without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank and the Director of the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation of the FRB (the "Director") and, as to Patapsco Bank, the Maryland Commissioner;

Patapsco may not take any other form of payment representing a reduction in capital from Patapsco Bank without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank and the Maryland Commissioner;

Patapsco and its nonbank subsidiaries may not make any distributions of interest, principal or other sums on subordinated debentures or trust preferred securities without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank and the Director;

Patapsco may not incur, increase or guarantee any debt without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank;

Patapsco may not purchase or redeem any shares of its stock without the prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Bank;

Patapsco and Patapsco Bank may not make any severance or indemnification payments without complying with regulatory requirements regarding such payments; and

Patapsco and Patapsco Bank must comply with prior regulatory notification requirements for any changes in directors or senior executive officers.

We do not anticipate, however, that Howard Bank and Howard will be subject to the written agreement following the merger and the bank merger, although we cannot assure you that this will be the case.

Accounting Treatment

The merger will be accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting with Howard treated as the acquiror. Under this method of accounting, Patapsco's assets and liabilities will be recorded by Howard at their respective fair values as of the closing date of the merger and added to those of Howard. Any excess of purchase price over the net fair values of Patapsco's assets and liabilities will be recorded as goodwill. Any excess of the fair value of Patapsco's net assets over the purchase price will be recognized in earnings as a bargain purchase gain by Howard on the closing date of the merger. Financial statements of Howard issued after the merger will reflect these values, but will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of Patapsco prior to the merger. The results of operations of Patapsco will be included in the results of operations of Howard beginning on the effective date of the merger.

Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences

The closing of the merger is conditioned upon (i) the receipt by Howard of (a) the opinion of Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver, a Professional Corporation, counsel to Howard, or (b) a letter from Stegman & Company, the independent certified public accountants for Howard, and (ii) the receipt by Patapsco of (a) the opinion of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, counsel to Patapsco, or (b) a letter from TGM Group, LLC, the independent certified public accountants for Patapsco, each dated as of the effective date of the merger, to the effect that:

- The merger constitutes a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- Only as to the opinion to be received by Patapsco, any gain realized in the merger will be recognized only to the extent of cash or other property (other than Howard common stock) received in the merger, including cash received in lieu of fractional share interests.

The tax opinions to be delivered in connection with the merger are not binding on the IRS or the courts, and neither Patapsco nor Howard intends to request a ruling from the IRS with respect to the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger. Consequently, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of those set forth below. In addition, if any of the facts, representations or assumptions upon which the opinions are based is inconsistent with the actual facts, the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger could be adversely affected.

The following discussion describes the anticipated material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to U.S. holders (as defined below) of Patapsco common stock. This discussion addresses only those holders that hold their Patapsco common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"), and does not address all the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to particular holders in light of their individual circumstances or to holders that are subject to special rules, such as:

- financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- individual retirement and other tax-deferred accounts;
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

· persons eligible for tax treaty benefits;

· entities treated as partnerships or other flow-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

· foreign corporations, foreign partnerships and other foreign entities;

· tax-exempt organizations;

· dealers in securities;

· persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;

· traders in securities that elect to use a mark to market method of accounting;

· persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States;

· persons that hold Patapsco common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, constructive sale or conversion transaction; and

U.S. holders who acquired their shares of Patapsco common stock through the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation.

The following is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, its legislative history, Treasury regulations promulgated pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code and published rulings and decisions, all as currently in effect as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, and to differing interpretations. Tax considerations under state, local and foreign laws, or federal laws other than those pertaining to U.S. federal income tax, are not addressed in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Holders of Patapsco common stock should consult with their own tax advisers as to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger as well as the effect of state, local, foreign and other tax laws and of proposed changes to applicable tax laws, in light of their particular circumstances.

For purposes of this discussion, the term “U.S. holder” means a beneficial owner of Patapsco common stock that is:

· a U.S. citizen or resident, as determined for federal income tax purposes;

· a corporation, or entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States; or

· otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of a partner in a partnership holding Patapsco common stock generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. We recommend that partners in such a partnership consult their own tax advisers.

Tax Consequences of the Merger Generally

As a result of the merger qualifying as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, the following material U.S. federal income tax consequences will result:

Exchange Solely for Howard Common Stock. No gain or loss will be recognized by a Patapsco stockholder who receives solely shares of Howard common stock (except for cash received in lieu of fractional shares, as discussed

below) in exchange for all of his or her shares of Patapsco common stock. The tax basis of the shares of Howard common stock received by a Patapsco stockholder in such exchange will be equal (except for the basis attributable to any fractional shares of Howard common stock, as discussed below) to the basis of the Patapsco common stock surrendered in exchange for the Howard common stock. The holding period of the Howard common stock received will include the holding period of shares of Patapsco common stock surrendered in exchange for the Howard common stock, provided that such shares were held as capital assets of the Patapsco stockholder at the effective time of the merger.

Exchange Solely for Cash. A Patapsco stockholder who receives solely cash in exchange for all of his or her shares of Patapsco common stock (and is not treated as constructively owning Howard common stock after the merger under the circumstances referred to below under “– Possible Dividend Treatment”) will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes equal to the difference between the cash received and such stockholder’s tax basis in the Patapsco common stock surrendered in exchange for the cash. Such gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss, provided that such shares were held as capital assets of the Patapsco stockholder at the effective time of the merger. Such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Patapsco stockholder’s holding period is more than one year at the effective time of the merger. The Internal Revenue Code contains limitations on the extent to which a taxpayer may deduct capital losses from ordinary income.

Exchange for Howard Common Stock and Cash. A Patapsco stockholder who receives a combination of Howard common stock and cash in exchange for his or her Patapsco common stock will not be permitted to recognize any loss for federal income tax purposes. Such a stockholder will recognize gain, if any, equal to the lesser of (1) the amount of cash received or (2) the amount of gain “realized” in the transaction. The amount of gain a Patapsco stockholder “realizes” will equal the amount by which (a) the cash plus the fair market value at the effective time of the merger of Howard common stock received exceeds (b) the stockholder’s basis in the Patapsco common stock to be surrendered in the exchange for the cash and Howard common stock. Any recognized gain could be taxed as a capital gain or a dividend, as described below. The tax basis of the shares of Howard common stock received by such Patapsco stockholder will be the same as the basis of the shares of Patapsco common stock surrendered in exchange for the shares of Howard common stock, adjusted as provided in Section 358(a) of the Internal Revenue Code for the gain recognized and/or cash received in exchange for such shares of Patapsco common stock. The holding period for shares of Howard common stock received by such Patapsco stockholder will include such stockholder’s holding period for the Patapsco common stock surrendered in exchange for the Howard common stock, provided that such shares were held as capital assets of the stockholder at the effective time of the merger.

A Patapsco stockholder's federal income tax consequences will also depend on whether his or her shares of Patapsco common stock were purchased at different times at different prices. If they were, the Patapsco stockholder could realize gain with respect to some of the shares of Patapsco common stock and loss with respect to other shares. Such Patapsco stockholder would have to recognize such gain to the extent such stockholder receives cash with respect to those shares in which the stockholder's adjusted tax basis is less than the amount of cash plus the fair market value at the effective time of the merger of the Howard common stock received, but could not recognize loss with respect to those shares in which the Patapsco stockholder's adjusted tax basis is greater than the amount of cash plus the fair market value at the effective time of the merger of the Howard common stock received. Any disallowed loss would be included in the adjusted basis of the Howard common stock. Such a Patapsco stockholder is urged to consult his or her own tax advisor respecting the tax consequences of the merger to that stockholder.

Possible Dividend Treatment. In certain circumstances, a Patapsco stockholder who receives solely cash or a combination of cash and Howard common stock in the merger may receive dividend income, rather than capital gain, treatment on all or a portion of the gain recognized by that stockholder if the receipt of cash "has the effect of the distribution of a dividend." The determination of whether a cash payment has such effect is based on a comparison of the Patapsco stockholder's proportionate interest in Howard after the merger with the proportionate interest the stockholder would have had if the stockholder had received solely Howard common stock in the merger. Possible dividend treatment could apply because of your purchase (or the purchase by a family member or certain entities described below) of additional Howard stock or a repurchase of shares by Howard. For purposes of this comparison, the Patapsco stockholder may be deemed to constructively own shares of Howard common stock held by certain members of the stockholder's family or certain entities in which the stockholder has an ownership or beneficial interest and certain stock options may be aggregated with the stockholder's shares of Howard common stock. The amount of the cash payment that may be treated as a dividend is limited to the stockholder's ratable share of the accumulated earnings and profits of Patapsco at the effective time of the merger. Any gain that is not treated as a dividend will be taxed as a capital gain, provided that the stockholder's shares were held as capital assets at the effective time of the merger. Because the determination of whether a cash payment will be treated as having the effect of a dividend depends primarily upon the facts and circumstances of each Patapsco stockholder, stockholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax treatment of any cash received in the merger.

Cash in Lieu of Fractional Shares. A Patapsco stockholder who holds Patapsco common stock as a capital asset and who receives in the merger, in exchange for such stock, solely Howard common stock and cash in lieu of a fractional share interest in Howard common stock will be treated as having received such cash in full payment for such fractional share of stock and as capital gain or loss, notwithstanding the dividend rules discussed above.

Tax Treatment of the Entities. No gain or loss will be recognized by Howard or Patapsco as a result of the merger.

Reporting Requirements

A Patapsco stockholder who receives Howard common stock as a result of the merger will be required to retain records pertaining to the merger. Certain Patapsco stockholders are subject to certain reporting requirements with respect to the merger. In particular, such stockholders will be required to attach a statement to their tax returns for the year of the merger that contains the information listed in Treasury Regulation Section 1.368-3(b). Such statement must include the stockholder's adjusted tax basis in its Patapsco common stock and other information regarding the merger. Patapsco stockholders are urged to consult with their tax advisers with respect to these and other reporting requirements applicable to the merger.

Withholding Requirements

Certain Patapsco stockholders may be subject to backup withholding, at a rate of 28%, on cash received pursuant to the merger. Backup withholding will not apply, however, to a Patapsco stockholder who (1) furnishes a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that the stockholder is not subject to backup withholding on IRS Form W-9 or a substantially similar form, or (2) is otherwise exempt from backup withholding. If a Patapsco stockholder does not provide a correct taxpayer identification number on IRS Form W-9 or a substantially similar form, the Patapsco stockholder may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Amounts withheld, if any, are generally not an additional tax and may be refunded or credited against the Patapsco stockholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided that the Patapsco stockholder timely furnishes the required information to the IRS.

THE PRECEDING DISCUSSION IS A SUMMARY OF THE MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER AND DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OR DISCUSSION OF ALL POTENTIAL TAX EFFECTS RELEVANT THERETO. PATAPSCO STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISERS AS TO THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF THE MERGER (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TAX RETURN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS), AS WELL AS THE EFFECT OF STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN AND OTHER TAX LAWS AND ANY PROPOSED CHANGES TO APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.

Restrictions on Sales of Shares by Certain Affiliates

The shares of Howard common stock to be issued in the merger will be freely transferable under the Securities Act, except for shares issued to any stockholder who is an "affiliate" of Howard as defined by Rule 144 under the Securities Act. Affiliates consist of individuals or entities that control, are controlled by or are under common control with Howard, and include the executive officers and directors of Howard and may include significant stockholders of Howard following the merger.

Stock Exchange Listing

Following the merger, the shares of Howard common stock will continue to trade on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol "HBMD."

Dissenters' Rights

Under Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL, Patapsco stockholders have the right to object to the merger and to demand and receive “fair value” of their shares of Patapsco common stock, determined as of the date of the meeting at which the merger is approved, without reference to any appreciation or depreciation in value resulting from the merger or its proposal. These rights are also known as dissenters’ rights.

Holders of Howard common stock do not have the right to exercise dissenters’ rights in connection with the merger.

Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL, which set forth the procedures a stockholder requesting payment for his, her or its shares must follow, are reprinted in its entirety as Annex D to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The following discussion is not a complete statement of the law relating to dissenters’ rights under Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL. This discussion and Annex D should be reviewed carefully by any Patapsco stockholder who wishes to exercise dissenters’ rights or who wishes to preserve the right to do so, as failure to strictly comply with the procedures set forth in Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL will result in the loss of dissenters’ rights.

General Requirements. Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL generally require the following:

Written Objection to the Proposed Transaction. Patapsco stockholders who desire to exercise their dissenters' rights must file with Patapsco, at or before the Patapsco stockholder meeting to vote on the merger agreement and the merger, a written objection to the proposed transaction. A vote against the merger agreement and the merger will not satisfy such objection requirement. The written objection should be delivered or addressed to Patapsco Bancorp, Inc., 1301 Merritt Boulevard, Dundalk, Maryland 21222, Attention: John M. Wright.

Refrain From Voting For or Consenting to the Merger Proposal. If you wish to exercise your dissenters' rights, you must not vote in favor of the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger. If you return a properly executed proxy that does not instruct the proxy holder to vote against or to abstain on the proposal to approve the merger agreement and the merger, or otherwise vote in favor of the merger agreement and the merger, your dissenters' rights will terminate, even if you previously filed a written notice of intent to demand payment. You do not have to vote against the merger in order to preserve your dissenters' rights.

Written Demand for Payment. Within 20 days after acceptance of the articles of merger by the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, you must make a written demand on Howard for payment of your stock that states the number and class of shares for which payment is demanded. All written demands for payment of the fair value of Patapsco common stock should be delivered or addressed to Howard Bancorp, Inc., 6011 University Boulevard, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043, Attention: George C. Coffman.

An objection to the merger, demand for payment of the fair value and a petition for appraisal, discussed below, must be executed by or on behalf of the holder of record, fully and correctly, as the holder's name appears on the holder's stock certificates. Therefore, if your Patapsco common stock is owned of record in a fiduciary capacity, such as by a broker, trustee, guardian or custodian, execution of the demand should be made in that capacity.

Howard Written Notice. Under Section 3-207 of the MGCL, Howard, as the successor to Patapsco, will promptly notify each objecting stockholder in writing of the date the articles of merger were accepted for record by the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. Howard may also send a written offer to pay the objecting holders of Patapsco common stock what it considers to be the fair value of the stock. If Howard chooses to do this, it will provide each objecting stockholder of Patapsco with: (i) a balance sheet as of a date not more than six months before the date of the offer; (ii) a profit and loss statement for the 12 months ending on the date of that balance sheet; and (iii) any other information Howard considers pertinent.

Any stockholder who files a notice of objection, but fails to file a written demand for the payment of fair value in a timely manner, will be bound by the vote of the Patapsco stockholders and will not be entitled to receive payment in cash as an objecting stockholder.

If you demand payment for your Patapsco common stock, you have no right to the Howard common stock or cash into which your Patapsco common stock would be converted after the merger is approved, except the payment of fair value. If you demand payment for your Patapsco common stock, your rights as a Patapsco stockholder will be restored if the demand for payment is withdrawn, a petition of appraisal is not filed within the time required, a court determines that you are not entitled to relief, or the merger is abandoned or rescinded. A demand for payment may be withdrawn only with Patapsco consent.

Petition for Appraisal. Within 50 days after the date the articles of merger are accepted by the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, Howard or any holder of Patapsco common stock who has complied with the statutory requirements summarized above may file a petition with a court of equity in Howard County, Maryland, for an appraisal to determine the fair value of Patapsco common stock (an “appraisal”). Howard is not obligated to, and has no present intention to, file a petition with respect to an appraisal of the fair value of Patapsco common stock. Accordingly, it is the obligation of objecting holders of Patapsco common stock to initiate all necessary action to perfect their dissenters’ rights within the time period prescribed by Section 3-208 of the MGCL.

If a petition for an appraisal is timely filed, after a hearing on the petition, the court will determine the holders of Patapsco common stock that are entitled to dissenters' rights and will appoint three disinterested appraisers to determine the fair value of the Patapsco common stock on terms and conditions the court considers proper. Within 60 days after appointment (or such longer period as the court may direct), the appraisers will file with the court and mail to each party to the proceeding their report stating their conclusion as to the fair value of the stock. Within 15 days after the filing of this report, any party may object to such report and request a hearing. The court shall, upon motion of any party, enter an order confirming, modifying or rejecting such report and, if confirmed or modified, enter judgment directing the time within which payment for the fair value shall be made by Howard. If the appraisers' report is rejected, the court may determine the fair value of the stock of the objecting stockholders or may remit the proceeding to the same or other appraisers. Any judgment entered pursuant to a court proceeding shall include interest from the date of the Patapsco stockholders' vote on the merger. The cost of the appraisal proceedings, including compensation and expenses of the appraisers, will be Howard's responsibility, except that all or any part of the expenses may be assessed against any and all of the objecting stockholders to whom an offer to pay for common stock has been made, if the court finds the failure to accept the offer was arbitrary and vexatious or not in good faith. Costs of the proceedings will not include fees and expenses of counsel. Costs of the proceedings may include fees and expenses of experts only if Howard did not make an offer of payment for your common stock or if the value of the common stock as determined in the appraisal proceeding materially exceeds the amount offered by Howard. The court's judgment is final and conclusive on all parties and has the same force and effect as other decrees in equity.

Fair Value. You should be aware that the fair value of your Patapsco common stock as determined under Sections 3-201 through 3-213 of the MGCL could be more than, the same as or less than the value of the Howard stock you would receive in the merger if you did not seek appraisal of your Patapsco common stock. You should further be aware that, if you have duly demanded the payment of the fair value of your Patapsco common stock in compliance with Section 3-203 of the MGCL, you will not, after making such demand, be entitled to vote the Patapsco common stock subject to the demand for any purpose or be entitled to, with respect to such shares of stock, the payment of dividends or other distributions payable to holders of record on a record date occurring after the close of business on the date the stockholders approved the merger agreement and the merger. Fair value may not include any appreciation or depreciation that directly or indirectly results from the transaction objected to or from its proposal.

If you fail to comply strictly with these procedures you will lose your dissenters' rights. Consequently, if you wish to exercise your dissenters' rights, we strongly urge you to consult a legal advisor before attempting to exercise your dissenters' rights.

DESCRIPTION OF HOWARD BANCORP CAPITAL STOCK

The following summary is a description of the material terms of Howard's common stock and should be read in conjunction with the section entitled "Comparison of Stockholder Rights." This summary is not meant to be a complete description of the terms of Howard's capital stock and is qualified by reference to the applicable provisions of the MGCL, the articles of incorporation, as amended, of Howard and the amended and restated bylaws of Howard. You are urged to read those documents carefully. Copies of Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws are on file with

the SEC. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

General

Howard’s authorized capital stock consists of 10,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

Common Stock

Howard is currently authorized to issue 10,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Subject to all rights of holders of any other class or series of stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends if and when the board of directors declares dividends from funds legally available therefor. In addition, holders of common stock share ratably in the net assets of Howard upon the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Howard, after distributions are made to anyone with more senior rights.

Under Maryland law, Howard is not permitted to pay dividends if, as a result, it would be unable to pay its debts as they come due in the ordinary course of business or its total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if it were to be dissolved at the time the dividend is paid, to satisfy the preferential rights on dissolution of any stockholders whose preferential rights on dissolution are superior to those stockholders receiving the dividend.

In general, each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to vote for the election of directors and on all other matters requiring stockholder action, and each share is entitled to one vote. Holders of common stock have no conversion, sinking fund or redemption rights. While in general holders of the common stock have no preemptive rights to purchase additional shares of common stock, two stockholders that purchased common stock in a private placement that Howard consummated in conjunction with its initial public offering are entitled to preemptive rights, which expire in July 2015, that allows them to maintain their percentage ownership in any subsequent offerings of Howard's common stock or securities convertible into Howard common stock. These stockholders waived their preemptive rights with respect to the private placement of shares of Howard common stock pursuant to agreements entered into between Howard and certain institutional investors on March 2, 2015, as previously discussed.

Howard's articles of incorporation grant to its board of directors the right to classify or reclassify any unissued shares of common stock from time to time by setting or changing the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption. Accordingly, the board of directors could authorize the issuance of additional shares of common stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction which the holders of some, or a majority, of shares of common stock might believe to be otherwise in their best interests or in which the holders of some, or a majority, of shares of common stock might receive a premium for their shares of common stock over the then market price of such shares. As of the date hereof, Howard's board of directors has no plans to classify or reclassify any unissued shares of common stock.

All outstanding shares of Howard common stock are, and shares to be issued in the merger will be, when issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

Howard is authorized to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Shares of preferred stock may be issued from time to time by its board of directors in one or more series. Prior to issuance of shares of each series of preferred stock, the board of directors is required to fix for each series the designation, preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and terms or conditions of redemption. The board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction that some of Howard's stockholders might believe to be in their best interests or in which they might receive a premium for their shares of common stock over

the market price of such shares. However, Howard will not offer preferred stock to directors, executive officers, holders of five percent or more of any class of its equity securities or “promoters” as defined in Rule 405 adopted under the Securities Act except on the same terms as such preferred stock is offered to all other existing or new stockholders.

Series AA Preferred Stock

On September 22, 2011, Howard issued to the Secretary of the Treasury 12,562 shares of its Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series AA (the “Series AA Preferred Stock”), having a liquidation amount per share equal to \$1,000, for an aggregate purchase price of \$12,562,000. Howard issued the Series AA Preferred Stock pursuant to Treasury’s Small Business Lending Fund (“SBLF”), which was created for qualifying community banks and was intended to encourage small business lending. Howard was one of only four commercial banks in Maryland to be approved for this influx of Tier 1 capital to enable continued small business loan portfolio growth. As part of, and as required by, the SBLF investment transaction, Howard redeemed the preferred stock that it had issued to Treasury pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program under the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

The following is a brief description of the terms of the Series AA Preferred Stock. The description of the Series AA Preferred Stock contained in this section is qualified in its entirety by the actual terms of the Series AA Preferred Stock, as are stated in the articles supplementary to Howard’s articles of incorporation, a copy of which is on file with the SEC. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

The Series AA Preferred Stock constitutes a single series of Howard's preferred stock, consisting of 12,562 shares, par value \$0.01 per share, having a liquidation preference amount of \$1,000 per share, all of which are issued and outstanding as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The Series AA Preferred Stock has no maturity date.

Dividends

General. Dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in arrears, when, as and if authorized and declared by Howard's board of directors out of legally available funds, on a non-cumulative basis, on the \$1,000 per share liquidation preference amount. Dividends are payable on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year, beginning January 1, 2012.

Each dividend will be payable to holders of record as they appear on Howard's stock register on the applicable record date, which is the 15th calendar day immediately preceding the related dividend payment date (whether or not a business day), or such other record date determined by Howard's board of directors that is not more than 60 nor less than ten days prior to the related dividend payment date. Each period from and including a dividend payment date (or from and including the date of the issuance of the Series AA Preferred Stock, in the case of the initial dividend period) to but excluding the following dividend payment date is referred to as a "dividend period." Dividends payable for each dividend period are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of four 90-day quarters, and actual days elapsed over a 90-day quarter. If a scheduled dividend payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, the dividend payment will be postponed to the next day that is a business day and no additional dividends will accrue as a result of that postponement. The term "business day" means any day except Saturday, Sunday and any day on which banking institutions in the State of New York or the District of Columbia generally are authorized or required by law or other governmental actions to close.

Rate. In accordance with the terms of the SBLF program, the Series AA Preferred Stock had an initial annual dividend rate of 5% and is subject to reduction based upon changes in the amount of "Qualified Small Business Lending" or "QSBL" (as defined below) by Howard Bank from a previously-established "Baseline" (as defined below). The current rate through March 22, 2016 is 1.0%. After this date, the dividend rate will increase to 9% if Howard has not redeemed the outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock at such time.

Any reduction in the dividend rate to below 5% prior to March 22, 2016 will not apply to the portion of the aggregate liquidation amount of the then-outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock that is greater than the amount of the increase in QSBL from the Baseline. Dividends on any portion of the aggregate liquidation amount of the then-outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock that is in excess of the amount of the increase in the amount of QSBL from the Baseline will be payable at 5% per annum until the four and one-half year anniversary of the issuance date, resulting in a blended dividend rate that will apply to each outstanding share of Series AA Preferred Stock. As noted above, from and after March 22, 2016, the dividend rate applicable to each outstanding share of Series AA

Preferred Stock will be 9%, regardless of the amount of QSBL.

“Qualified Small Business Lending,” or “QSBL,” is defined as the sum of all lending by Howard Bank of the following types:

- (i) commercial and industrial loans;
- (ii) owner-occupied, nonfarm, nonresidential real estate loans;
- (iii) loans to finance agricultural production and other loans to farmers; and
- (iv) loans secured by farmland;

and, within these loan categories, excluding: (A) any loan or group of loans to the same borrower and its affiliates with an original principal or commitment amount greater than \$10 million or that is made to a borrower that had (or whose ultimate parent company had) more than \$50 million in revenues during the most recent fiscal year ended as of the date of origination; (B) to the extent not included in (A) or (C), the portion of any loans guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration, any other U.S. Government agency or a U.S. Government-sponsored enterprise; and (C) to the extent not included in (A) or (B), the portion of any loans held by Howard Bank for which the risk is assumed by a third party (e.g., the portion of loans that have been participated), while, further, adding to the amount determined above the cumulative amount of net charge-offs with respect to QSBL as measured since the quarter ended September 30, 2010.

The “Baseline” is defined as the average of Howard Bank’s quarter-end QSBL for the four quarters ended June 30, 2010. The Baseline is \$120,456,000.

Non-Cumulative. Dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock are non-cumulative. If for any reason Howard’s board of directors does not declare a dividend on the Series AA Preferred Stock for a particular dividend period, then the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock will have no right to receive any dividend for that dividend period, and Howard will have no obligation to pay a dividend for that dividend period. Howard must, however, within five calendar days, deliver to the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock a written notice executed by its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer stating the board of directors’ rationale for not declaring dividends. Howard’s failure to pay a dividend on the Series AA Preferred Stock also will restrict its ability to pay dividends on and repurchase other classes and series of its stock. See “– Restrictions on Dividends and Repurchases.”

When dividends have not been declared and paid in full on the Series AA Preferred Stock for an aggregate of four or more dividend periods, and during that time Howard was not subject to a regulatory determination that prohibits the declaration and payment of dividends, it must, within five calendar days of each missed payment, deliver to the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock a certificate executed by at least a majority of the members of its board of directors stating that the board used its best efforts to declare and pay such dividends in a manner consistent with safe and sound banking practices and the directors’ fiduciary obligations. In addition, Howard’s failure to pay dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock for five or more dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, will give the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock the right to appoint a non-voting observer on Howard’s board of directors, which right will continue until it has timely paid dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock for at least four consecutive dividend payments. Howard has paid all dividends due on the Series AA Preferred Stock.

No Sinking Fund. There is no sinking fund with respect to dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock.

Restrictions on Dividends and Repurchases

Restrictions on Dividends. So long as the Series AA Preferred Stock remains outstanding, Howard may declare and pay dividends on its common stock, and any other shares of Junior Stock (as defined below) or Parity Stock (as defined below), only if, after giving effect to the dividend, its Tier 1 capital would be at least equal to the Tier 1 Dividend Threshold (as defined below) and full dividends on all outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock for the most recently completed dividend period have been or are contemporaneously declared and paid.

If a dividend is not declared and paid in full on the Series AA Preferred Stock for any dividend period, then from the last day of that dividend period until the last day of the third dividend period immediately following it, no dividend or distribution may be declared or paid on Howard's common stock or any other shares of Junior Stock (other than dividends payable solely in shares of common stock) or Parity Stock; provided, however, that in any such dividend period in which a dividend is declared and paid on the Series AA Preferred Stock, dividends may be paid on Parity Stock to the extent necessary to avoid any material breach of any covenant to which Howard is bound.

"Junior Stock" means Howard common stock and any other class or series of its stock the terms of which expressly provide that it ranks junior to the Series AA Preferred Stock as to dividend and redemption rights and/or as to rights on Howard's liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Currently, Howard's common stock is the only class of stock outstanding that constitutes Junior Stock.

“Parity Stock” means any class or series of Howard stock, other than the Series AA Preferred Stock, the terms of which do not expressly provide that such class or series will rank senior or junior to the Series AA Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and/or as to rights upon Howard’s liquidation, dissolution or winding up, in each case without regard to whether dividends accrue cumulatively or non-cumulatively. Howard currently has no outstanding class or series of stock that constitutes Parity Stock.

The “Tier 1 Dividend Threshold” means 90% of \$23,536,000, which is Howard’s consolidated Tier 1 capital as of June 30, 2011, less the \$6.3 million in TARP preferred stock then outstanding and repaid on September 22, 2011, plus the \$12,562,000 in Series AA Preferred Stock issued and minus the net loan charge-offs by Howard Bank since September 22, 2011. The Tier 1 Dividend Threshold is subject to reduction, beginning on the first day of the 11th dividend period following the date of issuance of the Series AA Preferred Stock, by \$1,256,200 (10% of the aggregate liquidation amount of the Series AA Preferred Stock initially issued, without regard to any subsequent partial redemptions) for each 1% increase in QSBL from the Baseline level to the ninth dividend period.

Restrictions on Repurchases. So long as the Series AA Preferred Stock remains outstanding, Howard may repurchase or redeem shares of Capital Stock (as defined below) only if (i) after giving effect to such repurchase or redemption, its Tier 1 capital would be at least equal to the Tier 1 Dividend Threshold and (ii) dividends on all outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock for the most recently completed dividend period have been or are contemporaneously declared and paid (or have been declared and a sum sufficient for payment has been set aside for the benefit of the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock as of the applicable record date).

If a dividend is not declared and paid on the Series AA Preferred Stock for any dividend period, then from the last day of that dividend period until the last day of the third dividend period immediately following it, neither Howard nor any of its subsidiaries may redeem, purchase or acquire any shares of its common stock, Junior Stock, Parity Stock or other capital stock or other equity securities of any kind of Howard or of any of its subsidiaries, or any trust preferred securities issued by Howard or by any of its affiliates (“Capital Stock”), (other than (i) redemptions, purchases, repurchases or other acquisitions of the Series AA Preferred Stock, (ii) repurchases of common stock or other Junior Stock in connection with the administration of any employee benefit plan in the ordinary course of business (including purchases to offset any Share Dilution Amount (as defined below) pursuant to a publicly announced repurchase plan) and consistent with past practice; provided that any purchases to offset the Share Dilution Amount may not exceed the Share Dilution Amount, (iii) the acquisition by Howard or by any of its subsidiaries of record ownership in Junior Stock or Parity Stock for the beneficial ownership of any other persons (other than Howard or any of its subsidiaries), including as trustees or custodians, (iv) the exchange or conversion of Junior Stock for or into other Junior Stock or of Parity Stock or trust preferred securities for or into other Parity Stock (with the same or lesser aggregate liquidation amount) or Junior Stock, in each case solely to the extent required pursuant to binding agreements entered into prior to September 22, 2011 or any subsequent agreement for the accelerated exercise, settlement or exchange of these types of securities for Howard’s common stock, (v) redemptions of securities held by Howard or by any of its wholly owned subsidiaries, and (vi) redemptions, purchases or other acquisitions of capital stock or other equity securities of any kind of any of Howard’s subsidiaries required pursuant to binding agreements entered into prior to February 27, 2009, the date Howard issued its Series A and Series B Preferred Stock to Treasury pursuant to the TARP Capital Purchase Program.

“Share Dilution Amount” means the increase in the number of diluted shares outstanding (determined in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis, and as measured from December 31, 2010) resulting from the grant, vesting or exercise of equity-based compensation to employees and equitably adjusted for any stock split, stock dividend, reverse stock split, reclassification or similar transaction.

Further, at any time after September 22, 2021 when Howard is not required to file reports with the SEC or its primary banking regulator and no class of its securities is listed on a national securities exchange, then if any shares of the Series AA Preferred Stock remain outstanding, neither Howard nor its subsidiaries may, directly or indirectly, purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire for consideration any shares of Howard common stock or any Junior Stock or Parity Stock.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of a voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Howard, holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive for each share of Series AA Preferred Stock held, out of Howard's assets or proceeds thereof available for distribution to its stockholders, subject to any rights of its creditors, before any distribution of assets or proceeds is made to or set aside for the holders of its common stock and any other class or series of its stock ranking junior to the Series AA Preferred Stock, payment of an amount equal to the sum of (i) the \$1,000 liquidation preference amount per share and (ii) the amount of any accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock. To the extent the assets or proceeds thereof available for distribution to stockholders are not sufficient to fully pay the liquidation payments owing to the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock and the holders of any other class or series of Howard stock ranking equally with the Series AA Preferred Stock, the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock and such other stock will share ratably in any such distribution.

For purposes of the liquidation rights of the Series AA Preferred Stock, a merger or consolidation of Howard with another entity or the sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of its assets will not constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Howard.

Redemption and Repurchases

Subject to the approval of the FRB, the Series AA Preferred Stock is redeemable at Howard's option in whole or in part at any time and from time to time. In addition, if there is a change in the law that modifies the terms of Treasury's investment in the Series AA Preferred Stock or the terms of the SBLF program in a materially adverse respect for Howard, Howard may, after consultation with the FRB, redeem all of the shares of Series AA Preferred Stock. The per-share redemption price will be equal to the sum of the liquidation preference amount per share of \$1,000 plus the per-share amount of any unpaid dividends for the then current dividend period to, but excluding, the date of redemption (regardless of whether any dividends are actually declared for that dividend period).

To exercise the redemption right described above, Howard must give notice of the redemption to the holders of record of the Series AA Preferred Stock by first class mail, not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days before the date of redemption. The notice of redemption must state: (i) the redemption date; (ii) the number of shares of Series AA Preferred Stock to be redeemed and, if less than all the shares held by such holder are to be redeemed, the number of such shares to be redeemed from such holder; (iii) the redemption price; and (iv) the place or places where certificates for such shares are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price. In the case of a partial redemption of the Series AA Preferred Stock, the shares to be redeemed will be selected either pro rata or in such other manner as Howard's board of directors or a committee of the board determines to be fair and equitable, provided that shares representing at least 25% of the aggregate liquidation amount of the Series AA Preferred Stock are redeemed.

Shares of Series AA Preferred Stock that Howard redeems, repurchases or otherwise acquires will revert to authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock, which Howard may then reissue as any series of preferred stock other than the Series AA Preferred Stock.

No Conversion Rights

Holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock have no right to exchange or convert their shares into common stock or any other securities.

No Preemptive Rights

Holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock have no right to acquire additional shares of Howard's capital stock if it issues any shares of capital stock in the future.

Voting Rights

The holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock do not have voting rights other than those described below, except to the extent from time to time required by law.

If dividends on the Series AA Preferred Stock have not been declared and paid in full within five business days after each dividend payment date for an aggregate of five or more dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, Howard must invite a representative selected by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock, voting as a single class, to attend all meetings of its board of directors in a nonvoting observer capacity and give such representative copies of all notices, minutes, consents and other materials that Howard provides to its directors in connection with such meetings. The holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock are not obligated to select such a representative and such a representative, if selected, is not obligated to attend any meeting to which he or she is invited. This right of the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock will terminate when full dividends have been timely paid for at least four consecutive dividend periods, subject to revesting in the event Howard again fails to declare and pay dividends in full on the Series AA Preferred Stock for five or more dividend periods.

In addition to any other vote or consent required by law or by its charter, the written consent of (i) Treasury, if Treasury holds any shares of Series AA Preferred Stock, or (ii) the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series AA Preferred Stock, voting as a single class, if Treasury does not hold any shares of Series AA Preferred Stock, is required in order for Howard to do the following:

amend its articles of incorporation or the articles supplementary for the Series AA Preferred Stock to authorize or create or increase the authorized amount of, or any issuance of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of, any class or series of stock ranking senior to the Series AA Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and/or the distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Howard;

amend its articles of incorporation or the articles supplementary for the Series AA Preferred Stock in a way that materially and adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series AA Preferred Stock;

consummate a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series AA Preferred Stock or its merger or consolidation with another entity, unless (i) the shares of Series AA Preferred Stock remain outstanding or, in the case of a merger or consolidation in which Howard is not the surviving or resulting entity, are converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving or resulting entity or its ultimate parent, and (ii) the shares of Series AA Preferred Stock remaining outstanding or such preference securities, as the case may be, have such rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions, that are the same as the rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions, of the Series AA Preferred Stock immediately prior to consummation of the transaction, taken as a whole;

sell all, substantially all or any material portion of its assets, if the Series AA Preferred Stock will not be redeemed in full contemporaneously with the consummation of such sale; or

consummate a Holding Company Transaction (as defined below), unless as a result thereof each share of Series AA Preferred Stock will be converted into or exchanged for one share with an equal liquidation preference of preference securities of Howard or the acquiror (the "Holding Company Preferred Stock"). Any

such Holding Company Preferred Stock must entitle its holders to dividends from the date of issuance of such stock on terms that are equivalent to the terms of the Series AA Preferred Stock and have such other rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions, that are the same as the rights, preferences, privileges and voting powers, and limitations and restrictions, of the Series AA Preferred Stock immediately prior to such conversion or exchange, taken as a whole;

provided, however, that any increase in the amount of Howard's authorized shares of preferred stock or the creation and issuance, or an increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any other series of preferred stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any other series of preferred stock, ranking equally with and/or junior to the Series AA Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends, whether such dividends are cumulative or non-cumulative, and the distribution of assets upon Howard's liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will not be deemed to adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series AA Preferred Stock and will not require the vote or consent of the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock.

A “Holding Company Transaction” means the occurrence of (a) any transaction that results in a person or group (i) becoming the direct or indirect ultimate beneficial owner of common equity of Howard representing more than 50% of the voting power of the outstanding shares of its common stock or (ii) being otherwise required to consolidate Howard for GAAP purposes, or (b) any consolidation or merger of Howard or similar transaction or any sale, lease or other transfer in one transaction or a series of related transactions of all or substantially all of its consolidated assets to any person other than one of its subsidiaries; provided that, in the case of either clause (a) or (b), Howard or the acquiror is or becomes a bank holding company or savings and loan holding company.

To the extent holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, holders of shares of the Series AA Preferred Stock will be entitled to one for each share then held.

The voting provisions described above will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the vote or consent of the holders of the Series AA Preferred Stock would otherwise be required, all outstanding shares of the Series AA Preferred Stock have been redeemed by Howard or called for redemption upon proper notice and Howard has deposited in trust sufficient funds for the redemption.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for the common stock of Howard is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Anti-Takeover Provisions in Howard’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

General. A number of provisions of Howard’s articles of incorporation and bylaws deal with matters of corporate governance and certain rights of stockholders. The following discussion is a general summary of certain provisions of Howard’s articles and bylaws that might be deemed to have a potential “anti-takeover” effect. The following description of certain of the provisions of Howard’s articles and bylaws is necessarily general and reference should be made in each case to the articles and bylaws.

Classification of the Board of Directors. Howard’s articles of incorporation provide that it will have not less than five nor more than 25 directors, and its bylaws provide that the exact number shall be fixed by its board of directors and that the number of directors may be increased or decreased by the board of directors. Howard’s board of directors is currently composed of 12 directors.

Howard's directors are divided into three classes — Class I, Class II, and Class III — each class consisting of an equal number of directors, or as nearly equal as possible. Each director serves for a term ending on the date of the third annual meeting following the annual meeting at which such director was elected. A classified board of directors promotes continuity and stability of management, but makes it more difficult for Howard's stockholders to change a majority of the directors because it generally takes at least two annual elections of directors for this to occur. Howard believes that classification of the board of directors will help to assure the continuity and stability of its business strategies and policies as determined by its board of directors.

Extraordinary Transactions. Pursuant to the MGCL, a Maryland corporation generally cannot (except under and in compliance with specifically enumerated provisions of the MGCL) amend its charter, consolidate, merge, sell, lease or exchange all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange, or liquidate, dissolve or wind-up unless such acts are approved by the affirmative vote of holders of at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter, unless a lesser or greater percentage is set forth in the corporation's charter. Howard's articles of incorporation requires that such acts be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter unless, other than with respect to amendments to its articles of incorporation, the transaction is approved by a majority of its board of directors.

Amendment of Articles of Incorporation. In general, other than with respect to increasing or decreasing the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class that Howard has the authority to issue, the current provisions of Howard's articles of incorporation may be amended only upon the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

Amendment of Bylaws. Howard's bylaws may be amended only by its board of directors. Stockholders have no authority to amend Howard's bylaws.

Removal of Directors. Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that a director may only be removed by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors. In addition, the MGCL provides that if a corporation's directors are divided into classes, a director may only be removed for cause.

No Dissenters' Rights. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that its stockholders and other security holders are not entitled to exercise any rights of an objecting stockholder under the MGCL unless otherwise determined by its board of directors.

Procedures for Stockholder Nominations and Proposals. Howard's bylaws provide that any stockholder desiring to make a nomination for the election of directors or a proposal for new business at an annual meeting of stockholders must submit written notice to its secretary not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days before the anniversary of the mailing date of the proxy materials in connection with its prior year's annual meeting, unless Howard provides prior public disclosure, as defined in its bylaws, of less than 100 days of such annual meeting, in which case such notice must be received not later than the tenth day following the day on which it first makes such public disclosure of the date of the meeting. With respect to an election to be held at a special meeting of stockholders, notice of nominees for director must be received no later than the tenth day following the day on which prior public disclosure of the date of the special meeting is first made.

A stockholder's notice to the secretary must set forth as to each matter such stockholder proposes to bring before the annual meeting (i) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the annual meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the annual meeting, (ii) the name and address, as they appear on Howard's books, of the stockholder proposing such business and, to the extent known, any other stockholders known by such stockholder to be supporting such proposal, (iii) the class and number of shares of Howard capital stock that are beneficially owned by such stockholder on the date of such stockholder notice and, to the extent known, by any other stockholders known by such stockholder to be supporting such proposal on the date of such stockholder notice, (iv) the identification of any person retained or to be compensated by the stockholder submitting the proposal, or any person acting on his or her behalf, to make solicitations or recommendations to stockholders for the purpose of assisting in the passage of such proposal and a brief description of the terms of such employment, retainer or arrangement for compensation, and (v) any material interest of the stockholder in such business.

A stockholder's notice with respect to the nomination of a director candidate must set forth: (a) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or re-election as a director and as to the stockholder giving the notice (i) the name, age, business address and residence address of the person (and as the address appears on Howard's books, if different), (ii) the principal occupation or employment of the person, (iii) the class and number of shares of Howard's stock that are beneficially owned by the person on the date of such stockholder notice, and (iv) any

other information relating to the person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors pursuant to the proxy rules under the Exchange Act or any successor rule thereto (to the extent such rules are applicable to Howard); (b) as to any person known by the stockholder giving the notice to be supporting any such nominee (i) the name and address, as they appear on Howard's books, of such persons and (ii) the class and number of shares of Howard's stock that are beneficially owned by such persons; (c) a representation that the stockholder giving the notice intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice; (d) a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder giving the notice and each nominee and any arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the stockholder; and (e) the consent of each nominee to serve as a director if so elected.

Nominations and proposals that fail to follow the prescribed procedures will not be considered. Howard believes that it is in its and its stockholders' best interests to provide sufficient time to enable management to disclose to stockholders information about a dissident slate of nominations for directors or proposals for new business. This advance notice requirement also may give management time to solicit its own proxies in an attempt to defeat any dissident slate of nominations should management determine that doing so is in the best interest of stockholders generally. Similarly, adequate advance notice of stockholder proposals will give management time to study such proposals and to determine whether to recommend to the stockholders that such proposals be adopted.

Absence of Cumulative Voting. There is no cumulative voting in the election of Howard's directors. Cumulative voting means that holders of stock of a corporation are entitled, in the election of directors, to cast a number of votes equal to the number of shares that they own multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. Because a stockholder entitled to cumulative voting may cast all of his, her or its votes for one nominee or disperse his, her or its votes among nominees as the stockholder chooses, cumulative voting is generally considered to increase the ability of minority stockholders to elect nominees to a corporation's board of directors. The absence of cumulative voting means that the holders of a majority of Howard's shares can elect all of the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any directors.

Authorized Shares. As indicated above, Howard's articles of incorporation currently authorize the issuance of 10,000,000 shares of common stock and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, and its articles of incorporation authorize a majority of its entire board of directors, without stockholder approval, to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of its stock or the number of shares of stock of any class that Howard has authority to issue. The authorization of shares of common stock and preferred stock in excess of the amount issued, and the authority of a majority of the board of directors to increase Howard's authorized capital stock or any class thereof without stockholder approval, provides its board of directors with flexibility to effect, among other transactions, financings, acquisitions, stock dividends, stock splits and stock options or other stock-based compensation. The unissued authorized shares also may be used by Howard's board of directors consistent with its fiduciary duty to deter future attempts to gain control of Howard. Also, as indicated above, Howard's board of directors' right to set the terms of one or more series of preferred stock has anti-takeover effects.

Anti-Takeover Provisions in the MGCL

In addition to the provisions contained in Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws, the MGCL includes certain provisions applicable to Maryland corporations that may have an anti-takeover effect, including, but not limited to, the provisions discussed below.

Business Combinations. Under the MGCL, certain "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and an "Interested Stockholder" (as described in the MGCL) are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the Interested Stockholder became an Interested Stockholder, unless an exemption is available. Thereafter a business combination must be recommended by the board of directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least (i) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares of the corporation and (ii) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares of the corporation other than shares held by the Interested Stockholder with whom the business combination is to be effected, unless the corporation's stockholders receive a minimum price (as described in the MGCL) for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form as previously paid by the Interested Stockholder for its shares.

Maryland's business combination statute does not apply to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors prior to the time that the Interested Stockholder becomes an Interested Stockholder. In addition, Maryland's business combination statute does not apply to a corporation that "opts out" of the business combination statute through a charter provision. Howard has not elected to "opt out" of Maryland's business combination statute through a charter provision.

Control Share Acquisitions. The MGCL provides that holders of "control shares" of a Maryland corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" have no voting rights with respect to the "control shares" except to the extent approved by a vote of holders of two-thirds of the shares entitled to be voted on the matter, excluding shares of stock owned by the acquirer or by officers or directors who are employees of the corporation. "Control shares" are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other such shares of stock previously acquired by the acquirer, or in respect of which the acquirer is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy, would entitle the acquirer to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power: (i) one-tenth or more but less than one-third; (ii) one-third or more but less than a majority; or (iii) a majority of all voting power. Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A "control share acquisition" means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of certain conditions (including an undertaking to pay expenses and delivery of an “acquiring person statement”), may compel the corporation’s board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders’ meeting.

Unless the corporation’s charter or bylaws provide otherwise, if voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement within ten days following a control share acquisition then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, the corporation may redeem any or all of the control shares (except those for which voting rights have previously been approved) for fair value determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of such shares are considered and not approved. Moreover, unless the charter or bylaws provides otherwise, if voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders’ meeting and the acquirer becomes entitled to exercise or direct the exercise of a majority or more of all voting power, other stockholders may exercise dissenters’ rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such dissenters’ rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquirer in the control share acquisition.

Maryland’s control share acquisition statute does not apply to individuals or transactions that are approved or exempted (whether generally or specifically) in a charter or bylaw provision before the control share acquisition occurs. Howard has not approved or exempted any individuals or transactions through a charter or bylaw provision.

Effect of Anti-Takeover Provisions

The foregoing provisions of the articles of incorporation and bylaws and Maryland law could have the effect of discouraging an acquisition of Howard or stock purchases in furtherance of an acquisition, and could accordingly, under certain circumstances, discourage transactions that might otherwise have a favorable effect on the price of Howard’s common stock. In addition, such provisions may make Howard less attractive to a potential acquiror and/or might result in stockholders receiving a lesser amount of consideration for their shares of common stock than otherwise could have been available.

Howard’s board of directors believes that the provisions described above are prudent and will reduce Howard’s vulnerability to takeover attempts and certain other transactions that are not negotiated with and approved by its board of directors. Howard’s board of directors believes that these provisions are in Howard’s best interests and the best interests of its stockholders. In the board of directors’ judgment, the board of directors is in the best position to determine Howard’s true value and to negotiate more effectively for what may be in the best interests of Howard’s stockholders. Accordingly, the board of directors believes that it is in Howard’s best interests and in the best interests of Howard’s stockholders to encourage potential acquirors to negotiate directly with the board of directors and that these provisions will encourage such negotiations and discourage hostile takeover attempts.

Despite the board of directors' belief as to the benefits to Howard of the foregoing provisions, these provisions also may have the effect of discouraging a future takeover attempt in which stockholders might receive a substantial premium for their shares over then current market prices and may tend to perpetuate existing management. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction may not have an opportunity to do so. Howard's board of directors, however, believes that the potential benefits of these provisions outweigh their possible disadvantages.

COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDER RIGHTS

Upon completion of the merger, stockholders of Patapsco will become stockholders of Howard. Accordingly, their rights as stockholders will be governed by Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws, as well as by the MGCL. Certain differences in the rights of stockholders arise from differences between Howard's and Patapsco's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

The following is a summary of material differences in the rights of Howard stockholders and Patapsco stockholders. This discussion is not a complete statement of all differences affecting the rights of stockholders. We qualify this discussion in its entirety by reference to the MGCL and the respective articles of incorporation and bylaws of Howard and Patapsco.

Capitalization

Patapsco. The authorized capital stock of Patapsco consists of:

- 4,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share; and
- 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share.

Howard. The authorized capital stock of Howard consists of:

- 10,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share; and
- 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share.

Howard's articles of incorporation authorize its board of directors, without the consent of its stockholders, to amend the articles of incorporation to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class that Howard has the authority to issue. Patapsco's articles of incorporation does not contain this provision.

Voting Rights Generally

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that holders of its common stock are entitled to one vote per share. Holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

Patapsco's articles of incorporation require the approval of the holders of (i) at least 80% of Patapsco's outstanding shares of voting stock, and (ii) at least a majority of Patapsco's outstanding shares of voting stock, not including shares deemed beneficially owned by a "related person," to approve certain "business combinations" as defined therein, and related transactions. Under Maryland law, absent this provision, business combinations, including mergers, consolidations and sales of substantially all of the assets of Patapsco must, subject to certain exceptions, be approved by the vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the common stock. The increased voting requirements in Patapsco's articles of incorporation apply in connection with business combinations involving a "related person," except in cases where the proposed transaction has been approved in advance by two-thirds of those members of Patapsco's board of directors who are unaffiliated with the related person and who were directors prior to the time when the related person became a related person (the "continuing directors"). The term "related person" is defined to include any individual, corporation, partnership or other entity or affiliate thereof which owns beneficially or controls, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the outstanding shares of voting stock of Patapsco. A "business combination" is defined to include: (i) any merger, consolidation or share exchange of Patapsco with or into a related person; (ii) any sale, lease exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer, or other disposition of all or a substantial part of the assets of Patapsco or of a subsidiary to a related person (the term "substantial part" is defined to include more than 25% of Patapsco's total assets); (iii) any merger, consolidation or share exchange of a related person with or into Patapsco or a subsidiary of Patapsco; (iv) any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge transfer or other disposition of all or any substantial part of the assets of a related person to Patapsco or a subsidiary of Patapsco; (v) the issuance of any securities of Patapsco or a subsidiary of Patapsco to a related person; (vi) the acquisition by Patapsco or a subsidiary of Patapsco of any securities of the related person; (vii) any reclassification of the common stock, or any recapitalization involving the common stock; and (viii) any agreement, contract or other arrangement providing for any of the above transactions.

Patapsco's articles of incorporation also provide that if any person acquires more than 10% of any class of its equity securities without the prior approval of two-thirds of the directors not affiliated with such person and that was a member of the board prior to the time such person acquired more than 10% of the equity securities, then with respect to each vote in excess of 10%, such person is entitled to cast only one-hundredth of the vote to which the holder would otherwise be entitled.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that holders of its common stock have the right to one vote for each share of common stock held. Holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights.

Howard's articles of incorporation provide that certain transactions, including: (i) a merger or consolidation of Howard or any of its subsidiaries; (ii) the sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition (in a single transaction or a series of transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of Howard or any of its subsidiaries; (iii) any offer for the exchange of securities of another entity for the securities of Howard (including, without limitation, a statutory share exchange); and (iv) the dissolution or liquidation of Howard, must be approved by the holders of at least 80% of its shares of capital stock entitled to vote on the matter, unless approved by a majority vote of the entire board of directors.

Evaluation of Business Combinations

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that, when considering a business combination as defined therein, or evaluating a tender or exchange offer, its board of directors, in addition to considering the adequacy of the amount to be paid in connection with any such transaction, may consider any factors it deems relevant including specifically: (i) the social and economic effects of the transaction on Patapsco and its subsidiaries, employees, depositors, loan and other customers, creditors and other elements of the communities in which Patapsco and its subsidiaries operate or are located; (ii) the business, financial condition and earnings prospects of the acquiring person or entity including, but not limited to, debt service and other financial obligations to be incurred in connection with the transaction, and other likely financial obligations of the acquiring person or entity, and the possible effect of such condition on Patapsco and its subsidiaries and the other elements of the communities in which it and its subsidiaries operate or are located; and (iii) the competence, experience and integrity of the acquiring person or entity and its or their management. The articles of incorporation define a business combination to include mergers, consolidations, share exchanges, the sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or similar disposition of a substantial part of Patapsco's assets and the reclassification or reorganization of its securities.

Howard. Neither Howard's articles of incorporation or bylaws contain any similar provisions regarding the evaluation of business combination transactions.

Board of Directors

The MGCL provides that a Maryland corporation's board of directors must consist of at least one director.

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that the number of directors will be no less than five and no more than 11, not including any directors elected by the holders of Patapsco's preferred stock voting separately as a class. The articles and bylaws together provide the board with the power to set the number of directors within those limits by a vote of at least two-thirds of the directors then in office. The directors are divided into three classes, as even in number as possible, with the terms of the classes scheduled to expire in successive years. At each annual meeting, Patapsco's stockholders elect the members of a single class of directors who are elected to three-year terms. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Patapsco currently has five directors.

Under Patapsco's bylaws, no person who has attained the age of 72 years may be eligible for election, reelection, appointment or reappointment to its board of directors.

Under the articles of incorporation, the board has the authority to fill vacancies that occur on the board, including vacancies caused by an increase in the number of directors, subject to the rights of holders of any class of preferred stock then outstanding.

Under Patapsco's articles of incorporation, its stockholders may remove a director only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of its capital stock entitled to vote in the election of directors, other than as provided with respect to directors elected by holders of Patapsco's preferred stock.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that the number of its directors shall be not less than five or more than 25, with the board having the power to set the number of directors within those limits. Pursuant to the bylaws, the directors are divided into three classes, as even in number as possible, with the terms of the classes scheduled to expire in successive years. At each annual meeting, Howard's stockholders elect the members of a single class of directors who are elected to three-year terms. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Howard currently has 12 directors.

Under Howard's bylaws, its board of directors has the authority to fill vacancies that occur on the board, including vacancies caused by an increase in the number of directors.

Pursuant to Howard's articles of incorporation, directors may be removed only by the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of the shares entitled to vote on the matter. Under the MGCL, since the board is divided into classes, directors may only be removed for cause.

Howard has adopted corporate governance guidelines that provide that no person who has reached the age of 72 may be elected a director for either an initial or renewal term, but may continue to serve through the conclusion of his or her current term.

Nominations of Directors; Proposal of New Business at Stockholder Meetings

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that any stockholder desiring to make a nomination for the election of directors or a proposal for new business at a meeting of stockholders must submit written notice to the Secretary of Patapsco not less than 30 or more than 60 days in advance of the meeting. However, if Patapsco gives less than 40 days' notice of the meeting, written notice of the stockholder proposal or nomination must be delivered to the Secretary within ten days of the date notice of the meeting was mailed to stockholders. Nominations must contain certain information regarding the identity and background of the proposed nominee, and proposals for other business must provide a brief description of the business to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting, and certain information about the proposing stockholder. The articles of incorporation further provide that if a stockholder seeking to make a nomination or a proposal for new business fails to follow the prescribed procedures, the chairman of the meeting may disregard the defective nomination or proposal.

Howard. Howard's bylaws provide that the board of directors, any nominating committee or person appointed by the board, or any stockholder entitled to vote for the election of directors may make nominations for the election of directors, and that business may be brought before a meeting of stockholders by or under the director of the board or by a stockholder.

Stockholders of Howard must make their nominations for director in writing to the attention of the Secretary of Howard. Nominations with respect to or proposals for business to be brought before an annual meeting of stockholders must be submitted not less than 90 nor more than 120 days before the anniversary date of the mailing of proxy materials in connection with the prior year's annual meeting of stockholders, unless less than 100 days' prior public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting is made, in which case nominations must be received by the tenth day following such public disclosure of the meeting date. Nominations for special meetings must be received by the tenth day following public disclosure of the date of the special meeting. Nominations must contain certain information regarding the identity and background of the proposed nominee, and notices of proposed business must include a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the annual meeting, the reasons for conducting such business, and certain information about the stockholder proposing such business.

The bylaws further provide that if a stockholder seeking to make a nomination or a proposal for new business is not made in accordance with the prescribed procedures, the nomination or proposal will be disregarded.

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that specified provisions contained in the articles of incorporation may not be repealed or amended except upon the affirmative vote of holders of not less than 80% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco's stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, unless the repeal or amendment is first approved by a majority of the board of directors, in which case approval of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote in the election of directors is required. Absent these provisions, any amendment of the articles of incorporation would require a vote of holders of two-thirds vote of the outstanding stock under Maryland law.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that specified provisions contained in the articles of incorporation may not be repealed or amended except upon the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of the outstanding shares of Howard's capital stock entitled to vote thereon.

Amendments to Bylaws

Patapsco. Patapsco's board of directors may adopt, amend and repeal the bylaws by a vote of two-thirds of the board. Stockholders may adopt, amend and repeal the bylaws by a vote of holders of not less than 80% of the outstanding shares of Patapsco's capital stock entitled to vote in the election of directors.

Howard. Only Howard's board of directors has the power to amend or repeal its bylaws. Amendments to specified provisions of the bylaws require two-thirds of the entire board to approve, otherwise a majority of the entire board of directors can amend the bylaws. Stockholders do not have the right to amend or repeal the bylaws.

Limited Liability

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that its officers and directors are not liable to Patapsco or its stockholders for money damages except:

To the extent that it is proved that the person actually received an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services for the amount of the benefit or profit in money, property or services actually received;

To the extent that a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to the person is entered in a proceeding based on a finding in the proceeding that the person's action, or failure to act, was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and was material to the cause of action adjudicated in the proceeding; or

To the extent otherwise required by Maryland law.

These provisions are consistent with Maryland law.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that no director or officer of Howard shall be personally liable to Howard or its stockholder for money damages to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law.

Indemnification

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that it will indemnify its officers, directors, employees and agents and any person who at its request served as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, other enterprise or employee benefit plan to the full extent permissible under the MGCL.

The MGCL provides that a Maryland corporation may not indemnify a director if it is established that:

The act or omission of the director was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

The director actually received an improper benefit in money, property or services;

In the case of any criminal proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful; or

In the case of a proceeding by or in the right of the company, the director is adjudged to be liable to the company, unless the court in which the suit was brought determines that indemnification is nevertheless proper, in which case indemnification is limited to expenses.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that it will indemnify its officers and directors, whether serving Howard or another entity at its request, to the full extent required or permitted by Maryland law, and may indemnify employees and other agents to the extent authorized by its board of directors.

Special Stockholders' Meetings

Patapsco. Special meetings of Patapsco's stockholders may be called at any time by the Chairman of its board of directors, its President, its board of directors, a committee of the board designated by the board, or by holders of not less than 25% of all of the outstanding shares of Patapsco entitled to vote on the matter for which the meeting is called. Unless requested by stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all votes entitled to be cast at the meeting, a special meeting may not be called to consider any matter that is substantially the same as a matter voted on at any special meeting of the stockholders held during the preceding 12 months.

Howard. Special meetings of Howard's stockholders may be called at any time by its Chairman of the board of directors, its President or two-thirds of the members of its board of directors, and shall be called by its Chairman, its President, its Secretary or any director upon the request in writing of holders of at least 50% of all the shares of Howard issued and outstanding and entitled to vote on the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Preemptive Rights

Patapsco. Patapsco's articles of incorporation provide that no holder of any of its shares or options, warrants or other rights to purchase its shares or other securities shall have preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for any unissued stock, bonds, debentures or other securities of Patapsco.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that no holder of its stock or other securities shall have any preemptive rights other than as determined by its board of directors.

Dissenters' Rights

Patapsco. The dissenters' rights of Patapsco stockholders are governed by the MGCL, which, as described in more detail under "The Merger Agreement and the Merger – Dissenters' Rights," provides that stockholders are generally entitled to dissent from, and demand payment of the fair value of their shares in connection with, a merger, consolidation, share exchange, asset transfer, business combinations or charter amendment that substantially adversely alters the stockholder's rights.

Howard. Howard's articles of incorporation provide that stockholders are not entitled to exercise dissenters' rights other than as the board of directors may determine.

INFORMATION ABOUT HOWARD BANCORP, INC.

AND HOWARD BANK

In this section, references to the "Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer to Howard Bancorp, Inc. and its subsidiaries collectively, unless the context requires otherwise, and references to the "Bank" refer to Howard Bank.

Business of Howard Bancorp, Inc.

Howard Bancorp, Inc. was incorporated in April 2005 under the laws of the State of Maryland and is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956. On May 18, 2005, the stockholders of Howard Bank approved the reorganization of Howard Bank into a holding company structure. The reorganization became effective on December 15, 2005. In connection with the reorganization, (i) Howard Bank became our wholly-owned subsidiary, (ii) each outstanding share (or fraction thereof) of Howard Bank common stock was converted into two shares (or fraction thereof) of our common stock, and the former holders of Howard Bank common stock became the holders of all our outstanding shares, and (iii) warrants and options to purchase shares of Howard Bank common stock became options and warrants to purchase Howard stock and were adjusted to reflect the exchange of two shares of our common stock for each share of the Bank's common stock.

We completed our initial public offering in July 2012, issuing 1,150,891 shares of our common stock. Simultaneously with our initial public offering we completed a private placement pursuant to which we sold 568,603 shares of our common stock.

On June 2, 2015, pursuant to agreements between the Company and several institutional investors dated as of March 2, 2015, we issued an aggregate of 2,173,913 shares of our common stock for a purchase price of \$11.50 per share, or an aggregate of \$25 million, to such institutional investors.

The Company's primary business is owning all of the capital stock of Howard Bank. In addition to regulation of the Bank, as a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, we are subject to regulation and review by the Federal Reserve. See “– Supervision and Regulation.”

Business of Howard Bank

Howard Bank is a trust company chartered under Subtitle 2 of Title 3 of the Financial Institutions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Bank was formed in March 2004 and commenced banking operations on August 9, 2004. Howard Bank has chosen, for the time being, not to seek and exercise trust powers, and our business, powers and regulatory structure are the same as a Maryland-chartered commercial bank. The Bank is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the Maryland Commissioner and the FDIC and our deposits are insured by the FDIC. The Bank has four operating subsidiaries, three of which hold foreclosed real estate and the other of which owns and manages real estate that we use for one of our branch locations and that also contains office and retail space.

Howard Bank is headquartered in Ellicott City, which is located in Howard County, Maryland. The Bank has branches in Howard County as well as in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Cecil County, and Harford County in Maryland as well as one branch in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We engage in a general commercial banking business, making various types of loans and accepting deposits. We have traditionally marketed our financial services to small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals (the “mass affluent”), and have recently expanded to meet the financial needs of consumers generally.

Our core business strategy involves delivering advice and superior customer service to clients through local decision makers. We combine the Bank's specialized focus on both local markets and small and medium-sized business related market segments with a broad array of products, new technology and seasoned banking professionals to position the Bank differently from most competitors. Our experienced executives establish a relationship with each client and bring value to all phases of a client's business and personal banking needs. To develop this strategy, we have established long-standing relationships with key customers in the community and with local business leaders who can create business opportunities.

Our primary source of revenue is net interest income, with fees generated by lending, mortgage banking and depository service charges constituting a smaller, but growing, percentage of revenues. We have positioned the balance sheet to hold a high percentage of earning assets and, in turn, to have those earning assets dominated by loans rather than investment securities. Generally speaking, loans earn more attractive returns than investments and are a key source of product cross sales and customer referrals. Certain economic conditions may favor investments over loans, such as poor corporate earnings, downturns in real estate cycles and other general slowing economic conditions. At all times, our loan and investment strategies seek to balance the need to maintain adequate liquidity via excess cash or federal funds sold with opportunities to appropriately leverage our capital.

Our strategic plan focuses on enhancing stockholder value through market share growth as reflected in balance sheet growth, related revenue growth and resulting growth in operating profits. We continue to expand our branch locations both through opening new branches and acquiring branch offices via acquisition. In 2014 we opened a de novo branch in Bel Air, Maryland, acquired a branch in Havre de Grace, Maryland, and added five new locations with our FDIC-assisted acquisition of NBRFS Financial Bank. In addition to the branches we expect to acquire in the Patapsco merger, we plan to open additional branches in the counties where we now operate and contiguous counties over the next several years, however, other than a new location in Columbia, Maryland that we expect will open in 2016 and the pending Patapsco merger, we currently have no definitive plans or agreements in place with respect to any other additional branches. Our long-term vision includes supplementing our historically organic growth with strategically significant acquisitions. We believe that acquiring other financial institutions - in whole or in part (through business line spin-offs, branch sales or the hiring of teams of individuals) will allow us to expand our market, achieve certain operating efficiencies, and grow our stockholder base and thus our share value and liquidity. We believe that our demonstrated expertise in commercial lending, deposit gathering (especially non-interest bearing transactional deposits) and community leadership positions us as an attractive acquirer. We also anticipate that increasing our capital levels will give us the ability to continue our organic asset growth and expand our relationships with key clients through a larger legal lending limit.

Our Market Area

Our headquarters are located in Ellicott City, Maryland, and we consider our primary market area to be the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan Area in Maryland. We also have loans in our loan portfolio that are outside our market area, although to grow our loan portfolio we do not actively solicit business outside our primary market.

We have 12 full services branches, located throughout Howard County, Annapolis, Towson, Harford County, Cecil County and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

HOWARD COUNTY

Snowden River

6011 University Blvd.
Suite 150
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Maple Lawn

10985 Johns Hopkins Rd.
Laurel, MD 20723

Centennial Place

10161 Baltimore National Pk.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Defense Highway

116 Defense Hwy.
Annapolis, MD 21401

BALIMORE COUNTY

Towson

22 W Pennsylvania Ave.

Towson, MD 21204

HARFORD COUNTY

Aberdeen

3 West Bel Air Ave.
Aberdeen, MD 21001

Bel Air

101 N. Main St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

Havre de Grace

800 Revolution St.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Dublin

3535 Conowingo Rd.
Street, MD 21154

CECIL COUNTY

Rising Sun

6 Pearl St.
Rising Sun, MD 21911

Elkton

305 Augustine Herman Hwy.
Elkton, MD 21921

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

Penn Hill

2006 Lancaster Pike

Peach Bottom, PA 17563

Competitive Position

We believe that our position as a community bank with nearly \$700 million in assets positions us well to navigate the current economic environment, ongoing market consolidation and heightened regulatory environment. Our formation in 2003 and 2004 has positioned us to take advantage of the ability to outsource certain activities (internal audit, compliance review, information security monitoring) and to source new products and services (check imaging, online banking) in a highly efficient manner and thus avoid the risk of impairment of operating earnings faced by some older small banks who, we believe, are locked into legacy systems and are finding the onslaught of new regulations challenging. Strategic partnerships for these outsourced activities include contractual relationships with some of the largest and strongest providers of item processing, data processing, information monitoring and payments systems alternatives. We believe that this provides the Bank with the best of technology and product selection without sacrificing the more intimate delivery advantages of a community bank. We believe the current economic and regulatory environment will lead to greater consolidation among financial institutions, including community banks. Some of that consolidation will occur with larger banks, thus exacerbating the scarcity of banks able to underwrite traditionally and offer advice in interactions with customers as we do, which we believe gives us a wider window of opportunity to extend our brand and value proposition. We believe, however, that to the extent some of that consolidation occurs between and among smaller banks, the resulting combined institutions will be better positioned to differentiate themselves.

We believe that our “Hands On” approach to delivering small and medium-sized businesses a very broad and deep array of competitive credit and cash management services through a term of experienced advisors and providing them with access to local policy and decision makers fills a “white space” between the sophisticated but distracted large banks whose best personnel work with the largest companies and the small banks who are very responsive but less capable of being proactive in providing advice. Relationship managers, team leaders and executive management at the Bank generally have decades of banking experiences and are well established in the communities that they serve. They are able to interface with clients directly to share that experience and to provide connections with their own network of other specialized advisors. We believe we also benefit from our committed leadership at both the executive management and board level who bring a broad array of skills and experiences to our company and are able to position the Bank for consistent profitable growth.

Lending Activities

General. Our primary market focus is on making loans to and gathering deposits from small and medium size businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals in our primary market area. Our loans are made to customers primarily in the Greater Baltimore market. Our lending activities consist generally of short to medium term commercial lending, commercial mortgage lending for both owner occupied and investor properties, residential mortgage lending and consumer lending, both secured and unsecured. A substantial portion of our loan portfolio consists of loans to businesses secured by real estate and/or other business assets.

Credit Policies and Administration. We have adopted a comprehensive lending policy, which includes stringent underwriting standards for all types of loans. Our lending teams follow pricing guidelines established periodically by our management team. In an effort to manage risk, only small lending authority is given to individual loan officers. Most loan officers can approve loans of up to \$50,000. Regional Executives and the Chief Credit Officer can approve loans up to \$250,000 and our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Loan Officer can approve loans of up to \$500,000, or \$1,000,000 combined. Loans above these amounts but less than \$2 million must be reviewed and approved by an officers' loan committee. All credit decisions in excess of the officers' loan committee lending authority must be approved prior to funding by our board loan committee. Under the leadership of our executive management team, we believe that we employ experienced lending officers, secure appropriate collateral and carefully monitor the financial conditions of our borrowers and the concentration of loans in our portfolio.

In addition to the normal repayment risks, all loans in the portfolio are subject to the state of the economy and the related effects on the borrower and/or the real estate market. Generally, longer-term loans have periodic interest rate adjustments and/or call provisions. Senior management monitors the loan portfolio closely to ensure that we minimize past due loans and that we swiftly deal with potential problem loans.

Howard Bank also retains an outside, independent firm to review the loan portfolio. This firm performs a detailed annual review. We use the results of the firm's report primarily to validate the risk ratings applied to loans in the portfolio and identify any systemic weaknesses in underwriting, documentation or management of the portfolio. Results of the annual review are presented to executive management, the Audit Committee of the board and the full board of directors and are available to and used by regulatory examiners when they review the Bank's asset quality. We currently use the firm of Clifton Larsen Allen to perform this review.

The Bank maintains the normal checks and balances on the loan portfolio not only through the underwriting process but through the utilization of an internal credit administration group that both assists in the underwriting and serves as an additional reviewer of underwriting. The separately-managed loan administration group also has oversight for documentation, compliance and timeliness of collection activities. Our outsourced internal audit firm also reviews documentation, compliance and file management.

Commercial Lending. Our commercial lending consists of lines of credit, revolving credit facilities, accounts receivable and inventory financing, term loans, equipment loans, small business administration (SBA) loans, stand-by letters of credit and unsecured loans. We originate commercial loans for any business purpose, including the financing of leasehold improvements and equipment, the carrying of accounts receivable, general working capital, contract administration and acquisition activities. These loans typically have maturities of seven years or less. We have a diverse client base and we do not have a concentration of these types of loans in any specific industry segment. We generally secure commercial business loans with accounts receivable and inventory, equipment, indemnity deeds of trust and other collateral such as marketable securities, cash value of life insurance, and time deposits at Howard Bank. Commercial business loans have a higher degree of risk than residential mortgage loans because the availability of funds for repayment generally depends on the success of the business. To help manage this risk, we establish parameters/ covenants at the inception of the loan to provide early warning systems before payment default. We normally seek to obtain appropriate collateral and personal guarantees from the borrower's principal owners. We are able, given our business model, to proactively monitor the financial condition of the business.

Commercial Mortgage Lending. We finance commercial real estate for our clients, for both owner-occupied properties and investor properties (including residential properties). We generally will finance owner occupied commercial real estate at a maximum loan-to-value of 85% and non-owner occupied at a maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Our underwriting policies and processes focus on the underlying credit of the owner for owner occupied real estate and on the rental income stream (including rent terms and strength of tenants) for non-owner occupied real estate as well as an assessment of the underlying real estate. Risks inherent in managing a commercial real estate portfolio relate to vacancy rates/ absorption rates for surrounding properties, sudden or gradual drops in property values as well as changes in the economic climate. We attempt to mitigate these risks by carefully underwriting loans of this type as well as by following appropriate loan-to-value standards. We are cash flow lenders and never rely solely on property valuations in reaching a lending decision. Personal guarantees are often required for commercial real estate loans as they are for other commercial loans. Most of our real estate loans carry fixed interest rates, amortize over 20 – 25 years but have five- to seven-year maturities. Properties securing our commercial real estate loans primarily include office buildings, office condominiums, distribution facilities and manufacturing plants. Substantially all of our commercial real estate loans are secured by properties located in our market area.

Commercial real estate loans generally carry higher interest rates and have shorter terms than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. Commercial real estate loans, however, entail significant additional risks as compared with residential mortgage lending, as they typically involve larger loan balances concentrated with single borrowers or groups of related borrowers. In addition, the payment of loans secured by income-producing properties typically depends on the successful operation of the property, as repayment of the loan generally is dependent, in large part, on sufficient income from the property to cover operating expenses and debt service. Changes in economic conditions that are not in the control of the borrower or lender could affect the value of the collateral for the loan or the future cash flow of the property. Additionally, any decline in real estate values may be more pronounced for commercial real estate than residential properties.

Construction Lending. Construction lending can cover funding for land acquisition, land development and/or construction of residential or commercial structures. Our construction loans generally bear a variable rate of interest and have terms of one to two years. Funds are advanced on a percentage-of-completion basis. These loans are generally repaid at the end of the development or construction phase, although loans for commercial construction will often convert into a permanent commercial mortgage loans at the end of the term of the loan. Loan to value parameters range from 65% of the value of land to 75% for developed land, 80% for commercial or multifamily construction and 85% for residential construction. These loan-to-value ratios represent the upper limit of advance rates to remain in compliance with Bank policy. Typically, loan-to-value ratios should be somewhat lower than these upper limits, requiring the borrower to provide significant equity at the inception of the loan. Our underwriting looks not only at the value of the property but the expected cash flows to be generated by sale of the parcels or completed construction. The borrower must have solid experience in this type of construction and personal guarantees are usually required.

Construction lending entails significant risks compared with residential mortgage lending. These risks involve larger loan balances concentrated with single borrowers with funds advanced upon the security of the land or the project under construction. The value of the project is estimated prior to the completion of construction. Thus, it is more difficult to evaluate accurately the total loan funds required to complete a project and related loan to value ratios. If the estimate of construction or development cost proves to be inaccurate, we may be required to advance additional funds beyond the amount originally committed in order to protect the value of the property. Moreover, if the estimated value of the completed project proves to be inaccurate, the borrower may hold a property with a value that is insufficient to assure full repayment. To mitigate these risks, in addition to the underwriting considerations noted above, we maintain an in-house construction monitoring unit that has oversight for the projects and we require both site visits and frequent reporting before funds are advanced.

Residential Mortgage Lending. We offer a variety of consumer-oriented residential real estate loans. Residential mortgage loans consist primarily of first mortgage loans to individuals, most of which have a loan to value not exceeding 85%. The remainder of this portion of our portfolio consists of home equity lines of credit and fixed rate home equity loans.

Our residential mortgage loans are generally for owner-occupied single family homes. These loans are generally for a primary residence although we will occasionally originate loans for a second home where the borrower has extremely strong credit. Our residential mortgage loans are generally fixed rate loans with 15- or 30-year terms. We will also originate variable rate loans with a five- to seven-year term, although such loans have a longer amortization schedule.

Our home equity loans and home equity lines of credit are primarily secured by a second mortgage on owner occupied one-to four-family residences. Our home equity loans are originated at fixed interest rates and with terms of between five and 30 years for primary residences and between five and 15 years for secondary and rental properties, and are fully amortizing. Our home equity lines allow for the borrower to draw against the line for ten years, after which the line is refinanced into a ten-year fixed loan, with the possibility of a one-time extension of five years. Home equity

lines of credit carry a variable rate of interest and minimum monthly payments during the draw period, which are the greater of (i) \$50.00 or (ii) depending on credit score, loan-to-value and debt-to-income ratios, either the interest due or interest due plus 1% of the outstanding loan balance. Home equity loans and lines of credit are generally underwritten with a maximum loan-to-value ratio of 85% (80% when appraised value is greater than \$1 million) for a primary residence when combined with the principal balance of the existing mortgage loan; for home equity loans on secondary and rental properties, the maximum loan-to-value ratio is 65%. We require appraisals on all real estate loans – both commercial and residential. At the time we close a home equity loan or line of credit, we record a mortgage to perfect our security interest in the underlying collateral. Home equity loans and lines of credit also require title insurance, and borrowers must obtain hazard insurance, and if applicable, flood insurance.

Home equity loans and lines of credit generally have greater risk than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. In these cases, we face the risk that collateral for a defaulted loan may not provide an adequate source of repayment of the outstanding loan balance. In particular, because home equity loans are secured by second mortgages, decreases in real estate values could adversely affect the value of the property serving as collateral for these loans. Thus, the recovery of such property could be insufficient to compensate us for the value of these loans.

Loans secured by second mortgages have greater risk than owner-occupied residential loans secured by first mortgages. When customers default on their loans we attempt to foreclose on the property. However, the value of the collateral may not be sufficient to compensate for the amount of the unpaid loan, and we may be unsuccessful in recovering the remaining balance from these customers. In addition, decreases in property values could adversely affect the value of properties used as collateral for the loans. These second lien loans represent a smaller portion of our portfolio.

Our home equity and home improvement loan portfolio gives us a diverse client base. Although most of these loans are in our primary market area, the diversity of the individual loans in the portfolio reduces our potential risk.

Consumer Lending. We offer various types of secured and unsecured consumer loans. Generally, our consumer loans are made for personal, family or household purposes as a convenience to our customer base. As a general guideline, a consumer's total debt service should not exceed 40% of their gross income. The underwriting standards for consumer loans include a determination of the applicant's payment history on other debts and an assessment of his or her ability to meet existing obligations and payments on the proposed loan.

Consumer loans may present greater credit risk than residential mortgage loans because many consumer loans are unsecured or are secured by rapidly depreciating assets. Repossessed collateral for a defaulted consumer loan may not provide an adequate source of repayment of the outstanding loan balance because of the greater likelihood of damage, loss or depreciation. Consumer loan collections also depend on the borrower's continuing financial stability. If a borrower suffers personal financial difficulties, the loan may not be repaid. Also, various federal and state laws, including bankruptcy and insolvency laws, may limit the amount we can recover on such loans.

Loan Originations, Purchases, Sales, Participations and Servicing. All loans that we originate are underwritten pursuant to our policies and procedures, which incorporate standard underwriting guidelines. We originate both fixed and variable rate loans. Our loan origination activity may be adversely affected by a rising interest rate environment that typically results in decreased loan demand. We generally retain in our portfolio the majority of loans that we originate, except for first lien residential mortgage loans where we sell the majority of the loans into the secondary market. Residential loans originated for sale include loans originated on a national platform, underwritten to standards at least as conservative as those applied to in state loans, which constitute the majority of our residential loans originated for sale and over 90% of the residential loans that we add to our portfolio. We do not retain the servicing rights on sold loans.

We occasionally sell participations in commercial loans to correspondent banks if the amount of the loan exceeds our internal limits. More rarely, we purchase loan participations from correspondent banks in the local market as well. Those loans are underwritten in-house with the same care of loans directly originated.

Loan Approval Procedures and Authority. Our lending activities follow written, non-discriminatory underwriting standards and loan origination procedures established by our board of directors. The loan approval process is intended to assess the borrower's ability to repay the loan, the viability of the loan, and the adequacy of the value of the collateral that will secure the loan, if applicable. To assess a business borrower's ability to repay, we review and analyze, among other factors: current income, credit history including the Bank's prior experience with the borrower, cash flow, any secondary sources of repayment, other debt obligations in regards to the equity/net worth of the borrower and collateral available to the Bank to secure the loan.

We require appraisals of all real property securing one- to four-family residential and commercial real estate loans and home equity loans and lines of credit. All appraisers are state-licensed or state-certified appraisers, and our practice is to have local appraisers approved by the board of directors annually.

Investments and Funding

We balance our liquidity needs based on loan and deposit growth via the investment portfolio and short term borrowings. It is our goal to provide adequate liquidity to support our loan growth. We use the generally short term investments that represent our liquidity to generate additional positive earnings. Howard Bank's primary source of funds is, and will continue to be, core deposits generated from the local marketplace. Additional funding is provided by customer repurchase agreements, FHLB advances, the FRB Discount Window, and other purchased funds. Other purchased funds may include certificates of deposit over \$100,000, federal funds purchased, and institutional or brokered deposits. Lines of credit are maintained to protect liquidity levels resulting from unexpected deposit withdrawals and natural-market credit demand.

Our investment policy is reviewed annually by our board of directors. The board of directors has appointed its Executive Committee to serve as the Investment Committee, and the Executive Committee therefore meets at regular intervals (not less than quarterly) and provides a report on the investment portfolio performance to the full board of directors. The investment officer is designated by the President and is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of the liquidity and investments in accordance with the policies approved by the board of directors. The investment officer is presently our Chief Financial Officer. We actively monitor our investment portfolio and we classify the majority of the portfolio as “available for sale.” In general, under such a classification, we may sell investment instruments as management deems appropriate.

Other Banking Products

We offer our customers wire transfer services, courier service for non-negotiable deposits, ATM and check cards, automated teller machines at all of our full-service branch locations, safe deposit boxes at all full service locations and credit cards through a third party processor. Additionally, we provide Internet banking capabilities to our customers and merchant card services for our business customers. With our Internet banking service, our customers may view their accounts on line and electronically remit bill payments. Our commercial account services include an overnight sweep service and remote deposit capture service.

We complement our existing Internet and eBanking services with Mobiliti Mobile Banking, PopMoney and eStatement products. These state of the art products provide the Bank's consumer customers the ability to view account information and pay bills from their mobile device, easily make payments directly to individuals and, with eStatements, to replace their paper monthly statement with an electronically delivered statement.

Deposit Activities

Deposits are the major source of our funding. We offer a broad array of consumer and business deposit products that include demand, money market, savings and individual retirement accounts, as well as certificates of deposit. We offer through key technology partnerships a competitive array of commercial cash management products, which in combination with our in-house courier service and remote deposit/ check imaging service, allow us to attract demand deposits. We believe that we pay competitive rates on our interest bearing deposits. As a relationship-oriented organization, we generally seek to obtain deposit relationships with our loan clients.

We also use customer repurchase agreements, FHLB advances, the FRB Discount Window and other purchased funds as a funding mechanism. Other purchased funds may include certificates of deposits over \$100,000, federal funds purchased and institutional or brokered deposits.

Employees

Howard Bank has 210 full-time employees and 11 part-time employees as of May 31, 2015. None of our employees are represented by any collective bargaining unit, and we believe that relations with our employees are good. Howard has no employees.

Lending Limit

The Bank's legal lending limit for loans to one borrower was approximately \$9.5 million as of March 31, 2015. We further monitor our exposure to one borrower through a policy to limit our "in-house" lending limit to \$7.1 million, which in-house limit can be waived by our board loan committee. As part of our risk management strategy, we may attempt to participate a portion of larger loans to other financial institutions. This strategy allows us to maintain customer relationships yet observe the legal lending limit and manage credit exposure. However, this strategy may not always be available.

Competition

Our primary market area is highly competitive and heavily branched by other financial institutions of all sizes. Competition for loans to small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals is intense, and pricing is important. We believe that acquisitions of several local competitors by larger institutions headquartered outside of the State of Maryland during the last several years have enhanced the Bank's positioning as a locally headquartered and managed community bank, but many of these competitors now have substantially greater resources and lending limits than we do and offer services, such as extensive and established branch networks and trust services, that we do not expect to provide in the near future or ever. Moreover, larger institutions operating in our primary market area may have access to borrowed funds at a lower rate than is available to us. Deposit competition is also strong among institutions in our primary market area.

However, recent mergers of other area banks into large regional and national financial institutions have created opportunities for community-focused and prudently managed community banks. While our board of directors is aware of the competition that these larger institutions offer, we believe that local independent banks play and will continue to play a significant role in our primary market area. Our board of directors believes it is a significant and distinct advantage to be a community owned and operated state bank interested in serving the needs of small and medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals.

Participation in Small Business Lending Fund

On September 22, 2011, we entered into a securities purchase agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to which we sold to the Secretary of the Treasury 12,562 shares of our Series AA Preferred Stock, having a liquidation amount per share equal to \$1,000, for an aggregate purchase price of \$12,562,000. We issued the Series AA Preferred Stock pursuant to the SBLF. Enacted into law as part of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, the SBLF was a \$30 billion fund designed to encourage lending to small businesses by providing Tier 1 capital to qualified community banks with assets of less than \$10 billion at favorable rates. We are pleased to be one of only four banks in the State of Maryland that was approved to participate in this program. The Series AA Preferred Stock qualifies as Tier 1 capital and is generally non-voting. In accordance with the terms of the SBLF program, the Series AA Preferred Stock had an initial annual dividend rate of 5%. The dividend rate was reduced based on increases in our small business lending; the current rate is 1.0%. After four and one-half years, the dividend rate will increase to 9% if we have not repaid the SBLF funding at such time.

Supervision and Regulation

Howard Bancorp, Inc.

We are a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the “BHC Act”). We are subject to regulation and examination by the FRB and the Maryland Commissioner, and are required to file periodic reports and any additional information that the FRB and the Maryland Commissioner may require. In addition, the FRB and the Maryland Commissioner have enforcement authority over Howard, which includes the power to remove officers and directors and the authority to issue cease and desist orders to prevent Howard from engaging in unsafe or unsound practices or violating laws or regulations governing its business. In general, these enforcement actions may be initiated for violations of laws and regulations and unsafe or unsound practices. Other actions or inactions may provide the basis for enforcement action, including misleading or untimely reports filed with regulatory authorities.

Under the BHC Act, a bank holding company is required to serve as a source of financial and managerial strength to its subsidiary banks and may not conduct its operations in an unsafe or unsound manner. In addition, in serving as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks, a bank holding company should stand ready to use available resources to provide adequate capital funds to its subsidiary banks during periods of financial stress or adversity and should maintain the financial flexibility and capital raising capacity to obtain additional resources for assisting its subsidiary banks. A bank holding company’s failure to meet its obligations to serve as a source of strength to its subsidiary banks will generally be considered by the FRB to be an unsafe and unsound banking practice, a violation of FRB regulations or both. The FRB may require a bank holding company to terminate any activity or relinquish control of a nonbank subsidiary (other than a nonbank subsidiary of a bank) upon the FRB’s determination that such activity or control constitutes a serious risk to the financial soundness or stability of any subsidiary depository institution of the bank holding company. Further, federal bank regulatory authorities have additional discretion to require a bank holding company to divest itself of any bank or nonbank subsidiary if the agency determines that divestiture may aid the depository institution’s financial condition.

The BHC Act requires regulatory filings by a stockholder or other party that seeks to acquire direct or indirect “control” of an FDIC-insured depository institution. The determination whether an investor “controls” a depository institution is based on all of the facts and circumstances surrounding the investment. As a general matter, a party is deemed to control a depository institution or other company if the party owns or controls 25% or more of any class of voting stock. Subject to rebuttal, a party may be presumed to control a depository institution or other company if the investor owns or controls 10% or more of any class of voting stock. Ownership by affiliated parties, or parties acting in concert, is typically aggregated for these purposes. If a party’s ownership of Howard were to exceed certain thresholds, the investor could be deemed to “control” Howard for regulatory purposes. This could subject the investor to regulatory filings or other regulatory consequences.

Pursuant to provisions of the BHC Act and regulations promulgated by the FRB thereunder, Howard may only engage in or own companies that engage in activities deemed by the FRB to be so closely related to the business of banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto, and the holding company must obtain permission from the FRB prior to engaging in most new business activities. In addition, bank holding companies like Howard must be well capitalized and well managed in order to engage in the expanded financial activities permissible only for a financial holding company.

The FRB has adopted guidelines regarding the capital adequacy of bank holding companies, which require bank holding companies to maintain specified minimum ratios of capital to total assets and capital to risk weighted assets. See “– Capital Requirements.” The FRB has issued a policy statement regarding the payment of dividends by bank holding companies. In general, the FRB’s policies provide that dividends should be paid only out of current earnings and only if the prospective rate of earnings retention by the bank holding company appears consistent with the organization’s capital needs, asset quality, and overall financial condition. Under the prompt corrective action rules, the ability of a bank holding company to pay dividends may be restricted if a subsidiary bank becomes undercapitalized. These regulatory policies could affect the ability of Howard to pay dividends or otherwise engage in capital distributions.

The status of Howard as a registered bank holding company under the BHC Act and a Maryland-chartered bank holding company does not exempt it from certain federal and state laws and regulations applicable to corporations generally, including, without limitation, certain provisions of the federal securities laws.

Howard Bank

Howard Bank is a Maryland chartered trust company (with all powers of a commercial bank), and its deposit accounts are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund (“DIF”) of the FDIC up to the maximum legal limits. It is subject to regulation, supervision and regular examination by the Maryland Commissioner and the FDIC. The regulations of these various agencies govern most aspects of Howard Bank’s business, including required reserves against deposits,

loans, investments, mergers and acquisitions, borrowing, dividends and location and number of branch offices. The laws and regulations governing Howard Bank generally have been promulgated to protect depositors and the DIF, and not for the purpose of protecting stockholders.

Set forth below is a brief description of the material regulatory requirements that are or will be applicable to Howard Bank and Howard. The description below is limited to the material aspects of the statutes and regulations addressed, and is not intended to be a complete description of such statutes and regulations and their effects on Howard Bank and Howard.

Financial Institutions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. The Financial Institutions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code (the “Banking Code”) contains detailed provisions governing the organization, operations, corporate powers, commercial and investment authority, branching rights and responsibilities of directors, officers and employees of Maryland banking institutions. The Banking Code delegates extensive rulemaking power and administrative discretion to the Maryland Commissioner in its supervision and regulation of state-chartered banking institutions. The Maryland Commissioner may order any banking institution to discontinue any violation of law or unsafe or unsound business practice.

Capital Requirements. The federal bank regulatory agencies have established capital adequacy guidelines for banks and bank holding companies by which they assess the adequacy of capital in examining and supervising banks and bank holding companies and in analyzing bank regulatory applications. There are two main categories of capital under the capital adequacy guidelines. Tier 1 capital generally consists of the sum of common stockholders' equity and perpetual preferred stock (subject in the case of the latter to limitations on the kind and amount of such stock) and, in certain circumstances and subject to certain limitations, minority investments in certain subsidiaries, less goodwill and other non-qualifying intangible assets, and certain other deductions. Tier 2 capital consists of perpetual preferred stock that is not otherwise eligible to be included as Tier 1 capital, hybrid capital instruments, term subordinated debt and intermediate term preferred stock and, subject to limitations, general allowances for credit losses. Tier 2 capital is limited to the amount of Tier 1 capital. Under rules that became effective January 1, 2015, accumulated other comprehensive income (positive or negative) must be reflected in regulatory capital; however, Howard Bank may make a one-time, permanent election to continue to exclude accumulated other comprehensive income from regulatory capital. If Howard Bank does not make this election, unrealized gains and losses, net of taxes, on certain financial instruments, including available-for-sale-securities, will be included in the calculation of Howard Bank's regulatory capital. The permanent opt-out election must be made by Howard Bank on its Call Report for the first reporting period after January 1, 2015 and Howard must make the same election as Howard Bank. Howard Bank intends to make this election.

The capital adequacy guidelines include a minimum leverage capital requirement for banks and bank holding companies. If the applicable federal bank regulatory agency determines that a bank or bank holding company is not anticipating or experiencing significant growth and has well-diversified risk, including no undue interest rate risk exposure, excellent asset quality, high liquidity, good earnings and in general is considered a strong banking organization, rated composite 1 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (the CAMEL rating system) established by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, the minimum capital leverage requirement is a ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets of 3.0%. For all other institutions, the minimum leverage capital ratio is not less than 4.0%. In addition to the minimum leverage capital requirements, banks and bank holding companies must maintain certain ratios of capital to regulatory risk-weighted assets, or "risk-based capital ratios." Risk-based capital ratios are determined by dividing Tier 1 and total risk-based capital, respectively, by risk-weighted assets. Under rules in effect through December 31, 2014, banks and bank holding companies were required to maintain a minimum required Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 4% and a minimum required total risk-based capital ratio of 8%. Total capital consists of Tier 1 capital plus Tier 2 capital, less certain required deductions.

New Capital Rules. In July 2013, the federal bank regulatory agencies issued a final rule implementing the capital standards of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the minimum capital requirements and certain other provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"). The final rule, which became effective on January 1, 2015, applies to all depository institutions, top-tier bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of \$500 million or more and top-tier savings and loan holding companies. Among other things, the rule establishes a new minimum common equity Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio requirement of 4.5%, a minimum Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio requirement of 6%, a minimum total risk-based capital ratio requirement of 8% and a minimum leverage ratio requirement of 4%. The new capital requirements also include changes in the risk-weights of certain assets to better reflect credit risk and other risk exposures. Additionally, subject to a transition schedule, the rule limits a banking organization's ability to make capital distributions, engage in share repurchases and pay certain discretionary bonus payments if the banking organization does not hold a "capital conservation buffer"

consisting of 2.5% of common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets in addition to the amount necessary to meet its minimum risk-based capital requirements.

The ultimate impact of the new capital and liquidity standards will depend on a number of factors. Because the new rules are phased in over time, we cannot determine the ultimate effect that the new requirements will have upon our earnings or financial position, although the requirements to maintain higher levels of capital or to maintain higher levels of liquid assets could adversely impact our financial results.

Prompt Corrective Action. Under federal prompt corrective action regulations, the bank regulatory agencies are authorized and, under certain circumstances, required to take various “prompt corrective actions” to resolve the problems of any bank subject to their jurisdiction that is not adequately capitalized. Under these regulations, as in effect through December 31, 2014, a bank was considered to be: (i) “well capitalized” if it had total risk-based capital of 10% or more, Tier 1 risk-based capital of 6.0% or more, Tier I leverage capital of 5% or more, and was not subject to any written capital order or directive; (ii) “adequately capitalized” if it had total risk-based capital of 8% or more, Tier I risk-based capital of 4.0% or more and Tier I leverage capital of 4% or more (3% under certain circumstances), and does not meet the definition of “well capitalized”; (iii) “undercapitalized” if it had total risk-based capital of less than 8%, Tier I risk-based capital of less than 4% or Tier I leverage capital of less than 4% (3% under certain circumstances); (iv) “significantly undercapitalized” if it had total risk-based capital of less than 6%, Tier I risk-based capital less than 3%, or Tier I leverage capital of less than 3%; and (v) “critically undercapitalized” if its ratio of tangible equity to total assets was equal to or less than 2%. Under certain circumstances, the bank regulatory agency may reclassify a well capitalized institution as adequately capitalized, and may require an adequately capitalized institution or an undercapitalized institution to comply with supervisory actions as if it were in the next lower category (except that the bank regulatory agency may not reclassify a significantly undercapitalized institution as critically undercapitalized). As of December 31, 2014, Howard Bank was “well capitalized” for this purpose and its capital exceeded all applicable requirements.

Under the amended prompt corrective action regulations, effective January 1, 2015, a bank is considered “well capitalized” if it: (i) has a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.0% or greater; (ii) a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 8.0% or greater; (iii) a common Tier 1 equity ratio of at least 6.5% or greater; (iv) a leverage capital ratio of 5.0% or greater; and (iv) is not subject to any written agreement, order, capital directive, or prompt corrective action directive to meet and maintain a specific capital level for any capital measure. As of March 31, 2015, Howard Bank remained “well capitalized” for this purpose and its capital exceeded all applicable requirements.

Howard Bank has been “well capitalized” since it commenced its business operations.

At this time the bank regulatory agencies are more inclined to impose higher capital requirements in order to meet well capitalized standards, and future regulatory change could impose higher capital standards as a routine matter. The regulators may also set higher capital requirements for holding companies whose circumstances warrant it. For example, holding companies experiencing internal growth or making acquisitions are expected to maintain strong capital positions substantially above the minimum supervisory levels, without significant reliance on intangible assets.

As an additional means to identify problems in the financial management of depository institutions, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act requires federal bank regulatory agencies to establish certain non-capital safety and soundness standards for institutions for which they are the primary federal regulator. The standards relate generally to operations and management, asset quality, interest rate exposure and executive compensation. The agencies are authorized to take action against institutions that fail to meet such standards.

Dividends. Howard is a legal entity separate and distinct from Howard Bank. Virtually all of Howard's revenue available for the payment of dividends on its common stock results from dividends paid to Howard by Howard Bank. Under Maryland law, Howard Bank may declare a cash dividend, after providing for due or accrued expenses, losses, interest and taxes, from its undivided profits or, with the prior approval of the Maryland Commissioner, from its surplus in excess of 100% of its required capital stock. Also, if Howard Bank's surplus is less than 100% of its required capital stock, cash dividends may not be paid in excess of 90% of net earnings. In addition to these specific restrictions, the bank regulatory agencies have the ability to prohibit or limit proposed dividends if such regulatory agencies determine the payment of such dividends would result in Howard Bank being in an unsafe and unsound condition.

Deposit Insurance Assessments. Howard Bank's deposit accounts are insured by the FDIC generally up to a maximum of \$250,000 per separately insured depositor. FDIC-insured depository institutions are required to pay deposit insurance assessments to the FDIC. The amount of a particular institution's deposit insurance assessment is based on that institution's risk classification under an FDIC risk-based assessment system. An institution's risk classification is assigned based on its capital levels and the level of supervisory concern the institution poses to the regulators. Assessment rates (inclusive of possible adjustments) currently range from 2.5 to 45 basis points of each institution's total assets less tangible capital. The FDIC may increase or decrease the range of assessments uniformly, except that no adjustment can deviate more than two basis points from the base assessment rate without notice and comment rulemaking. The FDIC's current system represents a change, required by the Dodd-Frank Act, from its prior practice of basing the assessment on an institution's aggregate deposits. The FDIC may terminate insurance of deposits upon a finding that the institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule, order or condition imposed by the FDIC.

Maryland Regulatory Assessment. The Maryland Commissioner annually assesses state banking institutions to cover the expense of regulating banking institutions. The Bank's asset size determines the amount of the assessment.

Liquidity. Howard Bank is subject to the reserve requirements imposed by the State of Maryland. A Maryland banking institution is required to have at all times a reserve equal to at least 15% of its demand deposits. Howard Bank is also subject to the uniform reserve requirements of the FRB's Regulation D, which applies to all depository institutions with transaction accounts or non-personal time deposits. For 2014, amounts in transaction accounts above \$13.3 million and up to \$89.0 million must have had reserves held against them in the ratio of three percent of the amount. Amounts above \$89.0 million required reserves of \$2,271,000 plus 10 percent of the amount in excess of \$89.0 million. Beginning in January 2015, amounts in transaction accounts above \$14.5 million and up to \$103.6 million must have reserves held against them in the ratio of 3% of the amount. Amounts above \$103.6 million require reserves of \$2,673,000 plus 10 percent of the amount in excess of \$103.6 million. The Maryland reserve requirements may be used to satisfy the requirements of Regulation D. Howard Bank is in compliance with its reserve requirements.

Loans-to-One-Borrower Limitation. With certain limited exceptions, a Maryland banking institution may lend to a single or related group of borrowers an amount equal to 15% of its unimpaired capital and surplus. An additional amount may be lent, equal to 10% of unimpaired capital and surplus, if such loan is secured by readily marketable collateral, which is defined to include certain securities and bullion, but generally does not include real estate. Howard Bank is in compliance with the loans-to-one borrower limitations.

Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending Laws. Under the CRA the FDIC is required to assess the record of all financial institutions regulated by it to determine if such institutions are meeting the credit needs of the community (including low and moderate income neighborhoods) which they serve. CRA performance evaluations are based on a four-tiered rating system: Outstanding, Satisfactory, Needs to Improve and Substantial Noncompliance. CRA performance evaluations are considered in evaluating applications for such things as mergers, acquisitions and applications to open branches. Howard Bank has a CRA rating of "Outstanding." In addition, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act prohibit lenders from discriminating in their lending practices on the basis of characteristics specified in those statutes. The failure to comply with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act could result in enforcement actions by the FDIC, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Justice, and in private civil actions by borrowers.

Transactions with Related Parties. Transactions between banks and their related parties or affiliates are limited by Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act. An affiliate of a bank is any company or entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the bank. In a holding company context, the parent bank holding company and any companies which are controlled by such parent holding company are affiliates of the bank.

Generally, Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act and the FRB's Regulation W limit the extent to which a bank or its subsidiaries may engage in "covered transactions" with any one affiliate to an amount equal to 10.0% of such bank's capital stock and surplus, and contain an aggregate limit on all such transactions with all affiliates to an amount equal to 20.0% of such bank's capital stock and surplus. The term "covered transaction" includes the making of loans, purchase of assets, issuance of guarantees and other similar transactions. In addition, loans or other extensions of credit by the bank to an affiliate are required to be collateralized in accordance with regulatory requirements and the bank's transactions with affiliates must be consistent with safe and sound banking practices and may not involve the purchase by the bank of any low-quality asset. Section 23B applies to covered transactions as well as certain other transactions and requires that all such transactions be on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable, to the institution or subsidiary as those provided to non-affiliates.

Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act and the FRB's Regulation O govern extensions of credit made by a bank to its directors, executive officers, and principal stockholders ("insiders"). Among other things, these provisions require that extensions of credit to insiders be made on terms that are substantially the same as, and follow credit underwriting procedures that are not less stringent than, those prevailing for comparable transactions with unaffiliated persons and that do not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. Further, such extensions may not exceed certain limitations on the amount of credit extended to such persons, individually and in the aggregate, which limits are based, in part, on the amount of Howard Bank's capital. Extensions of credit in excess of certain limits must also be approved by the board of directors.

Standards for Safety and Soundness. Federal law requires each federal banking agency to prescribe certain standards for all insured depository institutions. These standards relate to, among other things, internal controls, information systems and audit systems, loan documentation, credit underwriting, interest rate risk exposure, asset growth, compensation, and other operational and managerial standards as the agency deems appropriate. Interagency guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal banking agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. If the appropriate federal banking agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard prescribed by the guidelines, the agency may require the institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard. If an institution fails to meet these standards, the appropriate federal banking agency may require the institution to implement an acceptable compliance plan. Failure to implement such a plan can result in further enforcement action, including the issuance of a “cease and desist” order or the imposition of civil money penalties.

Anti-Money Laundering and OFAC. Under federal law, financial institutions must maintain anti-money laundering programs that include established internal policies, procedures and controls; a designated compliance officer; an ongoing employee training program; and testing of the program by an independent audit function. Financial institutions are also prohibited from entering into specified financial transactions and account relationships and must meet enhanced standards for due diligence and customer identification in their dealings with foreign financial institutions and foreign customers. Financial institutions must take reasonable steps to conduct enhanced scrutiny of account relationships to guard against money laundering and to report any suspicious transactions, and law enforcement authorities have been granted increased access to financial information maintained by financial institutions. Bank regulators routinely examine institutions for compliance with these obligations, and they must consider an institution’s compliance in connection with the regulatory review of applications, including applications for banking mergers and acquisitions. The regulatory authorities have imposed “cease and desist” orders and civil money penalty sanctions against institutions found to be violating these obligations.

The Office of Foreign Assets Control, (“OFAC”) is responsible for helping to insure that U.S. entities do not engage in transactions with certain prohibited parties, as defined by various Executive Orders and Acts of Congress. OFAC sends bank regulatory agencies lists of persons and organizations suspected of aiding, harboring or engaging in terrorist acts, known as Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons. If Howard or Howard Bank finds a name on any transaction, account or wire transfer that is on an OFAC list, Howard or Howard Bank must freeze such account, file a suspicious activity report and notify the appropriate authorities.

Consumer Protection Laws. Howard Bank is subject to a number of federal and state laws designed to protect borrowers and promote lending to various sectors of the economy. These laws include the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and various state law counterparts. Further, the Dodd-Frank Act established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”), which has the responsibility for making rules and regulations under the federal consumer protection laws relating to financial products and services. The CFPB also has a broad mandate to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts and practices and is specifically empowered to require certain disclosures to consumers and draft model disclosure forms. Failure to comply with consumer protection laws and regulations can subject financial institutions to enforcement actions, fines

and other penalties. The FDIC will examine Howard Bank for compliance with CFPB rules and will enforce CFPB rules with respect to Howard Bank.

In addition, federal law currently contains extensive customer privacy protection provisions. Under these provisions, a financial institution must provide to its customers, at the inception of the customer relationship and annually thereafter, the institution's policies and procedures regarding the handling of customers' nonpublic personal financial information. These provisions also provide that, except for certain limited exceptions, a financial institution may not provide such personal information to unaffiliated third parties unless the institution discloses to the customer that such information may be so provided and the customer is given the opportunity to opt out of such disclosure. Further, under the "Interagency Guidelines Establishing Information Security Standards," banks must implement a comprehensive information security program that includes administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to ensure the security and confidentiality of customer information. Federal law makes it a criminal offense, except in limited circumstances, to obtain or attempt to obtain customer information of a financial nature by fraudulent or deceptive means.

The Dodd-Frank Act. The Dodd-Frank Act, enacted in July 2010, will have a broad impact on the financial services industry, imposing significant regulatory and compliance changes, including the designation of certain financial companies as systemically significant, the imposition of increased capital, leverage, and liquidity requirements, and numerous other provisions designed to improve supervision and oversight of, and strengthen safety and soundness within, the financial services sector.

The following items provide a brief description of certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Source of strength. The Dodd-Frank Act requires all companies, including bank holding companies, that directly or indirectly control an insured depository institution to serve as a source of strength for the institution. Under this requirement, Howard in the future could be required to provide financial assistance to Howard Bank should Howard Bank experience financial distress.

Mortgage loan origination and risk retention. The Dodd-Frank Act contains additional regulatory requirements that may affect our operations and result in increased compliance costs. For example, the Dodd-Frank Act imposes new standards for mortgage loan originations on all lenders, including banks, in an effort to require steps to verify a borrower's ability to repay. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act generally requires lenders or securitizers to retain an economic interest in the credit risk relating to loans the lender sells or mortgage and other asset-backed securities that the securitizer issues. The risk retention requirement generally will be 5%, but could be increased or decreased by regulation.

CFPB. The Dodd-Frank Act created a new independent CFPB within the FRB. The CFPB is tasked with establishing and implementing rules and regulations under certain federal consumer protection laws with respect to the conduct of providers of certain consumer financial products and services. The CFPB has rulemaking authority over many of the statutes governing products and services offered to bank consumers. For banking organizations with assets under \$10 billion, like Howard Bank, the CFPB has exclusive rule making authority, but the FDIC, as Howard Bank's primary federal regulator, would continue to have enforcement authority under federal consumer financial law. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act permits states to adopt consumer protection laws and regulations that are stricter than those regulations promulgated by the CFPB. Compliance with any such new regulations would increase our cost of operations.

Deposit insurance. The Dodd-Frank Act permanently increased the deposit insurance limit to \$250,000 for insured deposits. Amendments to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act also revise the assessment base against which an insured depository institution's deposit insurance premiums paid to DIF will be calculated. Several of these provisions could increase the FDIC deposit insurance premiums paid by Howard Bank.

Enhanced lending limits. The Dodd-Frank Act strengthened the limits on a depository institution's credit exposure to one borrower. Federal banking law limits a depository institution's ability to extend credit to one person (or group of related persons) in an amount exceeding certain thresholds. The Dodd-Frank Act expanded the scope of these

restrictions to include credit exposure arising from derivative transactions, repurchase agreements, and securities lending and borrowing transactions.

Corporate governance. The Dodd-Frank Act addressed many investor protection, corporate governance and executive compensation matters that will affect most U.S. publicly traded companies, including Howard. The Dodd-Frank Act provides the SEC with authority to adopt proxy access rules that would allow stockholders of publicly traded companies to nominate candidates for election as a director and have those nominees included in a company's proxy materials and direct the SEC and national securities exchanges to adopt rules that: (1) provide stockholders of U.S. publicly traded companies an advisory vote on executive compensation; (2) enhance independence requirements for compensation committee members; and (3) will require companies listed on national securities exchanges to adopt incentive-based compensation clawback policies for executive officers.

Some of the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act have been implemented, while others will be implemented over time and most will be subject to regulations implemented over the course of several years. Given the uncertainty associated with the manner in which the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act will be implemented by the various regulatory agencies and through regulations, the full extent of the impact such requirements will have on our operations is unclear. The changes resulting from the Dodd-Frank Act may impact the profitability of our business activities, require changes to certain of our business practices, impose upon us more stringent capital, liquidity and leverage requirements or otherwise adversely affect our business. These changes may also require us to invest significant management attention and resources to evaluate and make any changes necessary to comply with new statutory and regulatory requirements. Failure to comply with the new requirements may negatively impact our results of operations and financial condition. While we cannot predict what effect any presently contemplated or future changes in the laws or regulations or their interpretations would have on us, these changes could be materially adverse to our investors.

Effect of Governmental Monetary Policies. Our earnings are affected by domestic economic conditions and the monetary and fiscal policies of the United States government and its agencies. The FRB's monetary policies have had, and are likely to continue to have, an important impact on the operating results of commercial banks through its power to implement national monetary policy in order, among other things, to curb inflation or combat a recession. The monetary policies of the FRB affect the levels of bank loans, investments and deposits through its control over the issuance of United States government securities, its regulation of the discount rate applicable to member banks and its influence over reserve requirements to which member banks are subject. We cannot predict the nature or impact of future changes in monetary and fiscal policies.

Federal and State Securities Laws. Our common stock is registered with the SEC under the Exchange Act. As such, we are subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider trading restrictions and other requirements of the Exchange Act.

Further, if we wish to sell common stock or other securities to raise capital in the future, we will be subject to the registration, anti-fraud, and other applicable provisions of state and federal securities laws. For example, we will have to register the sales of such securities under the Securities Act, the Maryland Securities Act, and the applicable securities laws of each state in which we offer or sell the securities, unless an applicable exemption from registration exists with respect to such sales. Such exemptions may, among other things, limit the number and types of persons we could sell such securities to and the manner in which we could market the securities. We would also be subject to federal and state anti-fraud requirements with respect to any statements we make to potential purchasers in connection with the offer and sale of such securities.

Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 addresses, among other issues, corporate governance, auditing and accounting, executive compensation, and enhanced and timely disclosure of corporate information. As directed by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer are be required to certify that our quarterly and annual reports do not contain any untrue statement of a material fact. The rules adopted by the SEC under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act have several requirements, including having these officers certify that: they are

responsible for establishing, maintaining and regularly evaluating the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting; they have made certain disclosures to our auditors and the Audit Committee of the board of directors about our internal control over financial reporting; and they have included information in our quarterly and annual reports about their evaluation and whether there have been changes in our internal control over financial reporting or in other factors that could materially affect internal control over financial reporting. We are subject to further reporting and audit requirements under the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. We are also required to prepare policies, procedures and systems designed to ensure compliance with these regulations.

Properties

Our headquarters are located in Ellicott City, Maryland. The Bank owns six of 12 full-service branches and leased the remaining branches. See Note 9 to Howard's Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information.

We own the following properties:

Branch Locations	Address	Description
Maple Lawn (1)	10985 Johns Hopkins Road Laurel, MD 20723	Full service branch with drive-thru
Centennial	10161 Baltimore National Pike Ellicott City, MD 21042	Full service branch with drive-thru
Aberdeen	3 West Bel Air Aberdeen, MD 21001	Full service branch with drive-thru
Elkton (2)	305 Augustine Herman Highway Elkton, MD 21921	Full service branch with drive-thru
Rising Sun	6 Pearl Street Rising Sun, MD 21911	Full service branch with drive-thru
Dublin	3535 Conowingo Road Street, MD 21154	Full service branch with drive-thru

Office Locations	Address	Description
Operations Center	10163 Baltimore National Pike Ellicott City, MD 21042	Location of Loan & Deposit operations and other support functions
Rising Sun Office	6 Pearl Street Rising Sun, MD 21911	Regional Banking Office

- (1) For the branch location at Maple Lawn, the premises is owned, but is subject to a ground lease.
- (2) For the branch location in Elkton, the premises is owned, but is subject to a ground lease.

We lease the following facilities as of April 30, 2015:

Branch Locations	Address	Description
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Snowden River	6011 University Blvd Suite 150 Ellicott City, MD 21043	Full service branch with drive-thru
Defense Highway	116 Defense Highway Annapolis, MD 21401	Full service branch with drive-thru
Towson	22 West Pennsylvania Avenue Baltimore, MD 21204	Full service branch with drive-thru
Bel Air	101 North Main Street Bel Air, MD 21014	Full service branch with drive-thru
Havre de Grace	800 Revolution Street Havre de Grace, MD 21078	Full service branch with drive-thru
Penn Hill	2006 Lancaster Pike Peach Bottom, PA 17563	Full service branch with drive-thru
Office Locations	Address	Description
Corporate Office	6011 University Blvd Suite 370 Ellicott City, MD 21043	Corporate Headquarters
Towson Office	22 West Pennsylvania Avenue Suite 102 Baltimore, MD 21204	Regional Banking Office
Annapolis Office	1997 Annapolis Exchange Pkwy Suite 140 Annapolis, MD 21401	Regional Banking Office and Regional Mortgage Banking Office
Columbia Mortgage Office	8820 Columbia 100 Parkway Columbia, MD 21045	Regional Mortgage Banking Office
Timonium Mortgage Office	1954 Greenspring Drive Suite 165 Timonium, MD 21093	Regional Mortgage Banking Office

Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we may be involved in litigation relating to claims arising out of our normal course of business. As of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, we are not aware of any material pending litigation matters.

DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF HOWARD BANCORP, INC.

Below is certain information with respect to the members of the board of directors and executive officers of Howard and Howard Bank as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Directors of Howard Bancorp, Inc.

Richard G. Arnold

Mr. Arnold, 53, has served as a director of Howard since its formation in 2005 and has served as a director of Howard Bank since 2004. Mr. Arnold is the Vice President and co-owner of The John E. Ruth Company, Inc., a plumbing and heating firm. He has served in that capacity since 1983. He also maintains ownership in various real estate holdings. Mr. Arnold serves on the Board of Trustees at Mount de Sales High School and serves on several related committees. Mr. Arnold is an organizing director of Howard Bank and is currently a member of the Compensation Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The board of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Arnold's qualifications for serving on the board include his many years of active involvement with the boards of directors, his experience owning and operating a small business in our market area, his experience in real estate and real estate development, and being a life-long member of the community which provides long standing affiliations with local businesses.

Nasser Basir

Mr. Basir, 60, has served as a director of Howard and Howard Bank since 2009. Mr. Basir is the CEO, President, and founder of PSI Pax, Inc., an Information Technology (IT) services business, which he created in 2006 as a spin off from Planned Systems International, Inc., also an IT services firm which he had co-founded in 1988. Mr. Basir has over 30 years of management and technical experience as an IT consultant to both government and commercial organizations. He is presently on the Board of Trustees of the Glenelg Country School and serves and has served on several not-for-profit boards. Mr. Basir is currently the Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of Executive

Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The board of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believes that Mr. Basir's experience managing, operating, and growing his own business, extensive knowledge of the government contracting industry and affiliations with the local community qualify him to serve on the board of directors.

Andrew E. Clark

Mr. Clark, 53, has served as a director of Howard since its formation in 2005 and as a director of Howard Bank since 2005. Mr. Clark is the Chairman and CEO of CapellaTax Network, LLC, an early stage company providing pre-paid tax compliance and advice, primarily as a pre-tax voluntary employee benefit, through a local network of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Clark has served as the Chairman since the formation of the company in January 2011 and assumed the position of CEO in May 2014. From February 2009 through December 2012, Mr. Clark served as a Managing Principal and Chief Operating Officer of Evergreen Advisors, LLC, which assists closely-held and emerging growth companies in the areas of corporate finance, exit strategies, valuations, and advisory services. Mr. Clark is also Chairman of Wheatfield Ventures, LLC, a private investment firm, and has served in that capacity since 2000. Prior to founding Wheatfield Ventures, LLC, Mr. Clark was a senior executive with Verio, Inc., an international provider of internet and Web hosting services, from 1997 to 2000. In addition, Mr. Clark is a member of the Advisory Board of Spring Capital Partners, L.P., a provider of subordinated mezzanine financing in the Mid-Atlantic region. Mr. Clark serves on the Board of NDX Archives, LLC a full service provider of professional records management and storage services, and ThunderBay 1636 a branded apparel company focused on the growing sport of lacrosse. He also served on the Board of Trustees of the Glenelg Country School, and is a past President of Cattail Creek Country Club. Mr. Clark is currently the Chair of the Compensation Committee and a member of the Audit Committee and Executive Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Clark's qualifications for serving on the board include his educational background, extensive experience with financial accounting matters, including several years with the accounting firm of KPMG and serving in financial and operating positions with a public company, his financial expertise including serving as Chief Financial Officer of a privately held company, and his accounting certification.

Robert J. Hartson

Mr. Hartson, 58, has served as a director of Howard since its formation in 2005 and has served as a director of Howard Bank since 2004. Mr. Hartson is the President of ATEC Industries, Ltd., a multi-disciplined construction company working in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Hartson has held this position since 1987. Mr. Hartson also has been the President of ATEC Shielding Systems since 2003. ATEC Shielding Systems is a specialty subcontractor that designs, manufactures and installs systems that protect mission critical assets from the effects of High Electromagnetic Pulse, Electromagnetic Pulse and other destructive electromagnetic phenomenon, and whose primary customers include the U.S. military and various federal agencies. Mr. Hartson is managing member of two entities that operate diagnostic medical imaging centers in Maryland, including Howard Radiology, and Howard Open MRI (1998-present). Mr. Hartson also manages 180,000 sq. ft. of commercial real estate in the Bank's market area. Mr. Hartson is an organizing director of Howard Bank and is currently the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Hartson's qualifications for serving on the boards of directors include his deep understanding of Howard and Howard Bank as a result of being a member of

the boards of directors since their inception and his knowledge of the real estate industry and business environment in our market areas.

John J. Keenan

Mr. Keenan, 61, has served as a director of Howard and Howard Bank since 2014. Mr. Keenan is a retired KPMG LLP (“KPMG”) partner. Mr. Keenan joined KPMG in 1975 and worked there until his retirement in 2011, including serving as Managing Partner of KPMG’s Baltimore (1994-2005) and Washington, DC (2005-2009) offices and as Partner-in-Charge of the audit practice for the Washington/Baltimore Business Unit (2005-2011). Mr. Keenan is a certified public accountant and has extensive experience serving community banks, as well as companies in other industries. Given his experience as a partner at KPMG, Mr. Keenan also has knowledge in mergers and acquisitions, SEC rules and regulations, public offerings and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 Section 404 matters. Mr. Keenan is currently a member of the Audit Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Keenan’s qualifications for serving on the boards of directors include extensive experience with financial accounting matters, as well as his knowledge in the banking industry and securities regulation.

Paul I. Latta, Jr.

Mr. Latta, 71, has served as a director of Howard since its formation in 2005 and has served as a director of Howard Bank since 2004. Mr. Latta serves as Managing Member of ERIS Technologies LLC, a company developing 3-D software solutions for managing emergency situations. Prior to that Mr. Latta served as a Senior Vice President of The Rouse Company, a real estate development firm, from 1968 to 1999, and as President of E-IDC Inc., a software developer, from June 2007 through August 2009. Mr. Latta is an organizing director of Howard Bank, serves as the Lead Independent Director of Howard and Howard Bank, and is currently a member of the Audit, Executive, the Governance and Nominating, and the Compensation Committees of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank. Mr. Latta also serves as the managing director of ERIS Technologies, LLC.

The boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Latta's qualifications for serving on their boards include his extensive knowledge of the real estate industry and his understanding of Howard and Howard Bank as a result of being a member of the boards of directors since their inception.

Kenneth C. Lundeen

Mr. Lundeen, 70, has served as a director of Howard since its formation in 2005 and has served as a director of Howard Bank since 2004. Mr. Lundeen is President, Chief Executive Officer, and a co-owner of Environmental Reclamation Company, a diversified environmental services company, and has held this position for more than five years. Mr. Lundeen served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of C.J. Langenfelder & Son, Inc., a diversified construction contracting firm (1995-2004), and as Chairman of its successor Conrad Capital Corporation, an asset holding company (2004-2012). Mr. Lundeen served on the board of directors of the Baltimore branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2001-2006). He is an attorney and actively practiced in Maryland, specializing in corporate and business law and representing small to medium-sized private and publicly held companies, from 1972 until 1988. Mr. Lundeen is an organizing director of Howard Bank and is currently a member of the Governance and Nominating Committee and the Executive Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Lundeen's qualifications for serving on the boards of directors include his legal and management experience and his knowledge of the banking industry gained through his service at the Federal Reserve Bank and as a director of Howard Bank and Howard since their formation.

Karen D. McGraw

Ms. McGraw, 64, was elected a director of Howard and Howard Bank in March 2015. Ms. McGraw retired from McCormick and Company, Inc., where she was employed from 1977 until 2007 and served as member of their board of directors from 1992 to 2007. While employed at McCormick, Ms. McGraw was promoted to Senior Vice President, Human Relations. In this role she worked closely with the CEO and the Board on executive succession planning and senior level recruitment, executive compensation, acquisitions, divestitures, and integration of acquired companies. As a corporate function head, she provided strategic leadership to McCormick's HR function and the world-wide HR staff. During her 15 years as a member of the McCormick Board of Directors, she also served as Secretary to the Compensation Committee of the Board. Ms. McGraw also served 12 years on the Board of GBMC Healthcare, Inc., and she served as both Vice Chair of the Board and Compensation Committee Chair. She currently serves on the Board of Chimes International, Ltd., where she is Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Compensation Committee. She is a past President of Network 2000, Inc., an organization dedicated to the advancement of women into executive and Board positions. In addition to serving as President, she has also served on the Board of Directors, on the Executive Committee, and as Chair of the Women on Corporate Boards, Nominating, and Strategic Planning Committees. Ms. McGraw has been honored by The Daily Record as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women, named as a Distinguished Alumna by Mercy High School in Baltimore, Maryland, received a Business Leader Award from the Maryland YWCA, and selected as a Distinguished Woman by the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Ms. McGraw's qualifications for serving on the boards of directors include her prior service on a large corporate board, and her deep understanding of succession planning and executive level compensation plans and practices in a large and growing organization.

Richard J. Morgan

Mr. Morgan, 67, has served as a director of Howard and Howard Bank since October 2014. He has over 45 years of banking and management experience. After college and completing military service, he served in commercial lending leadership positions with two regional banks in New York and Maryland. He became President/CEO of two successful commercial banks and was a founding director of each. The second bank that Mr. Morgan founded was CommerceFirst Bank, where Mr. Morgan served as a director and as the chief executive officer and president from the commencement of operations in 2000 until the bank was sold to Sandy Spring Bancorp in June of 2012. Immediately after the sale, Mr. Morgan remained with Sandy Spring Bancorp and served as a Regional President until his departure in June of 2014. Since July of 2014, he has served as a senior management consultant and as a member of the board of directors of the Phillips Corporation of Hanover, Maryland. He also held a cabinet level position as Director of Economic Development in the administrations of two Anne Arundel County Executives, where he managed economic and community development programs throughout Anne Arundel County Maryland. Mr. Morgan has received numerous Federal, State and Local government appointments over the span of his career. Commercial banks in the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond elected Mr. Morgan in 2010 to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Additionally, the Governor appointed him to the Maryland Department of Housing's Neighborhood Business Development Loan Program and the County Executive appointed him as Chairman of Anne Arundel County's General Development Plan. Mr. Morgan most recently served for three years as Chairman of Atlantic Central Bankers Bank. He has received a number of community and government awards including the U.S. Small Business Administration's "Financial Services Leader of the Year" (twice) for the State of Maryland and Anne Arundel County's "Business Leader of the Year Award" (twice). Mr. Morgan has been very active in leadership positions with community organizations including Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis and Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Central Maryland, Leadership Anne Arundel, Anne Arundel Community College, and Maryland Economic Development Association. In October 2014, Mr. Morgan was elected to the Anne Arundel County Business Hall of Fame in recognition of his business and community involvement contributions. Mr. Morgan is currently a member of the Audit Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Morgan's qualifications for serving on the boards of directors include his 45 years financial and management experience that includes being a founding Director and President/CEO of two successful de novo commercial banks as well as his service as a Board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

Mary Ann Scully

Ms. Scully, 63, has served as a director and as the Board Chairperson, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Howard since December 2005 and has served as a director and as the Board Chairperson, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Howard Bank since the founding of the Bank in 2004. Ms. Scully is also an organizing director of Howard Bank and the Chair of the Executive Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank. Ms. Scully was employed by Allfirst Bank (formerly known as The First National Bank of Maryland and now known as M&T Bank) from 1973 through April 2003. She served as Executive Vice President for Regional Banking from June 2001 through April 2003, Executive Vice President for Community Banking from January 2000 through June 2001, Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning from 1998 to 2000, Senior Vice President for Mergers and Acquisitions from 1996 to 1998, and Senior Vice President of International Banking from 1984 to 1996.

Ms. Scully has been a Howard County resident since 1995. She is a past chair of the Maryland Bankers Association and the Community Foundation of Howard County. She was appointed to the Baltimore branch of the Federal Reserve Bank in 2014. Ms. Scully was also appointed to the Maryland Legislature's Augustine Commission on economic development in 2014, the Bankers Advisory Board of the Conference of State Banking Supervisors, and the FDIC Council on Community Banking. She presently serves as the Vice president of the board and on the Executive Committee of Catholic Charities, and is the co-chair of the corporate campaign and a board member of Kennedy Krieger Institute. Ms. Scully was formerly a trustee and served on the Finance Committee and the Capital Campaign Council of the Howard Community College Foundation Board, as a trustee of the United Way of Central Maryland, as a board member of Howard County General Hospital and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, as a trustee of the Horizon Foundation and as an advisory board member of Loyola University's Sellinger School of Business.

The board of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Ms. Scully's qualifications for serving as Chairman of the Board include her extensive knowledge of the Bank's history, business and operations, as well as of the banking industry in general and the risks facing the industry. Ms. Scully has gained valuable insight into the Bank and the industry as a result of her long tenure with the Bank both as a director and in her executive officer positions as well as her previous extensive experience at other banks and her being active in several banking associations, including as a past Chair of the Maryland Bankers Association. The boards also believe that her personal and business affiliations in our market areas also qualify her to sit on the boards of directors, and that it is beneficial to have an executive officer, who is familiar with the day-to-day operations of Howard and the Bank, serving on the board of directors, which provides the boards with a management perspective that helps them successfully oversee Howard and Howard Bank.

Robert W. Smith, Jr.

Mr. Smith, 63, has served as a director of Howard and Howard Bank since 2012. Mr. Smith is a practicing attorney and has been a partner at the law firm of DLA Piper LLP (US) since 1983. He is currently the Co-chair of the Global Corporate practice for DLA Piper and is a member of the Executive Committee of DLA Piper LLP (US), positions he has held for ten years or more. Mr. Smith's practice focuses on the general representation of private and public companies, and includes significant experience relating to mergers and acquisitions and the public offering of securities. Mr. Smith also has served on the boards of several not-for-profit entities, and is presently a member and President of the Board of Trustees of CENTERSTAGE in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Smith is currently a member of the Compensation Committee of the Boards of Directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The Boards of Directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Mr. Smith's qualifications for serving on the boards of directors include his legal background and significant experience in working with public companies and advising boards of directors on legal, governance and transactional matters, his management experience based on his responsibilities as global practice chair at DLA Piper, his significant experience with strategic transactions and his knowledge of governance principles and board matters based on his service and leadership positions with not-for-profit boards.

Donna Hill Staton

Ms. Staton, 57, has served as a director of Howard and Howard Bank since 2009. Ms. Staton is an attorney and member of the Maryland Bar since 1982. Her professional experience includes 13 years with the law firm of Piper & Marbury (now DLA Piper) where she was elected partner in 1993. Her commercial litigation practice included the representation of financial institutions and other businesses in state and federal courts and commercial arbitrations. Following a period of service as a Maryland circuit court judge, Ms. Staton was appointed Deputy Attorney General of the State of Maryland in 1997, a position she held until 2006. As chief deputy, she assisted the Attorney General with supervision of an office of nearly 600 employees, a multi-million dollar budget and responsibility for: the delivery of legal advice, counsel and representation of all branches of Maryland government; enforcement of the state's Securities, Antitrust and Consumer Protection laws; criminal investigations; and representation of the State in all criminal appellate appeals. Since leaving her Deputy Attorney General position, Ms. Staton has served in numerous volunteer capacities including the Maryland State Board of Education (since 2009), a trustee of the Howard County Bar Foundation, the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland and the Baltimore Education Scholarship Trust. She also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Law School during 2008. Ms. Staton is currently the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the boards of directors of both Howard and Howard Bank.

The boards of directors of each of Howard and Howard Bank believe that Ms. Staton's qualifications to serve as a director of Howard and Howard Bank include her legal background working with and representing businesses, regulators and legislative bodies, her management experience, and her knowledge of governance principals gained from service on government and not-for-profit boards and commissions.

New Directors

As discussed above, the members of the board of directors immediately prior to the merger, with the addition of Thomas P. O'Neill and Gary R. Bozel, will serve as directors of Howard after the merger. Below is certain information about Messrs. O'Neill and Bozel.

Thomas P. O'Neill

Mr. O'Neill, 62, has served on the board of directors of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank since 1995. Mr. O'Neill was named Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Patapsco and Patapsco Bank in August 1999. He has been a partner in the accounting firm of Hertzbach and Company since 2011. Previously, he was a managing director of RSM McGladrey, Inc. and the managing partner of the regional accounting firm of Wolpoff & Company LLP, which merged with American Express Tax and Business Services in 1998. He joined Wolpoff as a staff accountant in 1974 and became a partner in 1983. Mr. O'Neill is a member of the American Institute of Public Accountants and the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants. He has served on the boards of many charitable and civic groups.

The board of directors of Howard believes Mr. O'Neill's qualifications to serve on the board of directors of Howard and Howard Bank include his experience in accounting, tax and real estate matters and his knowledge of Patapsco Bank's business and operations as a result of his long tenure as a Director of Patapsco Bank. In addition, the boards believe that Mr. O'Neill's involvement in local charitable and civic groups has allowed him to develop strong ties to the community, which will provide the boards with valuable insight regarding the business and consumer environment in Patapsco Bank's local markets.

Gary R. Bozel

Mr. Bozel, 57, has been a member of the board of directors of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank since 2000. Mr. Bozel is the managing principal of Gary R. Bozel & Associates P.A., a certified public accounting firm in Towson, Maryland. Mr. Bozel served as the Chairman of the Board of Northfield Bancorp, Inc. from March 1998 to November 2000 and as the Chairman of the Board of Northfield Federal Savings Bank from 1996 to November 2000. He also served as the President of Northfield Federal Savings Bank from 1993 to 1996. Mr. Bozel is a member of the board of directors and finance committee of the Towson Golf and Country Club.

The board of directors of Howard believes that Mr. Bozel's accounting background will provide the board of directors with critical experience regarding financial matters and the needs of the local small business community. In addition, the board believes that Mr. Bozel's 15-year tenure as a director of Patapsco Bank and Patapsco and his previous experience in the local banking industry will afford the board valuable insight regarding the business and operations of Patapsco and Patapsco Bank.

Director Independence

Howard's board of directors has determined that all of its directors, with the exception of Ms. Scully, are independent directors as determined under the definition of independence set forth in the rules and listing standards of Nasdaq. In making this determination, the board of directors considered the transactions and relationships disclosed under "Howard Bancorp, Inc. – Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" below.

We expect that the board of directors will make a determination as to whether Messrs. O'Neill and Bozel would qualify as independent directors of Howard under the rules and listing standards of Nasdaq subsequent to the merger, although we expect that they will qualify as independent directors.

Executive Officers of Howard Who are not Directors

Executive Officers

Set forth below is certain information regarding persons who are executive officers of Howard and who are not directors of Howard. Except as otherwise indicated, the occupation listed has been such person's principal occupation for at least the last five years.

Robert A. Altieri

Mr. Altieri, 53, serves as Executive Vice President of the Company, and Executive Vice President, President of the Mortgage Division and Chief Specialty Lending Officer of Howard Bank. He has held these positions since April 2013.

Prior to joining Howard Bank, Mr. Altieri was most recently the Chief Executive Officer and President of Carrollton Bancorp, Carrollton Bank, Carrollton Mortgage Services, Inc. and Carrollton Community Development Corporation where he served in that capacity for nearly 12 years. Prior to that, he served as a Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer for Carrollton Bank.

Mr. Altieri is active in the community through various organizations. He currently serves as a Director for the House of Good Sheppard, and past director of Howard Hospital Foundation, Independent College Fund (IFUND), past director and treasurer for the Columbia Youth Hockey Club, Inc. and past president and director of the Glenelg Hockey Club.

Mr. Altieri has over 29 years of experience in the commercial banking industry.

Paul G. Brown

Mr. Brown, 60, serves as Executive Vice President of the Company, and Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer, and Chief Client Services Officer of Howard Bank. He has held these positions since the founding of Howard Bank in 2004 and since December 2005 with respect to the Company. Mr. Brown provides direct leadership for the relationship management activities of the Bank's commercial relationship management -lending, client service and asset recovery.

Prior to joining the organizing group for Howard Bank, Mr. Brown served from 2001-2003 as the Senior Vice President of Regional Banking for Allfirst Bank (now M&T Bank). Before joining Allfirst Bank, he served as Regional President for Keystone Bank (now M&T Bank) and Senior Vice President of Retail Banking for SunTrust Bank (1997-2000). Mr. Brown has also held senior management positions at Citizens Bank of Maryland (now SunTrust Bank) and Maryland National Bank (now Bank of America).

Mr. Brown has over 35 years of experience in the commercial banking industry.

Charles E. Schwabe

Mr. Schwabe, 59, serves as Executive Vice President and Secretary of the Company, and Executive Vice President, Chief Strategic Risk Officer and Secretary of Howard Bank. Mr. Schwabe has served as Executive Vice President and Secretary of the Company since December 2005 and as Executive Vice President and Secretary of Howard Bank since the founding of Howard Bank in 2004 and was appointed Chief Strategic Risk Officer in December 2014. He previously served as Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Information Officer, Information Security Officer, Compliance Officer and Chief Operational Risk Officer of the Bank from the founding of the Bank in 2004 until December 2014. Mr. Schwabe provides leadership for the assessment and management of enterprise risk which encompasses asset quality, compliance and operational risk, cyber and physical security risk. The Chief Credit Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Chief Security Officer report to Mr. Schwabe. He also serves as Howard Bank's Community Reinvestment Act Officer.

Prior to joining the organizing group for Howard Bank, he was employed by Allfirst Bank (now M&T Bank) from 1988 through April 2003. He served as Senior Vice President and Manager for the Customer Relationship Management Program as well as the Strategy and Planning Director for the Technology, eCommerce and Operations Division. At Allfirst Bank, he was also Vice President of Strategic Planning for the Mergers and Acquisitions Division and Vice President and Group Marketing Head for small business and retail product development and management. Prior to working at Allfirst Bank, he was a consultant and senior manager for a marketing firm that

specialized in the health care and financial services industries.

Mr. Schwabe has over 23 years of banking management experience and another seven years as a marketing strategy consultant to the banking, retail and business services industries.

George C. Coffman

Mr. Coffman, 51, serves as Treasurer, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company and Treasurer, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer of the Bank. He has held these positions since the opening of the Bank in 2004 and since December 2005 with respect to Howard. Mr. Coffman also serves as Chief Interest Rate and Liquidity Risk Officer of Howard Bank. Mr. Coffman provides leadership for the financial management and investment operations of Howard Bank. In this role, he directly manages all of the corporate accounting functions, management and regulatory reporting preparation, and compliance with accounting principles and disclosure requirements. Mr. Coffman also is responsible for the management of interest rate risk, budgeting and financial planning, and tax planning and reporting. Other duties include directing the investment portfolio, as well as overall funds management, and investor relations. Mr. Coffman is a Certified Public Accountant. He also serves as the Bank's Chief Investment Officer.

Prior to joining the organizing group of Howard Bank, Mr. Coffman held several senior financial management positions at Maryland-based financial institutions, including Mercantile Bank in Baltimore (now PNC Bank), Farmers & Mechanics Bank in Frederick (now PNC Bank), Sequoia Bank in Bethesda (now United Bank), and Citizens Bank of Maryland in Laurel (now SunTrust Bank).

Mr. Coffman has more than 26 years of experience in the operations, accounting, investment and finance areas of commercial banks in the central Maryland area.

Dennis E. Finnegan

Mr. Finnegan, 66, joined the Bank as Executive Vice President and Chief Deposit Officer in December 2014. Mr. Finnegan provides leadership for the Bank's deposit acquisition efforts through his management of branch administration, deposit operations, facilities, marketing and human resources. Mr. Finnegan is responsible for all branch sales and operations functions as well.

Prior to joining Howard Bank, Mr. Finnegan began his banking career at the Equitable Trust Company (now Bank of America) rising through the ranks from management trainee to Vice President and Corporate Secretary. He worked for First National Bank of Maryland (now M&T Bank) as head of the bank's Investment Brokerage department and manager of Personal Trust Business Development. He also managed the Baltimore Private Banking office for Crestar Bank (now SunTrust) and managed the new business and sales programs for Thomson Financial Corporation's wealth identification practice. He joined Howard after holding a similar position at 1st Mariner Bank for the last 15 years. During his tenure at 1st Mariner, the bank grew to over \$1.2 billion in assets, 16 banking offices and the highest brand recognition of any Baltimore-headquartered bank.

Mr. Finnegan is a member of the Maryland Bar Association. He is a former Board member of Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake and the Central Maryland YMCA. He currently serves on the Board of the Sports Legends Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Finnegan has more than 40 years of experience managing every aspect of retail banking.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION – HOWARD BANCORP, INC.

In this section, references to the "Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer to Howard Bancorp, Inc. and its subsidiaries collectively, unless the context requires otherwise, and references to the "Bank" refer to Howard Bank.

Compensation Overview

The Compensation Committee of Howard's board of directors' (the "Compensation Committee") responsibilities with regard to compensation are to: develop and implement an annual process for evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive Officer; make recommendations to the Board concerning the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer; in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, determine the compensation of the other executive officers; make recommendations to the Board concerning compensation to directors; advise the Board and the Chief Executive Officer on other compensation and benefit matters; and administer various Company incentive plans.

The Company's executive compensation philosophy embraces the following core principles and objectives:

- Attract and retain top talent who demonstrate success and professional growth and who model the Company's values of excellence, leadership, discipline, teamwork and community spirit.

- Reward desired performance and behavior in order to drive and enhance Company performance and achievement of its short-term and long-term goals.

 - Increase commitment through vesting of equity-based compensation awards over time.

- Maintain compensation competitiveness within the marketplace from which the Company accesses the desired level of talent.

- Include a strategic emphasis on performance-based compensation, utilizing a mix of short-term and long-term incentive compensation that rewards specific performance, achievements and outcomes and aligns individual rewards with Company performance and enhancement of stockholder value.

- Structure compensation plans so as not to encourage employees to take unnecessary or excessive risks that threaten the value of the Company and so as not to encourage the manipulation of earnings to enhance the compensation of any employee.

Under the Company's compensation policies established by the Compensation Committee, changes in base compensation are made, and cash and equity-based incentive compensation is awarded, based both on the individual executive officer's performance and on the performance of the entire Company. In assessing performance for purposes of compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee considers a number of factors, including achievements against individual and Company goals identified and approved at the beginning of each year. The Company also considers the total compensation and the mix of compensation paid by financial services companies with characteristics similar to those of the Company to officers with comparable responsibilities and experience.

In assessing performance for the purposes of establishing compensation, the Committee does not exclusively rely on a mechanical formula, but instead weighs the performance against goals and other factors described above as considered appropriate in the circumstances.

The key components of our 2014 executive compensation program for all named executive officers consist of a base salary, a performance-based cash incentive plan (the "STI" Short Term Incentive Plan), an equity based compensation plan (the "LTI" Long term incentive/restricted stock award plan), and a nonqualified supplemental executive retirement benefit program for Ms. Scully.

The Compensation Committee has engaged ChaseCompGroup as its independent outside consultant. ChaseCompGroup gave input to the Compensation Committee on a number of matters, including review of the overall compensation of our CEO and executive officers in comparison to peer companies and assistance with respect to the consideration and adoption of a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.

Base Salary

The Compensation Committee believes that base salaries for the Company's executive officers should be targeted at market competitive levels using a peer group of banks of similar size. Base salaries are reviewed annually and adjusted to the extent deemed appropriate based on our review of market data and assessment of Company and individual executive performance. In 2014, our named executive officers received no base salary increases over 2013 base salary levels. Base salary increases for 2015 are described in the summary information for each executive's employment agreement.

Short Term Incentive

The Compensation Committee established an annual cash incentive compensation program for 2014 based upon the achievement of specified Company-wide results as well as individual goals of the named executive officers. Thresholds for annual cash incentives were set at 90%, 100% and 115% of certain financial metrics and individual goals, with our CEO having target cash bonus awards ranging from 18.75% to 62.5% of base salary and the other named executive officers having target awards ranging from 15% to 50% of base salary. While the Company achieved many of its objectives in 2014, certain of the specific Company-wide targets were not met in 2014 if the one-time gains associated with the purchase of certain assets and assumption of certain liabilities from NBR Financial Bank is disregarded. As a result, the Compensation Committee concluded the named executive officers were not eligible for a formulaic cash bonus under the terms of the STI program. However, the Compensation Committee recommended and the Board approved discretionary bonuses as indicated in the Summary Compensation Table based upon both the organic and the acquired growth in the loan, assets and deposits of the Company, the achievement of significant growth and year-end profitability of the mortgage company, the substantial increase in Company tangible book value, and progress on other strategic initiatives. Each of those discretionary bonuses was below the amount that would have been awarded under the formula at the 100% threshold level.

Long Term Incentive

The Compensation Committee believes stock-based incentive compensation is an important tool to further align the interests of our executive officers with the long-term interests of our stockholders and uses the LTI for that purpose. In April 2013 the Compensation Committee granted restricted stock awards to our executive officers in an aggregate amount of 50,000 shares, half of which were tied to a combination of performance and time vesting over three years and half of which were tied only to three-year time vesting. In 2014 the Committee determined that the first year performance targets were not met with respect to this award and one-third of the performance-related share grants were not issued to the executives. In April 2014 the Committee granted restricted stock awards to our executive officers in the aggregate amount of 42,000 shares, 25,000 of which were tied to a combination of performance and time vesting over a period of three years and 17,000 of which were tied to three-year time vesting. In 2014 the Compensation Committee concluded that the performance targets for the performance awards granted in 2013 and 2014 eligible for vesting in 2015 were achieved and earned by the executives. The Compensation Committee has direct oversight and administrative responsibility for the Company's equity compensation plans and reports all awards to the board of directors.

The foregoing description regarding the cash incentive compensation program and restricted stock awards for 2013 does not apply to Mr. Altieri, who joined the Company in April 2013 and whose base salary, bonus and stock awards for 2013 were determined by the terms of his employment agreement. Mr. Altieri did participate in the restricted stock award program for 2014.

Given the structure of and amounts payable under the above-described plans, the Committee has concluded that these plans do not serve as an inducement for any executive officer or other employee to engage in any inappropriate risk-taking activity that would threaten the value of the Company. Further, the Company believes it has appropriate controls in place to mitigate and reduce the risk of inappropriate risk-taking activity.

Supplemental Executive Retirement Program

The Compensation Committee engaged several external resources with specific expertise to assist in the development of a compensation program enhancement to help us retain the services of our executives who we believe to be instrumental in the success of the Company. These resources included ChaseCompGroup, the Company's independent compensation consulting firm, and Banc Consulting Partners, an entity that specializes in the design of executive benefit plans, including Supplemental Executive Retirement Programs. Compensation practices and programs at peer banks were reviewed and compared to those of the Bank incorporating the perspectives of these external professionals.

As a result of this review, the Company adopted a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (the "SERP" effective December 1, 2014 (the "Effective Date"). Eligibility to participate in the SERP is limited to highly compensated employees as determined by the board of directors. As of the Effective Date, eligibility to participate in the SERP has been granted solely to Ms. Scully, our President and Chief Executive Officer. The SERP is unfunded and designed to be a nonqualified deferred compensation retirement plan in compliance with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

The SERP is a defined benefit style program in which the participant is promised a benefit according to a set formula; such benefit is paid to the participant (or his or her beneficiary) in equal quarterly installments over a period of 15 years following the later of (i) the participant's severance from employment with the Bank after attainment of the Normal Retirement Age (as defined in the SERP) or (ii) the attainment of Normal Retirement Age if severance has occurred first. Under the SERP, Ms. Scully will receive \$100,000 each year for 15 years once she begins to receive her benefit. Given her prior service with the Bank, Ms. Scully is vested at December 31, 2014 in 66.67% of her accrued benefit. Provided she remains an employee of the Bank at the applicable vesting time, Ms. Scully will earn vesting on a graduated schedule in which she will become fully vested on August 25, 2019, which has been established for purposes of the SERP as her retirement date.

To the extent not already fully vested, a participant in the SERP will fully vest in their benefit upon the occurrence of the participant's death or Disability (as defined in the SERP) or if the Bank terminates the SERP following a Change in Control (as defined in the SERP). Upon a participant's Termination for Cause (as defined in the SERP), he or she forfeits all benefits under the SERP including any amounts in which he or she has previously vested.

Summary Compensation Table. The following table sets forth a comprehensive overview of the compensation for Ms. Scully, our Chief Executive Officer and President, and our next two most highest paid executive officers whose total compensation exceeded \$100,000 during 2014 (the “named executive officers”) for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus (1)	Stock Awards (2)	All Other Compensation	Total
Mary Ann Scully, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and President of the Company and the Bank	2014	\$275,000	\$100,000	\$113,000	\$ 11,738	(3) \$499,738
	2013	\$275,000	\$35,000	\$68,500	\$ 18,816	\$397,316
Robert A. Altieri, Executive Vice President of the Company and the Bank, Mortgage Division President of the Bank	2014	245,000	124,110(4)	90,400	15,130	(6) 474,640
	2013	138,462	100,000(5)	36,000	8,428	282,890
George C. Coffman, Executive Vice President and Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company and the Bank	2014	200,000	75,000	90,400	18,442	(7) 383,842
	2013	200,000	20,000	68,500	17,695	306,195

(1) Represents amounts paid based upon the executive's performance during the year indicated even if paid in the following year.

(2) Consists of restricted stock unit awards for 2014 and restricted stock awards in 2013.

Restricted stock units were granted to Ms. Scully and Messrs. Altieri and Coffman in April 2014 and the value is based on the closing share price at the date of grant of \$11.30.

In 2013, restricted stock was granted to Ms. Scully and Mr. Coffman in April and the value is based on the closing share price at the date of grant of \$6.85. Mr. Altieri was granted restricted stock upon his employment, also in April of 2013, with and the value is based on the closing share price at the date of grant of \$7.20.

All shares granted in both 2014 and 2013 are subject to a three year vesting schedule.

(3) Represents \$438 in 401(k) matching contribution, \$2,300 in life insurance benefits and a car allowance of \$9,000.

(4) Amount based upon formula defined in Mr. Altieri's employment agreement.

One half of bonus is paid in the year following the division's performance, and the remainder is deferred over three years.

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- (5) Determined in accordance with his employment agreement, with an initial \$50,000 upon joining the Company and an additional \$50,000 due after the end of the fiscal year ended 2013.
- (6) Represents \$3,960 in 401(k) matching contribution, \$2,170 in life insurance benefits and a car allowance of \$9,000.
- (7) Represents \$8,392 in 401(k) matching contribution, \$1,050 in life insurance benefits and a car allowance of \$9,000.

The following table discloses information about unexercised options and unvested stock awards outstanding at December 31, 2014 for each of the named executive officers.

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS

AT FISCAL YEAR END

DECEMBER 31, 2014

OPTION AWARDS				STOCK AWARDS				
Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options: Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Exercisable Options:	Option Exercise Price	Option Expiration Date	Grant Date	Number of Shares of Stock that have Not Vested (1)	Market Value of Stock that have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares that have Not Vested (2)(3)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Value of Unearned Shares that have Not Vested
Mary Ann Scully								
6,387		\$ 13.75	2/14/2017	4/5/2013	\$ 3,333	\$ 37,996	3,333	\$ 37,996
17,000		\$ 13.99	1/17/2017	4/30/2014	\$ 5,000	\$ 57,000	5,000	\$ 57,000
6,000		\$ 11.00	12/14/2015					
9,786		\$ 10.50	10/31/2015					
39,173	-				\$ 8,333	\$ 94,996	8,333	\$ 94,996
Robert A. Altieri								
-	-	-	-	4/30/2013	\$ 3,333	\$ 37,996		
				4/30/2014	\$ 3,000	\$ 34,200	5,000	\$ 57,000
-	-				\$ 6,333	\$ 72,196	5,000	57,000
George C. Coffman								
4,562		\$ 13.75	2/14/2017	4/5/2013	\$ 3,333	\$ 37,996	3,333	\$ 37,996
14,200		\$ 13.99	1/17/2017	4/30/2014	\$ 3,000	\$ 34,200	5,000	\$ 57,000
5,000		\$ 11.00	12/14/2015					
6,990		\$ 10.50	10/31/2015					
30,752	-				\$ 6,333	\$ 72,196	8,333	\$ 94,996

For each grant on 4/5/2013, 1,667 shares vest on each of 4/5/2014 and 4/5/2015, and 1,666 shares vest on 4/5/2016.
(1) For each grant on 4/30/2014, 1,667 shares vest on each of 4/30/2015 and 4/30/2016, and 1,666 shares vest on 4/30/2017.

For each grant on 4/5/2013, assuming pre-established performance metrics for the prior year are met or the board
(2) of directors uses its discretionary authority to permit such shares to be earned in the absence of meeting such performance metrics, 1,667 shares vest on each of 4/5/2014 and 4/5/2015, and 1,666 shares vest on 4/5/2016.

For each grant on 4/30/2014, assuming pre-established performance metrics for the prior year are met or the board
(3) of directors uses its discretionary authority to permit such shares to be earned in the absence of meeting such performance metrics, 1,667 shares vest on each of 4/30/2015 and 4/30/2016, and 1,666 shares vest on 4/30/2017.

Employment Agreements

The following summarizes the material terms of the employment agreements between the named executive officers and Howard Bank.

Chief Executive Officer - Mary Ann Scully

Howard Bank entered into an amended and restated employment agreement with Mary Ann Scully on December 18, 2008 pursuant to which Ms. Scully serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Howard and Howard Bank.

The amended and restated employment agreement provided for an initial term expiring on March 31, 2011 and, unless written notice that the agreement will not be renewed is provided to Ms. Scully, is renewed for an additional year on each subsequent March 31 (beginning on March 31, 2009), such that the remaining term at each renewal will be three years. Ms. Scully's term of employment is currently extended through March 31, 2018.

Ms. Scully's employment agreement provides for an initial annual salary subject to annual increases as may be determined by Howard Bank's board of directors. Ms. Scully's current annual salary is set at \$350,000. Ms. Scully is also entitled to a bonus as determined each year by the Bank's board of directors and to participate in any other bonus, incentive and other executive compensation programs as are made available to the Bank's executive management. The agreement also provides that Ms. Scully is not compensated for her services as a director.

Howard Bank may terminate Ms. Scully's employment under the agreement for certain events constituting Cause as defined in the agreement. In addition, Howard Bank may terminate the agreement without Cause or upon Ms. Scully's Permanent Disability as defined in the agreement, in each case upon written notice to Ms. Scully. Ms. Scully may terminate her employment at any time under the agreement.

If Howard Bank terminates Ms. Scully's employment without Cause or upon Ms. Scully's Permanent Disability, or Ms. Scully terminates her employment for Good Reason or upon her Permanent Disability, and a Change in Control, as defined in the agreement, has not occurred, then Ms. Scully will be entitled to receive an amount equal to her current base salary plus all benefits she is then receiving for a period equal to the remaining term of the agreement plus any incentive compensation already accrued for that year. In addition, all of her stock awards and stock options shall immediately vest upon the effective date of such termination. If the termination is due to Permanent Disability, then such amount payable will be reduced if and to the extent that Ms. Scully receives payments under any disability insurance or other program maintained by Howard Bank.

If, within 12 months following a Change in Control, Ms. Scully's employment is terminated under the agreement by Ms. Scully for any reason or by Howard Bank without Cause, then, instead of the payments provided for above, Ms. Scully will be entitled to: (i) a lump sum payment equal to the sum of (a) 2.99 times her average annual compensation (consisting of base pay and bonus) during the most recent three years minus the aggregate present value of any other payments she receives that are treated as contingent upon the Change in Control (not including (ii), (iii) and (iv) of this sentence, and (b) a pro-rated bonus; (ii) immediate vesting of all stock awards; (iii) immediate exercisability of any unexercised stock options; and (iv) continued medical coverage for the remaining term of the agreement as available to the Bank's other employees.

If any severance payment or distribution made to Ms. Scully is determined to be subject to the limitations of Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (a "Parachute Payment"), Ms. Scully will be entitled to a full tax "gross-up" to cover any excise taxes on such amount, unless the total value of all such payments and benefits (as measured for purposes of Section 280G) exceeds the taxable threshold by 10% or less, in which event the payments and benefits will instead be reduced so as to fall below the taxable threshold.

Ms. Scully's employment also terminates upon mutual agreement of the parties or immediately upon her death. If her employment is terminated upon death, all of Ms. Scully's stock awards and stock options shall immediately vest.

The agreement also contains confidentiality, non-compete and non-solicitation provisions.

Executive Vice President and Treasurer – George C. Coffman

On December 18, 2008, Howard Bank entered into amended and restated employment agreement with Mr. Coffman pursuant to which he serves as an Executive Vice President of Howard Bank.

The amended and restated employment agreement provides for an initial term expiring on March 31, 2011 and, unless written notice that the agreement will not be renewed is provided to the executive, is renewed for an additional year on each subsequent March 31 (beginning on March 31, 2009), such that the remaining term at each renewal will be three years. The term of Mr. Coffman's employment is currently extended through March 31, 2018.

Mr. Coffman's employment agreement provides for an initial annual salary, subject to annual increases as may be determined by the Bank's board of directors. He also may receive an annual bonus to be determined by the Bank's board of directors. Mr. Coffman's current annual salary is set at \$275,000. Mr. Coffman is also entitled to a bonus as determined each year by the board of directors and to participate in any other bonus, incentive and other executive compensation programs as are made available to the Bank's executive management.

The other substantive provisions of Mr. Coffman's employment agreement are identical to those of Ms. Scully's employment agreement as described above.

Executive Officer – Mr. Altieri

On April 30, 2013, Howard Bank entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Altieri pursuant to which he serves as an Executive Vice President and President of the Mortgage Division of Howard Bank.

The employment agreement provides for an initial term expiring on April 30, 2015, which has been extended until April 30, 2016. The agreement may be renewed upon notice provided by the Bank's Chief Executive Officer on or before 90 days before the applicable termination date.

Mr. Altieri's employment agreement provides for an initial annual salary, subject to annual increases as may be determined by the Bank's board of directors. Mr. Altieri's annual salary is currently set at \$245,000. Mr. Altieri also will receive an annual incentive based upon the pretax revenues of the Mortgage Division, provided, however, that the

agreement included a bonus of at least \$50,000 for 2013. Mr. Altieri's employment agreement also provided for, as of the April 30, 2013 effective date, an initial bonus of \$50,000 and a grant of 5,000 shares of restricted stock vesting over a three-year period. He is also entitled to a \$750 a month car allowance and to participate in any other bonus, incentive and other executive compensation programs as are made available to the Bank's executive management.

Howard Bank may terminate Mr. Altieri's employment under the agreement for certain events constituting Cause as defined in the agreement. In addition, Howard Bank may terminate the agreement without Cause or upon Mr. Altieri's Permanent Disability as defined in the agreement, in each case upon written notice to Mr. Altieri. Mr. Altieri may terminate his employment at any time under the agreement.

If Howard Bank terminates Mr. Altieri's employment without Cause or upon Mr. Altieri's Permanent Disability, or Mr. Altieri terminates his employment for Good Reason or upon his Permanent Disability, and a Change in Control, as defined in the agreement, has not occurred, then Mr. Altieri will be entitled to receive an amount equal to his current base salary plus all benefits he is then receiving for a period equal to the remaining term of the agreement plus any incentive compensation already accrued for that year. In addition, all of his stock awards and stock options shall immediately vest upon the effective date of such termination. If the termination is due to Permanent Disability, then such amount payable will be reduced if and to the extent that Mr. Altieri receives payments under any disability insurance or other program maintained by Howard Bank.

If, within 12 months following a Change in Control, Mr. Altieri's employment is terminated under the agreement by Howard Bank without Cause, then, instead of the payments provided for above, Mr. Altieri will be entitled to: (i) a lump sum payment equal to the sum of (a) two times his average annual compensation (consisting of base pay and bonus) during the most recent three years minus the aggregate present value of any other payments he receives that are treated as contingent upon the Change in Control (not including (ii), (iii) and (iv) of this sentence, and (b) a pro-rated bonus; (ii) immediate vesting of all stock awards; (iii) immediate exercisability of any unexercised stock options; and (iv) continued medical coverage for the remaining term of the agreement as available to the Bank's other employees.

Mr. Altieri's employment also terminates upon mutual agreement of the parties or immediately upon his death. If his employment is terminated upon death, all of Mr. Altieri's stock awards and stock options shall immediately vest.

The agreement also contains confidentiality, non-compete and non-solicitation provisions.

Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

Howard Bank maintains a supplemental executive retirement plan ("SERP") that provides Ms. Scully (or her designated beneficiary) with additional compensation upon her reaching age 68. Upon attainment of age 68, Ms. Scully is entitled to total annual benefit of \$100,000 for a period of 15 years. A reduced benefit is payable if prior to her attaining age 68 Ms. Scully's employment is terminated due to her death or disability, by the Bank without cause or by Ms. Scully for any reason, or if Howard Bank terminates the Plan within 30 days before or 12 months following a change in control.

The board of directors of the Bank may designate additional Bank personnel to participate in the SERP, however, participation is limited to a select group of management or highly compensated employees.

Director Compensation

The following table discloses all fees earned and other payments to each director for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION			
Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) (1)	Total (\$)
Richard G. Arnold	\$5,500	\$10,875	\$16,375
Nasser Basir	4,950	9,975	14,925
Andrew E. Clark	17,025	1,625	18,650
Phillip W. Gibbs (2)	500	-	500
Robert J. Hartson	11,850	1,625	13,475

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John J. Keenan	-	5,675	5,675	
Paul I. Latta, Jr.	23,225	9,443	32,668	
Barbara K. Lawson (3)	10,150	1,625	11,775	
Kenneth C. Lundeen	16,375	1,625	18,000	
Robert N. Meyers (4)	9,850	-	9,850	
Richard J. Morgan	-	3,050	3,050	
Richard H. Pettingill (3)	9,950	1,625	11,575	
Steven W. Sachs (4)	3,150	5,750	8,900	
Mary Ann Scully (5)	-	-	-	
Robert W. Smith, Jr.	4,600	9,875	14,475	
Donna Hill Staton	12,525	1,625	14,150	
Total		\$129,650	\$64,393	\$194,545

As of December 31, 2014, our directors held outstanding options to purchase shares of our common stock as follows: Mr. Arnold – 8,035 shares; Mr. Basir – 304 shares; Mr. Clark – 6,877 shares; Mr. Hartson – 5,026 shares; Mr. (1) Latta – 13,187 shares; Ms. Lawson – 3,454; Mr. Lundeen - 5,939 shares; Mr. Meyers – 7,623 shares; Mr. Pettingill – 5,440 shares; Mr. Sachs – 6,732 shares.

(2) Mr. Gibbs resigned from the board in July 2014.

(3) Ms. Lawson's and Mr. Pettingill's terms as directors ended at the annual meeting of stockholders held on May 27, 2015.

(4) Messrs. Meyers and Sachs' terms as directors ended at the annual meeting of stockholders held on May 28, 2014.

(5) Ms. Scully is an executive officer and is not compensated for her services as a director.

Director Fees. For the first three quarters of 2014, directors of the Company were compensated as follows: Each of our non-employee directors was compensated at the rate of \$500 for each meeting of our board of directors attended. In addition, each non-employee director was compensated for each committee meeting attended. The Chairperson of the committee was compensated at the rate of \$350 per meeting attended and committee members were compensated at the rate of \$250 per committee meeting attended. Director compensation was generally paid quarterly. Each non-employee director was permitted to make an annual election to have his or her director compensation paid in the form of cash, stock, or a mix of cash and stock. When non-employee directors elected to have their compensation paid in the form of shares of stock, the number of shares of stock awarded was equal to the total compensation earned, divided by the fair market value of our shares of common stock as of the date of award (i.e., the last business day of the calendar quarter for which the compensation was payable). The boards of directors and committees of both the Company and the Bank generally meet concurrently, and compensation was determined on the basis of such concurrent meetings being considered as one board or committee meeting. The Lead Independent Director was also awarded per quarter, as a retainer, an additional 250 shares of our common stock.

Effective October 1, 2014, non-employee directors of the Company are compensated for their services as directors as follows: Each receives a retainer of \$16,500 per year consisting of a cash payment of \$10,000 plus shares of Company common stock having a value of \$6,500. No fees are paid for attendance at Board meetings. Each non-employee director is also compensated at the rate of \$300 for attending each meeting of a Company or a Howard Bank Board committee of which the director is a member. Combined meetings of Company and Bank committees are treated as a single meeting for compensation purposes. Attendance may be in person or by telephone or video conference for compensation purposes. In addition, each non-employee director who holds any of the following Board leadership positions receives a cash retainer in the amount per annum indicated:

.	Lead Independent Director - \$12,500
.	Audit Committee Chair - \$5,000
.	All Other Committee Chairs - \$3,500

Non-employee director compensation is calculated and paid quarterly. Although retainers are stated in amounts per annum, a retainer is payable only for such quarters for which a director holds the position for which the retainer is payable. All director compensation earned during a calendar quarter to be paid in the form of Company common stock

is deemed awarded as of the close of business on the last business day of such calendar quarter (the "Award Date"). The stock is awarded under our 2013 Equity Incentive Plan and is fully vested and unrestricted (except for any restriction on transferability required by applicable securities laws and regulations). The number of shares to be awarded to each non-employee director for a calendar quarter is calculated by dividing (i) the total amount of the compensation earned by the director during the calendar quarter and to be paid by the award of stock by (ii) the closing price per share of the Company's common stock on the Award Date.

In 2014, non-employee directors earned cash payments of \$129,650, and awards of 6,024 shares of common stock as compensation for their service as directors, including attending board of director and committee meetings, as disclosed in the above table. The directors receive no other compensation for their services.

HOWARD BANCORP, INC. – CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Howard Bank and Howard may engage in transactions in the ordinary course of business with some of its directors, executive officers, holders of five percent or more of any class of our securities and entities and individuals affiliated with those persons. In addition, Howard Bank has had in the past, and may have in the future, banking transactions, including making loans to and loan guarantees on behalf of, with directors, executive officers, holders of five percent or more of any class of our securities and the business and professional organizations in which they are associated in the ordinary course of business. All such transactions will be made on terms that are no less favorable to Howard and Howard Bank than those that could be obtained at the time from unaffiliated third parties and otherwise in accordance with applicable law. Further, any loans, loan commitments and loan guarantees are and will be made in accordance with all applicable laws and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans to unrelated persons. In addition, a majority of Howard's or Howard Bank's independent directors must approve all material affiliated transactions and loans that are in excess of \$500,000, including any forgiveness of loans, with our directors, executive officers, holders of five percent or more of any class of Howard's securities, and entities and individuals affiliated with such persons.

In the opinion of management, these transactions do not and will not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features. Directors or officers with any personal interest in any loan application are excluded from considering any such loan application. The aggregate amount of loans outstanding to Howard Bank's directors, executive officers and their affiliates at December 31, 2014 was approximately \$10.9 million.

HOWARD BANCORP, INC. - MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

As used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the terms "we," "us" and "our" refer to Howard Bancorp, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

This section is intended to help current and potential investors understand our financial performance through a discussion of the factors affecting our consolidated financial condition at December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. This section should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes to the consolidated financial statements that appear elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Overview

Howard Bancorp, Inc. is the holding company for Howard Bank. Howard Bank is a trust company chartered under Subtitle 2 of Title 3 of the Financial Institutions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Bank was formed in March 2004 and commenced banking operations on August 9, 2004. Howard Bank does not exercise trust powers, and our regulatory structure is the same as a Maryland-chartered commercial bank. As such, our business has consisted primarily of originating both commercial and real estate loans secured by property in our market area. Typically, commercial real estate and business loans involve a higher degree of risk and carry a higher yield than one-to-four-family residential loans. Although we plan to continue to focus on commercial customers, we intend to increase our originations of one- to four-family residential mortgage loans going forward, increasing our portfolio of mortgage lending and also selling select loans into the secondary markets.

We are headquartered in Ellicott City, Maryland and we consider our primary market area to be The Greater Baltimore Metropolitan Area. We engage in a general commercial banking business, making various types of loans and accepting deposits. We market our financial services to small to medium sized businesses and their owners, professionals and executives, and high-net-worth individuals. Our loans are primarily funded by core deposits of customers in our market.

Our core business strategy is to deliver superior customer service that is supported by an extremely high level of banking sophistication. Our specialized community banking focus on both local markets and small business related market segments is combined with a broad array of products, new technology and seasoned banking professionals which positions the Bank differently than most competitors. Our experienced executives establish a relationship with each client and bring value to all phases of a client's business and personal banking needs.

Our results of operations depend mainly on our net interest income, which is the difference between the interest income we earn on our loan and investment portfolios and the interest expense we pay on deposits and borrowings. Results of operations are also affected by provisions for credit losses, noninterest income and noninterest expense. Our noninterest expense consists primarily of compensation and employee benefits, as well as office occupancy, deposit insurance and general administrative and data processing expenses. Our operations are significantly affected by general economic and competitive conditions, particularly with respect to changes in interest rates, government policies and actions of regulatory authorities. Future changes in applicable laws, regulations or government policies may materially affect our financial condition and results of operations.

In October 2014 Howard Bank acquired the assets and deposits of a failed institution from the FDIC with branch locations in Harford and Cecil Counties in Maryland and Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. This added \$135.6 million in assets and generated a bargain purchase gain of \$16.1 million before tax and expanded our geographic reach.

In August 2014 Howard Bank purchased from NBRS Financial Bank its branch located at 800 Revolution Street, Havre de Grace, Maryland. Pursuant to the branch purchase, Howard Bank acquired \$16.1 million in loans and \$18.7 million in deposits. In connection with its purchase of the branch, Howard Bank made a net cash payment of \$2.4 million, including a premium of approximately \$384,000. This transaction was recorded as an asset acquisition rather than as a business combination.

In August 2013, Howard Bank purchased from Cecil Bank its branch located at 3 West Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, Maryland. Pursuant to the transaction, Howard Bank acquired \$37.1 million in loans and \$35.2 million in deposits from Cecil Bank, as well as the branch premises and equipment at their book value. In connection with its purchase of the branch from Cecil Bank, Howard Bank made a net cash payment to Cecil Bank of \$3.2 million, including a premium of approximately \$240,000. This transaction was recorded as an asset acquisition rather than as a business combination.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, we reported net income of \$10.41 million compared to net income of \$1.96 million in 2013, an increase of \$8.5 million or 430%. The primary reason for this dramatic increase in earnings was a \$16.1 million pretax bargain purchase gain on the FDIC assisted acquisition of NBRS Financial Bank in the fourth quarter of 2014. Please see Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements for additional details on this bargain purchase gain calculation. On a core operating basis, due to continued balance sheet growth, net interest income increased to \$21.0 million in 2014, which represented an increase of \$5.1 million or 33% compared to 2013. Partially offsetting the increase in net interest income, the provision for loan losses in 2014 of \$3.3 million was \$2.3 million higher than the 2013 provision of \$950 thousand. The majority of this 2014 provision resulted from losses incurred on one lending relationship. Noninterest income increased to \$23.3 million during 2014 compared to \$1.3 million for 2013, representing an increase of \$21.9 million or 1,657%. The largest contributor to the increased noninterest revenues was the \$16.1 million bargain purchase gain relating to the NBRS Financial Bank acquisition noted above. Total noninterest expenses for 2014 of \$23.7 million increased by \$10.5 million or 79% over total noninterest expenses of \$13.2 million in 2013. Compensation expenses, which accounted for more than half of the total increase in expenses, grew by \$6.0 million or 82% during 2014 compared to 2013 largely due to increases in staff as we continue to expand.

For the year ended December 31, 2013, we reported net income of \$1.96 million compared to net income of \$1.62 million in 2012, an increase of \$341 thousand or 21%. Net interest income increased to \$15.8 million in 2013, which represented an increase of \$2.3 million or 17% compared to 2012. The provision for loan losses in 2013 of \$950 thousand was \$232 thousand or 32% higher than the 2012 provision of \$718 thousand. Noninterest income also increased, to \$1.3 million during 2013 compared to \$768 thousand for 2012, representing an increase of \$556

thousand or 73%. The largest contributor to the increased noninterest revenues was the initiation of a Bank Owned Life Insurance (BOLI) program in January 2013, which generated \$282 thousand of income during 2013. Total noninterest expenses for 2013 of \$13.2 million increased by \$2.4 million or 22% over total noninterest expenses of \$10.8 million in 2012. Compensation expenses grew by \$1.3 million or 22% during 2013 compared to 2012 due to increases in staffing as we continue to open new branch and regional office locations, and also commenced the building and staffing of our new mortgage division. Also in 2013, we recorded \$347 thousand in expense due to a decreased valuation on one of our foreclosed properties, while this same expense for 2012 was only \$48 thousand, representing a year over year increase of \$299 thousand, as work towards disposal of the residual nonperforming assets on the balance sheet continued.

Our nonperforming assets totaled \$8.7 million, or 1.26% of total assets, at December 31, 2014, compared to \$5.6 million, or 1.11% of total assets, at December 31, 2013 and \$5.3 million, or 1.32% of total assets, at December 31, 2012. We had loans totaling \$1.2 million delinquent more than 90 days and still accruing at December 31, 2014 compared to \$455 thousand and \$249 thousand of such delinquencies at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. In addition, we provided \$3.3 million for credit losses for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$950 thousand for credit losses during the year ended December 31, 2013 and \$718 thousand during the year ended December 31, 2012. In addition to the continual higher provisioning required due to the growth in the overall size of the loan portfolio, the 2014 provision was impacted by nearly \$2.0 million in losses on one long term customer.

Total assets increased by over \$19.1 million or 2.8% when comparing March 31, 2015 assets of \$710.5 million to the \$691.4 million at December 31, 2014. Total loans outstanding of \$570.4 million at the end of March 2015 showed an increase of \$17.5 million or 3.2% compared to total loans of \$552.9 million on December 31, 2014. Total deposits grew by \$26.6 million or 4.8% when comparing March 31, 2015 to December 31, 2014.

The first quarter of 2015 net income was \$649 thousand, which represents an increase of 143.9% over net income for the first quarter of 2014. Net interest income for the quarter ended March 31, 2015 was \$6.8 million versus \$4.4 million for the first three months of 2014, an increase of approximately \$2.4 million or 52.8%. Total noninterest income was \$2.3 million for the first quarter of 2015, compared to a total of \$623 thousand for the same period in 2014. Total noninterest expenses increased to \$7.8 million from \$4.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Critical Accounting Policies

Our accounting and financial reporting policies conform to GAAP and general practice within the banking industry. Accordingly, the financial statements require management to exercise significant judgment or discretion or make significant assumptions based on the information available that have, or could have, a material impact on the carrying value of certain assets or on income. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the periods presented. In reviewing and understanding financial information for us, you are encouraged to read and understand the significant accounting policies used in preparing our financial statements. We consider the allowance for credit losses to be our most significant accounting policy, which is further described in the notes to our financial statements.

Allowance for credit losses

The allowance for credit losses is established through a provision for credit losses charged against income. Loans are charged against the allowance for credit losses when management believes that the collectability of the principal is unlikely. Subsequent recoveries are added to the allowance. The allowance is an amount that represents the amount of probable and reasonably estimable known and inherent losses in the loan portfolio, based on evaluations of the collectability of loans. The evaluations take into consideration such factors as changes in the types and amount of loans in the loan portfolio, historical loss experience, adverse situations that may affect the borrower's ability to repay, estimated value of any underlying collateral, estimated losses relating to specifically identified loans, and current economic conditions. This evaluation is inherently subjective as it requires material estimates including, among others, exposure at default, the amount and timing of expected future cash flows on impacted loans, value of collateral, estimated losses on our loan portfolios as well as consideration of general loss experience. Based on our estimate of the level of allowance for credit losses required, we record a provision for credit losses to maintain the allowance for credit losses at an appropriate level.

We cannot predict with certainty the amount of loan charge-offs that we will incur. We do not currently determine a range of loss with respect to the allowance for credit losses. In addition, our regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination processes, periodically review our allowance for credit losses. Such agencies may require that we recognize additions to the allowance for credit losses based on their judgments about information available to them at the time of their examination. To the extent that actual outcomes differ from management's estimates, additional provisions to the allowance for credit losses may be required that would adversely impact earnings in future periods.

Income taxes

We account for income taxes under the asset/liability method. We recognize deferred tax assets for the future consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases, as well as operating loss and tax credit carry-forwards. We measure deferred tax assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. We recognize the effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates in income in the period indicated by the enactment date. We establish a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets when, in the judgment of management, it is more likely than not that such deferred tax assets will not become realizable. The judgment about the level of future taxable income is dependent to a great extent on matters that may, at least in part, be beyond our control. It is at least reasonably possible that management's judgment about the need for a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets could change in the near term.

Share based compensation

We follow the provisions of ASC Topic 718 "Compensation – Stock Compensation" which requires the expense recognition over the respective service period for the fair value of share based compensation awards, such as stock options, restricted stock, and performance based shares. This standard allows management to establish modeling assumptions as to expected stock price volatility, option terms, forfeiture rates and dividend rates which directly impact estimated fair value. The accounting standard also allows for the use of alternative option pricing models which may impact fair value as determined. Our practice is to utilize reasonable and supportable assumptions which are reviewed with the appropriate board Committee.

Balance Sheet Analysis and Comparison of Financial Condition – December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013

A comparison between December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 balance sheets is presented below.

Assets

Total assets increased \$191.5 million, or 38.3%, to \$691.4 million at December 31, 2014 compared to \$500.0 million at December 31, 2013. This increase in assets was primarily due to a \$149.0 million, or 36.9%, increase in loans, to \$552.9 million at December 31, 2014 from \$403.9 million at December 31, 2013. The increase in loans reflects approximately \$14.2 million and \$84.3 million related to the acquisitions of our Havre de Grace Branch and NBRS Financial Bank, respectively. Complementing this acquired growth, the Bank had organic growth of \$50.5 million in loans during 2014. In addition to these increases in the loan portfolio, total assets was also bolstered by the activities in our newly formed mortgage banking group, which resulted in loans held for sale at December 31, 2014 of \$42.9 million compared to only \$3.3 million in loans pending sale at the end of 2013. The primary source of funding for the asset growth was an increase in deposit levels. Customer deposits increased from \$388.9 million at December 31, 2013 to \$554.0 million at December 31, 2014, an increase of \$165.1 million or 42.5%. Supplementing the deposit growth, borrowed funds increased by \$6.0 million or 9.7% during 2014. In addition, our total capital levels increased \$11.0 million or 22.7% year over year, given the higher levels of 2014 annual earnings.

Securities Available for Sale

We currently hold both U.S. agency securities, treasury securities and mortgage backed securities in our securities portfolio, all of which are considered as available for sale. We use our securities portfolio to provide the required collateral for funding via commercial customer repurchase agreements as well as to provide sufficient liquidity to fund our loans and provide funds for withdrawals of deposited funds. At December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 we held an investment in stock of the FHLB of \$2.6 million and \$2.3 million, respectively. This investment, which is required for continued membership, is based partially upon the dollar amount of borrowings outstanding from the FHLB. These investments are carried at cost. We have never held stock in Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

The following tables set forth the composition of our investment securities portfolio at the dates indicated.

	December 31,	
(in thousands)	2014	2013
	Amortized	Amortized
	Estimated	Estimated

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	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
U.S. Government				
Agencies	\$37,010	\$ 36,981	\$28,522	\$ 28,521
Treasuries	4,000	3,997	-	-
Mortgage-backed	95	101	157	167
	\$41,105	\$ 41,079	\$28,679	\$ 28,688

We had securities available for sale of \$41.1 million and \$28.7 million at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, which were recorded at fair value. This represents an increase of \$12.4 million, or 43.2%, for the year ended December, 2014 from the prior year end.

With respect to our portfolio of securities available for sale, the portfolio contained 14 securities with unrealized losses of \$32 thousand and eight securities with an unrealized loss of \$2 thousand at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Changes in the fair value of these securities resulted primarily from interest rate fluctuations. We do not intend to sell these securities nor is it more likely than not that we would be required to sell these securities before their anticipated recovery, and we believe the collection of the investment and related interest is probable. Based on this analysis, we consider all of the unrealized losses to be temporary impairment losses.

Portfolio Maturities and Yields

The composition and maturities of the investment securities portfolio at December 31, 2014 is summarized in the following table. Maturities are based on the final contractual payment dates, and do not reflect the impact of prepayments or early redemptions that may occur.

(in thousands)	As of December 31, 2014											
	One year or less		After one through five years		After five through ten years		After ten years		Total			
	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield		
U.S. Government												
Agencies	\$29,502	0.07 %	\$7,508	0.80 %	\$-	-	\$-	-	\$37,010	0.22 %		
Treasuries	4,000	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	0.01		
Mortgage-backed	14	5.01	-	-	81	4.83	-	-	95	4.86		
	\$33,516	0.06 %	\$7,508	0.80 %	\$81	4.83 %	\$-	-	\$41,105	0.21 %		

Loan and Lease Portfolio

Total loans and leases increased by \$149.0 million or 36.9%, to \$552.9 million at December 31, 2014 from \$403.9 million at December 31, 2013. Included in the 2014 loan and lease amount are \$14.2 million associated with the Havre de Grace branch acquisition and \$84.3 million associated with the NBRFS Financial Bank acquisition. Loans during 2013 benefited from the purchase of \$37.1 million in loans in the Aberdeen branch acquisition. At December 31, 2014, total loans were 80.0% of total assets compared to 80.8% of total assets at December 31, 2013. As the economy in our market area has started to improve so has demand for certain types of credit, especially commercial real estate, commercial and construction loans. With the expansion of our mortgage banking activities, our portfolio of residential mortgages also reflected growth during 2014.

The following table sets forth the composition of our loan portfolio at the dates indicated. In addition to the loans we hold in our portfolio, we had loans held for sale of \$42.9 million at December 31, 2014 and \$3.3 million at December 31, 2013.

December 31,

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(dollars in thousands)	2014		2013		2012		2011		2010	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Real Estate Construction and land	\$64,158	11.6 %	\$50,884	12.6 %	\$37,963	11.8 %	\$39,268	14.2 %	\$30,604	11.9 %
Residential - first lien	88,293	16.0	39,249	9.7	29,826	9.3	22,087	8.0	22,309	8.7
Residential - junior lien	19,301	3.5	8,266	2.0	7,983	2.5	9,242	3.3	9,889	3.9
Total residential real estate	107,594	19.5	47,515	11.7	37,809	11.7	31,329	11.3	32,198	12.6
Commercial - owner occupied	112,826	20.4	90,333	22.4	61,119	19.0	46,588	16.8	46,947	18.3
Commercial - non-owner occupied	123,958	22.4	113,559	28.1	96,223	29.9	76,880	27.8	58,438	22.8
Total commercial real estate	236,784	42.8	203,892	50.5	157,342	48.8	123,468	44.6	105,385	41.1
Total real estate loans	408,536	73.9	302,291	74.8	233,114	72.3	194,065	70.2	168,187	65.6
Commercial loans and leases	139,669	25.2	100,410	24.9	87,844	27.3	81,243	29.4	86,851	33.9
Consumer loans	4,712	0.9	1,174	0.3	1,260	0.4	1,223	0.4	1,269	0.5
Total loans and leases	\$552,917	100.0 %	\$403,875	100.0 %	\$322,218	100.0 %	\$276,531	100.0 %	\$256,307	100.0 %

As is evident in the above table, we are primarily focused on lending to businesses for both commercial financing loans, and also commercial real estate lending. Increased amounts of residential and consumer loans are primarily as a result of loans acquired in association with the NBRS Financial Bank transaction. Our business model has always been to focus on the needs of small to mid-sized businesses and their owners. With the expansion of our mortgage banking activities, we expect our residential real estate lending to increase.

Loan Portfolio Maturities

The following table summarizes the scheduled repayments of our loan portfolio and sets forth the scheduled repayments of fixed and adjustable rate loans in our portfolio at December 31, 2014.

(dollars in thousands)	As of December 31, 2014			
	One year or less	After one through five years	After five years	Total
Real Estate				
Construction and land	\$31,415	\$ 22,467	\$ 10,276	\$64,158
Residential - first lien	3,519	5,895	78,879	88,293
Residential - junior lien	125	1,885	17,291	19,301
Total residential real estate	3,644	7,780	96,170	107,594
Commercial - owner occupied	5,114	53,372	54,340	112,826
Commercial - non-owner occupied	14,595	64,833	44,530	123,958
Total commercial real estate	19,709	118,205	98,870	236,784
Total real estate loans	54,768	148,452	205,316	408,536
Commercial loans and leases	23,961	36,324	79,384	139,669
Consumer loans	1,108	2,341	1,263	4,712
Total	\$79,837	\$ 187,117	\$ 285,963	\$552,917
Rate terms:				
Fixed rate	\$34,161	\$ 146,088	\$ 129,810	\$310,059
Adjustable rate	45,676	41,029	156,153	242,858
Total	\$79,837	\$ 187,117	\$ 285,963	\$552,917

Deposits

We accept deposits primarily from the areas in which our branches and offices are located. We have consistently focused on building broader customer relationships and targeting small business customers to increase our core deposits. We also rely on our customer service to attract and retain deposits. We offer a variety of deposit accounts with a range of interest rates and terms. Customer deposits have historically provided us with a sizeable source of relatively stable and low-cost funds to support asset growth. Our deposit accounts consist of commercial and retail checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, money market accounts, and individual retirement accounts. We do not currently accept brokered deposits other than those obtained under Promontory Interfinancial Network's certificate of deposit account registry service ("CDARS") program.

We review and update interest rates paid, maturity terms, service fees and withdrawal penalties on a periodic basis. Deposit rates and terms are based primarily on current operating strategies and market interest rates, liquidity requirements, anticipated short term loan demand and our deposit growth goals.

Our deposits increased from \$388.9 million at December 31, 2013 to \$554.0 million at December 31, 2014, an increase of \$165.1 million or 42.5%. Included in the 2014 deposit figure are \$15.0 million associated with the Havre de Grace branch acquisition and \$136.8 million associated with the NBRFS Financial Bank acquisition. Because of the increases in deposits via these acquisitions, we allowed certain legacy deposits, primarily non-customer based institutional certificates of deposits, to decrease during 2014 by not offering to replace them upon their maturity. As detailed in the table below, all categories of deposits reflected growth in 2014. Our noninterest bearing demand deposit account balances at the end of 2012 included a large deposit by one customer that exceeded \$10.2 million. These funds were withdrawn early in 2013, and account for the decline when comparing 2013 to 2012. Excluding this one customer, other noninterest bearing demand deposit account balances increased during 2013.

The following tables set forth the distribution of total deposit accounts, by account type, at the dates indicated.

(dollars in thousands)	December 31, 2014		2013		2012					
	Amount	% of Total	Weighted Average Rate	Amount	% of Total	Weighted Average Rate	Amount	% of Total	Weighted Average Rate	
Noninterest-bearing demand	\$142,727	26 %	- %	\$89,759	23 %	- %	\$95,875	30 %	- %	
Interest-bearing checking	49,988	9	0.24	31,443	8	0.27	26,209	8	0.34	
Money market accounts	140,426	25	0.47	96,365	25	0.40	70,856	23	0.55	
Savings	31,354	6	0.19	12,496	3	0.34	11,107	4	0.51	
Certificates of deposit \$100,000 and over	108,904	19	1.20	110,516	29	1.20	77,759	25	1.27	
Certificates of deposit under \$100,000	80,640	15	0.52	48,370	12	0.72	33,052	10	1.01	
Total deposits	\$554,039	100 %	0.61 %	\$388,949	100 %	0.67 %	\$314,858	100 %	0.85 %	

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the aggregate amount of outstanding certificates of deposit in amounts greater than or equal to \$100,000 was \$108.9 million and \$110.5 million, respectively. The following table sets forth the maturity of those certificates at December 31, 2014.

(in thousands)	
Three months or less	\$18,287
Over three to six months	40,697
Over six to twelve months	44,837
Over one year	5,083
	\$108,904

Borrowings

Customer deposits remain the primary source we utilize to meet funding needs. Other borrowings used consist of overnight unsecured master notes, overnight securities sold under agreement to repurchase (“repurchase agreements”) and FHLB advances. Our borrowings totaled \$67.6 million at December 31, 2014 and \$61.7 million at December 31, 2013. Long term borrowing all consisted of FHLB advances. Short-term borrowings are summarized on the following table:

(dollars in thousands)	December 31,		2013		2012	
	2014		Amount	Rate	Amount	Rate
Securities Sold Under Agreement to Repurchase & Master Notes						
At period end	\$24,628	0.12 %	\$21,658	0.12 %	\$16,987	0.40 %
Average for the year	\$17,142	0.12 %	\$15,697	0.27 %	\$17,288	0.45 %
Maximum month-end balance	\$24,628		\$24,644		\$23,726	
Federal Funds Purchased and Short-term Borrowed Funds						
At period end	\$24,000	0.26 %	\$24,000	0.43 %	\$10,000	0.79 %
Average for the year	\$22,184	0.38 %	\$12,762	0.57 %	\$6,468	1.33 %
Maximum month-end balance	\$31,000		\$24,000		\$11,000	

Short-term borrowing totaled \$48.6 million at December 31, 2014 and \$45.7 million at December 31, 2013. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase, totaling \$23.8 million, consist of overnight electronic sweep products that move customer excess funds from non-interest bearing deposit accounts to an interest bearing repurchase agreement, which is considered a borrowing. Master notes, totaling \$0.8 million similarly sweep funds from the Bank's customer accounts to the Company but do not require pledged collateral. Repurchase agreements sweep funds within the Bank and are secured primarily by pledges of U.S. Government Agency securities, based upon their fair value, as collateral for 100% of the principal and accrued interest of its repurchase agreements. At December 31, 2014 and 2013 there were \$23.8 million and \$21.7 million, respectively in borrowings under these repurchase agreements. At December 31, 2014 we had seven advances outstanding totaling \$24.0 million, of which \$11 million were federal funds purchased, and at December 31, 2013 there were 11 advances outstanding totaling \$24.0 million in short-term advances outstanding, under borrowings from the FHLB.

Total Stockholders' Equity

Total stockholders' equity increased by \$11.0 million or 22.7% from \$48.6 million at December 31, 2013 to \$59.6 million at December 31, 2014. The increase in stockholders' equity is primarily the result of the retention of the earnings in 2014, supplemented by approximately \$471 thousand in additional capital resulting from the exercise of warrants. Total stockholders' equity at December 31, 2014 represents a capital to asset ratio of 8.6%, while the total stockholders' equity at December 31, 2013 represents a capital to asset ratio of 9.7%. Even though capital levels increased, the overall growth in asset levels resulted in a decline in the capital to asset ratio.

Balance Sheet Analysis and Comparison of Financial Condition – March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014

A comparison between March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 balance sheets is presented below.

Assets

Total assets increased \$19.1 million, or 2.8%, to \$710.5 million at March 31, 2015 compared to \$691.4 million at December 31, 2014. This asset growth was primarily due to growth of \$17.3 million in net total loans, a \$6.3 million increase in loans held for sale, and a \$4.0 million increase in cash and cash equivalents partially offset by a \$10.5 million decrease in investment securities. The increase in loans held for sale is attributable to the Bank's continuing expansion of the mortgage banking division, while the loan portfolio growth was a result of our ongoing focus on organic growth. The asset growth was funded primarily from increases in customer deposits, which increased from \$554.0 million at December 31, 2014 to \$580.7 million at March 31, 2015, an increase of \$26.7 million or 4.8%. Because of the successful growth in deposits, overall borrowing levels were reduced.

Securities Available for Sale

We have traditionally held U.S. agency securities, treasury securities and mortgage backed securities in our securities portfolio, all of which are considered as available for sale. Beginning in the first quarter of 2015, we have added a small investment in a mutual fund as a supplement to our community reinvestment program activities. We use our securities portfolio to provide the required collateral for funding via commercial customer repurchase agreements as well as to provide sufficient liquidity to fund our loans and provide funds for withdrawals of deposited funds. At March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 we held an investment in stock of the FHLB of \$2.5 million and \$2.6 million, respectively. This investment, which is required for continued membership, is based partially upon the dollar amount of borrowings outstanding from the FHLB. These investments are carried at cost.

The following table sets forth the composition of our investment securities portfolio at the dates indicated.

(in thousands)	March 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Estimated Fair Value
U.S. Government				
Agencies	\$26,014	\$ 26,026	\$37,010	\$ 36,981
Treasuries	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,997
Mortgage-backed	80	85	95	101
Mutual funds	500	500	-	-
	\$30,594	\$ 30,611	\$41,105	\$ 41,079

We had securities available for sale of \$30.6 million and \$41.1 million at March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, which were recorded at fair value. This represents a decrease of \$10.5 million, or 25.5%, from year end 2014. The decrease in our securities portfolio resulted from scheduled maturities, and the funds received were used to supplement our deposit growth and fund the growth in both portfolio loans and loans held for sale, while maintaining an appropriate amount of securities to collateralize our repurchase agreements at March 31, 2015. We did not record any gains or losses on the sales or calls of securities for the three months ended March 31, 2015. Because of the composition of the securities portfolio acquired in the NBRS acquisition, management deemed it prudent for interest rate risk management purposes to liquidate the entire acquired portfolio. Thus, in the fourth quarter of 2014, the Bank both acquired and sold nearly \$31.7 million in securities, which resulted in a net loss on the sale of the securities of \$228 thousand.

With respect to our portfolio of securities available for sale, the portfolio contained seven securities with unrealized losses of \$9 thousand and 14 securities with unrealized losses of \$32 thousand at March 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. Changes in the fair value of these securities resulted primarily from interest rate fluctuations. We do not intend to sell these securities nor is it more likely than not that we would be required to sell these securities before their anticipated recovery, and we believe the collection of the investment and related interest is probable. Based on this analysis, we consider all of the unrealized losses to be temporary in nature.

Loan Portfolio

Total loans and leases (which excludes loans held for sale) increased by \$17.5 million or 3.2%, to \$570.4 million at March 31, 2015 from \$552.9 million at December 31, 2014. At March 31, 2015, total loans and leases represented 80.3% of total assets, up slightly compared to 80.0% of total assets at December 31, 2014. As the economy in our market area has continued its slow improvement, we have seen the beginning of increased demand for certain types of credit, especially commercial real estate, commercial and construction loans. In addition, with the expansion of our mortgage banking activities, our portfolio of residential mortgages also reflected growth during the quarter.

The following table sets forth the composition of our loan portfolio at the dates indicated. In addition to the amounts below, we had loans held for sale of \$49.2 million at March 31, 2015, and \$42.9 million at December 31, 2014.

(dollars in thousands)	March 31, 2014		December 31, 2014	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Real Estate				
Construction and land	\$58,904	10.3 %	\$64,158	11.6 %
Residential - first lien	95,339	16.7	88,293	16.0
Residential - junior lien	20,498	3.6	19,301	3.5
Total residential real estate	115,837	20.3	107,594	19.5
Commercial - owner occupied	107,582	18.9	112,826	20.4
Commercial - non-owner occupied	138,830	24.3	123,958	22.4
Total commercial real estate	246,412	43.2	236,784	42.8
Total real estate loans	421,153	73.8	408,536	73.9
Commercial loans and leases	144,949	25.4	139,669	25.2
Consumer loans	4,335	0.8	4,712	0.9
Total loans and leases	\$570,437	100.0 %	\$552,917	100.0 %

Deposits

Our deposits increased from \$554.0 million at December 31, 2014 to \$580.7 million at March 31, 2015, an increase of \$26.6 million or 4.8%. The increase resulted primarily from increases of \$31.0 million or 16.4% in certificates of deposit. As represented in the table below, we experienced smaller increases in both money market and saving accounts in the first quarter of 2015. Transaction accounts, non-interest and interest bearing, decreased 4.7% or \$9.0 million from year-end 2014 levels.

The following tables set forth the distribution of total deposits, by account type, at the dates indicated:

(dollars in thousands)	March 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Noninterest-bearing demand	\$ 137,287	24 %	\$ 142,727	26 %
Interest-bearing checking	46,449	8	49,988	9
Money market accounts	142,066	24	140,426	25
Savings	34,312	6	31,354	6
Certificates of deposit \$100,000 and over	148,718	26	108,904	19
Certificates of deposit under \$100,000	71,823	12	80,640	15
Total deposits	\$ 580,655	100 %	\$ 554,039	100 %

Borrowings

Borrowings consist of overnight unsecured master notes, overnight securities sold under agreement to repurchase (“repurchase agreements”) and FHLB advances. Our borrowings totaled \$60.5 million at March 31, 2015 and \$67.6 million at December 31, 2014. Short-term borrowings totaled \$41.0 million at March 31, 2015 and \$48.6 million at December 31, 2014. We had seven long-term FHLB advances outstanding totaling \$19.5 million at March 31, 2015 compared to seven FHLB advances outstanding totaling \$19.0 million at December 31, 2014.

Shareholders' Equity

Total shareholders' equity increased by \$741 thousand, or approximately 1.2%, from \$59.6 million at December 31, 2014 to \$60.4 million at March 31, 2015. The increase in shareholders' equity is primarily the result of the retention of the earnings for the first quarter of 2015.

Total shareholders' equity at March 31, 2015 represents a capital to asset ratio of 8.5%, while the total shareholders' equity at December 31, 2014 represented a capital to asset ratio of 8.6%. Even though capital levels increased, the overall growth in asset levels resulted in a slight decline in the capital to asset ratio.

Average Balance and Yields

The following tables set forth average balance sheets, average yields and costs, and certain other information for the periods indicated. No tax-equivalent yield adjustments were made, as the effect thereof was not material. All average balances are daily average balances. Non-accrual loans were included in the computation of average balances, and have been reflected in the table as loans carrying a zero yield. The yields set forth below include the effect of deferred fees, discounts and premiums that are amortized or accreted to interest income or expense.

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(dollars in thousands)	For the years ended December 31,								
	2014			2013			2012		
	Average	Income	Yield	Average	Income	Yield	Average	Income	Yield
	Balance	/	/	Balance	/	/	Balance	/	/
		Expense	Rate		Expense	Rate		Expense	Rate
Earning assets									
Loans and leases: ¹									
Commercial loans and leases	\$108,151	\$5,173	4.78 %	\$92,595	\$4,532	4.89 %	\$80,339	\$4,341	5.40 %
Commercial real estate	211,674	10,773	5.09	179,023	8,834	4.93	135,284	7,364	5.44
Construction and land	58,889	2,947	5.00	44,276	2,284	5.16	37,830	2,017	5.33
Residential real estate	70,025	3,141	4.49	40,664	1,838	4.52	32,292	1,561	4.83
Consumer	1,778	142	7.97	1,097	59	5.33	1,587	75	4.73
Total loans and leases	450,517	22,176	4.92	357,655	17,546	4.91	287,332	15,358	5.34
Loans held for sale	23,711	880	3.71	958	33	3.44	717	22	3.07
Federal funds sold	25,914	54	0.21	25,338	54	0.21	25,960	55	0.21
Securities: ²									
U.S. Treasury	1,074	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S Gov agencies	20,198	20	0.10	16,725	26	0.16	23,947	55	0.23
Mortgage-backed	4,408	133	3.02	245	11	4.56	472	22	4.66
Other investments	2,499	97	3.89	1,825	40	2.20	1,208	25	2.07
Total securities	28,179	250	0.89	18,795	78	0.41	25,627	102	0.40
Total earning assets	528,321	23,360	4.42	402,747	17,711	4.40	339,637	15,537	4.57
Cash and due from banks	6,231			4,861			3,781		
Bank premises and equipment, net	11,466			9,855			9,656		
Other assets	16,391			14,484			6,429		
Less: allowance for credit losses	(4,807)			(2,986)			(3,147)		
Total assets	\$557,602			\$428,961			\$356,355		
Interest-bearing liabilities									
Deposits:									
Interest-bearing demand accounts	\$35,065	\$83	0.24 %	\$25,866	\$69	0.27 %	\$18,997	\$64	0.34 %
Money market	116,010	550	0.47	81,345	327	0.40	65,603	362	0.55
Savings	16,535	31	0.19	12,270	42	0.34	11,705	60	0.51
Time deposits \$100,000 and over	76,662	921	1.20	60,188	722	1.20	60,605	772	1.27
Other time deposits	95,774	494	0.52	68,894	496	0.72	51,803	521	1.01
Total interest-bearing deposits	340,046	2,079	0.61	248,563	1,656	0.67	208,712	1,779	0.85
Short-term borrowings	39,326	106	0.27	28,459	114	0.40	23,749	163	0.69
Long-term borrowings	19,927	217	1.09	16,521	131	0.79	7,262	64	0.88
Total interest-bearing funds	399,299	2,402	0.60	293,543	1,901	0.65	239,723	2,005	0.84
	105,361			86,727			74,431		

Noninterest-bearing deposits							
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	2,268		974			863	
Total liabilities	506,928		381,244			315,017	
Shareholders' equity	50,674		47,717			41,338	
Total liabilities & shareholders' equity	\$557,602		\$428,961			\$356,355	
Net interest rate spread ³	\$ 20,958	3.82 %	\$ 15,810	3.75 %	\$ 13,532	3.74 %	
Effect of noninterest-bearing funds		0.15		0.18		0.25	
Net interest margin on earning assets ⁴		3.97 %		3.93 %		3.98 %	

(1) Loan fee income is included in the interest income calculation, and non-accrual loans are included in the average loan base upon which the interest rate earned on loans is calculated.

(2) Available for sale securities and loans held for sale are presented at fair value

(3) Net interest rate spread represents the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities.

(4) Net interest margin represents net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets.

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(dollars in thousands)	Three months ended March 31, 2015			2014		
	Average Balance	Income / Expense	Yield / Rate	Average Balance	Income / Expense	Yield / Rate
Earning assets						
Loans and leases: ¹						
Commercial loans and leases	\$131,415	\$ 1,679	5.18 %	\$98,339	\$ 1,175	4.84 %
Commercial real estate	242,986	3,168	5.29	203,157	2,426	4.84
Construction and land	62,747	724	4.68	52,017	675	5.26
Residential real estate	111,750	1,350	4.90	48,625	539	4.50
Consumer	4,343	60	5.57	976	14	5.76
Total loans and leases	553,241	6,981	5.12	403,114	4,829	4.86
Loans held for sale	41,351	377	3.70	7,674	70	3.70
Federal funds sold	22,951	13	0.24	26,015	14	0.21
Securities: ²						
U.S. Treasury	3,998	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. Gov agencies	30,256	28	0.37	25,746	6	0.10
Mortgage-backed	93	1	4.51	160	2	4.56
Other investments	2,739	26	3.81	2,254	22	3.94
Total securities	37,086	55	0.60	28,160	30	0.43
Total earning assets	654,629	7,426	4.60	464,963	4,943	4.43
Cash and due from banks	7,513			5,108		
Bank premises and equipment, net	12,124			11,060		
Other assets	20,241			17,689		
Less: allowance for credit losses	(3,681)			(2,586)		
Total assets	\$690,826			\$496,234		
Interest-bearing liabilities						
Deposits:						
Interest-bearing demand accounts	\$47,851	\$ 24	0.20 %	\$31,433	\$ 19	0.25 %
Money market	142,381	173	0.49	99,727	94	0.38
Savings	32,726	14	0.17	12,750	8	0.26
Time deposits	200,370	366	0.74	155,038	320	0.84
Total interest-bearing deposits	423,328	577	0.55	298,948	441	0.60
Short-term borrowings	47,138	29	0.25	39,165	31	0.32
Long-term borrowings	17,750	53	1.21	16,394	43	1.06
Total interest-bearing funds	488,216	659	0.55	354,507	515	0.59
Noninterest-bearing deposits	135,699			92,098		
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	8,233			819		
Total liabilities	632,148			447,424		
Shareholders' equity	58,678			48,810		
Total liabilities & shareholders' equity	\$690,826			\$496,234		
Net interest rate spread ³		\$ 6,767	4.05 %		\$ 4,428	3.84 %
Effect of noninterest-bearing funds			0.14			0.02
Net interest margin on earning assets ⁴			4.19 %			3.86 %

(1) Loan fee income is included in the interest income calculation, and non-accrual loans are included in the average loan base upon which the interest rate earned on loans is calculated.

- (2) Available for sale securities are presented at amortized cost.
- (3) Net interest rate spread represents the difference between the yield on average interest-earning assets and the cost of average interest-bearing liabilities.
- (4) Net interest margin represents net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets.

Rate/Volume Analysis

The following tables present the effects of changing rates and volumes on our net interest income for the periods indicated. The rate column shows the effects attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior volume). The volume column shows the effects attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate). For purposes of this table, changes attributable to both rate and volume, which cannot be segregated, have been allocated proportionately, based on the changes due to rate and the changes due to volume.

(in thousands)	For the year ended December 31,					
	2014 vs. 2013			2013 vs. 2012		
	Due to variances in			Due to variances in		
	Total	Rates	Volumes ¹	Total	Rates	Volumes ¹
Interest earned on:						
Loans and leases:						
Commercial loans and leases	\$641	\$(103)	\$ 744	\$169	\$(395)	\$ 564
Commercial real estate	1,940	277	1,663	1,470	(687)	2,157
Construction and land	663	(68)	731	267	(66)	333
Residential real estate	1,303	(14)	1,317	276	(102)	378
Consumer	83	29	54	(16)	10	(26)
Loans held for sale	847	3	844	33	(12)	45
Taxable securities	172	90	82	(24)	4	(28)
Federal funds sold	0	(2)	2	(1)	-	(1)
Total interest income	5,649	212	5,437	2,174	(1,249)	3,423
Interest paid on:						
Savings deposits	(10)	(18)	8	(18)	(20)	2
Checking plus interest deposits	13	(9)	22	5	(13)	18
Money market accounts	224	59	165	(35)	(98)	63
Time deposit \$100,000 and over	199	1	198	(50)	(45)	(5)
Other time deposits	(2)	(140)	138	(24)	(147)	123
Short-term borrowings	(8)	(37)	29	(49)	(68)	19
Long-term borrowing	85	48	37	67	(6)	73
Total interest expense	501	(96)	597	(104)	(397)	293
Net interest earned	\$5,148	\$308	\$ 4,840	\$2,278	\$(852)	\$ 3,130

(1) Change attributed to mix (rate and volume) are included in volume variance.

(in thousands)	Three months ended March 31,		
	2015 vs. 2014		
	Due to variances in		
	Total	Rates	Volumes ¹
Interest earned on:			

Loans and leases:			
Commercial loans and leases	\$ 505	\$ 333	\$ 172
Commercial real estate	742	904	(162)
Construction and land	49	(302)	351
Residential real estate	811	195	616
Consumer	46	(2)	48
Loans held for sale	307	(0)	307
Taxable securities	24	45	(21)
Federal funds sold	(1)	5	(6)
Total interest income	2,483	1,178	1,305
Interest paid on:			
Savings deposits	6	(11)	17
Interest-bearing demand deposits	5	(15)	20
Money market accounts	79	110	(31)
Time deposits	46	(149)	195
Short-term borrowings	(2)	(29)	27
Long-term borrowing	10	24	(14)
Total interest expense	144	(70)	214
Net interest earned	\$ 2,339	\$ 1,248	\$ 1,091

(1) Change attributed to mix (rate and volume) are included in volume variance.

Comparison of Results of Operations

A comparison between the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 is presented below.

General

Net income available to common stockholders increased \$8.5 million, or 472.8%, to \$10.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to net income of \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net income available to common stockholders was primarily due to a \$16.1 million pretax bargain purchase gain associated with the NBRS acquisition, partially offset by increases in non-interest expenses and an increase in the provision for credit losses. For 2014, the dividends paid on preferred stock decreased slightly due to a reduction in the dividend rate in mid-year 2013.

Interest Income

Interest income increased \$5.6 million, or 31.9%, to \$23.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$17.7 million during the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase was due primarily to a \$5.5 million, or 31.2%, increase in interest income on loans. In addition, interest income earned on investment securities increased \$172 thousand primarily as a result of balance sheet growth. Income derived from federal funds sold remained unchanged for 2014 versus 2013. The increase in interest income on loans was due to a \$92.9 million increase in average loans outstanding for 2014 versus 2013. The yield earned on the loan portfolio remained relatively unchanged, as the average yield on loans was 4.92% for 2014 compared to 4.91% during 2013.

Interest Expense

Interest expense increased \$501 thousand, or 26.4%, to \$2.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 from \$1.9 million during the prior year. The interest expense increased primarily due to an increase in average interest bearing funds from \$293.5 million for 2013 to \$399.3 million for 2014, representing an increase in the average interest bearing funds of \$105.7 million or 36%. Mitigating the increase in interest expense due to the growth in funds was a decrease in the overall cost of funds for 2014 versus 2013 of five basis points.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income is our largest source of operating revenue. Net interest income is affected by various factors including changes in interest rates and the composition of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and maturities. Net interest income is determined by the interest rate spread (i.e., the difference between the yields earned on interest-earning assets and the rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities) and the relative amounts of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities. Net interest income increased \$5.1 million, or 32.6%, during the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The increase in net interest income was primarily due to an increase in interest income driven by our continued balance sheet growth. As noted above, the increase in net interest income was primarily due to increased interest income of \$5.6 million, or 31.9%, year over year, while interest expense increased less than \$1 million, even with the sizable growth in deposits and borrowings.

Provision for Credit Losses

We establish a provision for credit losses, which is a charge to earnings, in order to maintain the allowance for credit losses at a level we consider adequate to absorb credit losses incurred in the loan portfolio that are both probable and reasonably estimable at the balance sheet date. In determining the level of the allowance for credit losses, management considers past and current loss experience, evaluations of real estate collateral, current economic conditions, volume and type of lending, adverse situations that may affect a borrower's ability to repay a loan and the levels of nonperforming loans. The amount of the allowance is based on estimates and actual losses may vary from such estimates as more information becomes available or economic conditions change. This evaluation is inherently subjective as it requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revision as circumstances change as more information becomes available. The allowance for credit losses is assessed on a quarterly basis and provisions are made for credit losses as required in order to maintain the allowance.

Based on management's evaluation of the above factors, we had a provision for credit losses of \$3.3 million for 2014 compared to \$1.0 million during 2013, an increase of \$2.3 million. The \$3.3 million provision during 2014 includes both specific amounts for loans that are individually evaluated for impairment as well as additional general provisions

for loans that are collectively evaluated, and are influenced by our continued growth in the size of the loan portfolio. The increased provision for 2014 is a result of the growth in the loan portfolio during 2014 and from one large commercial customer that closed their business during the third quarter of 2014 and notified their customers that any remaining commitments under existing contracts would not be completed. While the Bank is pursuing multiple remedies, management deemed it prudent to absorb the full loss. The ratio of nonperforming loans to gross loans decreased from 0.79% at December 31, 2013 to 0.77% at December 31, 2014. One of the Bank's primary measures of asset quality is the ratio of non-accrual loans, troubled debt restructured loans and other real estate owned ("OREO") as a percentage of total assets. This asset quality measure for 2014 was 0.97% at December 31, 2014 compared to 1.11% at the end of 2013. Even though nonperforming assets increased to \$6.7 million at the end of 2014 compared to \$5.6 million at December 31, 2013, the ratio of nonperforming assets to total assets declined given the large asset growth encountered during 2014.

Management analyzes the allowance for credit losses as described in the section entitled "Allowance for Credit Losses." The provision that is recorded is sufficient, in management's judgment, to bring the allowance for credit losses to a level that reflects the losses inherent in our loan portfolio relative to loan mix, economic conditions and historical loss experience. Management believes, to the best of its knowledge, that all known losses as of the balance sheet dates have been recorded. However, although management uses the best information available to make determinations with respect to the provisions for credit losses, additional provisions for credit losses may be required to be established in the future should economic or other conditions change substantially. In addition, as an integral part of their examination process, the Maryland Commissioner and the FDIC will periodically review the allowance for credit losses. The Maryland Commissioner and the FDIC may require us to recognize additions to the allowance based on their analysis of information available to them at the time of their examination.

Noninterest Income

Noninterest income was \$23.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$1.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The two primary reasons for the increase in noninterest income were the bargain purchase gain resulting from the NBRFS Financial Bank acquisition and our mortgage banking revenues due to gains on the sales of residential loans. For further information on the \$16.1 million bargain purchase gain see Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements. Our focus on building a mortgage banking platform commenced in late 2013, and continued through the first quarter of 2014. Throughout 2014, our mortgage loan originations increased each quarter, with total loans originated with the intent to sell to secondary investors exceeding \$300 million for the year. As a result of the origination and subsequent sales of residential mortgage loans in 2014, revenue derived from mortgage banking activities was \$4.3 million for 2014 compared to \$215 thousand in 2013. Complementing the gains on sale of mortgage loans were loan fees associated with mortgage banking activities, which are included in other operating income. The loan fees realized in 2014 were \$1.5 million compared to less than \$100 thousand for 2013.

Service charges on deposit accounts, which consist of account activity fees such as overdraft fees and other traditional banking fees, increased \$210 thousand or 54.3% during 2014. This increase was due mainly to growth in deposit balances and an increase in overdraft or non-sufficient fees as more customer checks were presented where the funds were insufficient to cover the amount of the check.

The additional amounts under policies added to our BOLI program in December 2013 generated an increase of \$95 thousand in income from bank owned life insurance, to \$377 thousand during 2014 compared to \$282 thousand during 2013.

Noninterest income for 2014 was also impacted by a loss on the sale of investment securities. As a part of the acquisition of NBRFS Financial Bank in the fourth quarter of 2014, we acquired their investment portfolio. After a review of the composition of the acquired portfolio, it was determined that the longer term securities held exposed the

Company to increased interest rate risk and were not a good fit with the legacy approach toward maintaining a shorter duration portfolio. As a result, during the fourth quarter of 2014 we sold all of the acquired securities, resulting in a loss on the sale of securities of \$228 thousand. We did not sell any investment securities in 2013.

Noninterest Expenses

Noninterest expenses increased \$10.5 million, or 79.0%, to \$23.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the \$13.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. Late in 2013 and throughout 2014, the Bank expanded its mortgage banking division, expanded into the greater Baltimore, Harford and Cecil markets and added operational staff, facilities and equipment needed to support these initiatives and these growth-related costs are reflected in overall increases in noninterest expense. More than half of this increase in expenditures was in compensation and benefits expenses, which increased by \$6.0 million or 81.7% for 2014 versus 2013. 2014 compensation and benefits reflect the full complement of mortgage banking personnel that generated over \$300 million in mortgage loans for resale into the secondary market and revenues of \$4.3 million, increases in staffing from our organic expansion, and additional staff introduced via acquisitions. We had 216 full time equivalent employees (FTE) at December 31, 2014 compared to 96 FTE at the end of 2013, representing an increase of 118 FTE or 123%. Compensation costs increased \$3.4 million while taxes and benefits increased \$2.6 million year over year.

As would be expected given our balance sheet growth and increases in staffing, we have also increased the number of locations that we utilize, and have experienced a sizable increase in our occupancy costs. Occupancy and equipment expenses during 2014 increased \$1.0 million or 54.6% from the prior year due to both the incremental costs of operating additional locations as we continue to expand our presence in the markets we serve and minor increases in rental payments for our existing facilities. As the Bank continues its greater Baltimore expansion we expect to see these costs increase.

Marketing and business development expenses during 2014 increased \$1.0 million or 122.7% over the prior year to support sales growth and research initiatives in conjunction with ongoing organic and acquisition growth activities and also our strategic growth initiatives. Approximately \$700 thousand of this \$1.0 million increase was incurred by mortgage banking activities to generate the origination levels achieved.

Professional fees, which consist primarily of legal, accounting and consulting expenses, increased \$618 thousand or 70.0% during 2014 compared to the prior year. This increase was primarily from legal and investment banking fees for the branch acquisition and the FDIC-assisted acquisitions consummated in 2014, as well as ongoing strategic growth initiatives.

Other operating expenses consist mainly of loan-related expenses (including collection costs associated with non-performing assets) and a variety of general expenses such as telephone and data lines, supplies and postage and courier services. In aggregate, these expenses increased \$1.8 million year over year. Of the total \$1.8 million increase in other operating expenses, nearly \$1.0 million of the increase was derived from the development of the mortgage banking infrastructure and operations. Credit reports and appraisals, which are a component of loan-related expenses, increased by approximately \$700 thousand when comparing 2014 to 2013. Most of the remainder of the increase in operating cost was due to the dramatic increase in staff and locations, and the resulting increases in expenses such as telephone and data lines, postage, software and physical security costs.

We expect noninterest expenses to be higher in 2015 as we incur merger-related expenses in connection with the pending merger with Patapsco. After the merger is consummated, compensation and benefits and occupancy expenses will be higher due to the branches and personnel acquired in the merger.

Income Tax Expense

Taking into consideration the above-stated changes in net interest income, the provision for credit losses, our noninterest income (particularly the bargain purchase gain) and noninterest expense levels, pretax income increased by \$14.3 million from \$2.9 million in 2013 to \$17.3 million in 2014.

Income tax expense amounted to \$6.9 million for year ended December 31, 2014 and \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, resulting in effective tax rates of 39.7% and 33.4%, respectively. The effective tax rate is influenced by sources of non-taxable income, such as the income from our BOLI program, and also by certain non-deductible expense items relative to pre-tax income. Because of the sizable increase in fully taxable income for 2014, the resulting effective tax rate was much closer to statutory rates than that recorded in 2013.

A comparison between the years ended December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012 is presented below.

General

Net income available to common stockholders increased \$791 thousand, or 78.7%, to \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to net income of \$1.0 million in 2012. The increase in net income available to common stockholders was primarily due to an increase in net interest income which continued to benefit from overall decreases in the cost of funding and an increase in noninterest income, partially offset by an increase in the provision for credit losses and noninterest expenses.

Interest Income

Interest income increased \$2.2 million, or 14.0%, to \$17.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$15.5 million during the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase was due to a \$2.2 million, or 14.3%, increase in interest income on loans. Interest income earned on investment securities and income derived from federal funds sold remained relatively unchanged, decreasing \$25 thousand for 2013 versus 2012. The increase in interest income on loans was due to a \$70.6 million increase in average loans outstanding for 2013 versus 2012. Partially offsetting the additional revenue from the higher levels of loan balances was an overall decrease in the yield earned on the loan portfolio, as the average yield was 4.90% for 2013 compared to 5.34% during 2012.

Interest Expense

Interest expense slightly decreased \$104 thousand, or 5.2%, to \$1.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2013 from \$2.0 million during the prior year, as a result of the average lower rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities, partially offset by an increase in the average balance of interest-bearing liabilities. Average interest bearing funds increased by \$39.9 million or 19.1% for 2013 versus 2012, while the overall rates paid on these funds decreased from 84 basis points for 2012 to 65 basis points during 2013.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income increased \$2.3 million, or 16.8%, during the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012. The increase in net interest income was primarily due to an increase in interest income driven by our continued balance sheet growth. As noted above, the increase in net interest income was primarily due to increased interest income of \$2.2 million, or 14.0%, for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the same period in 2012, while interest expense decreased slightly, even with the growth in deposits and borrowings.

Provision for Credit Losses

We had a provision for credit losses of \$950 thousand for 2013 compared to \$718 million during 2012, an increase of \$232 thousand, or 32.3%. The \$950 thousand provision during 2013 includes both specific amounts for loans that are individually evaluated for impairment, and also additional general provisions for loans that are collectively evaluated, and are influenced by our continued growth in the size of the loan portfolio. The increased provision is a result of the growth in the loan portfolio during 2013. The ratio of nonperforming loans to gross loans increased slightly from 0.75% at December 31, 2012 to 0.79% at December 31, 2013. One of the Bank's primary measures of asset quality is the ratio of non-accrual loans, troubled debt restructured loans and other real estate owned ("OREO") as a percentage of total assets. This asset quality measure showed continued improvement for 2013 with a ratio of 1.11% as of December 31, 2013 compared to 1.32% at the end of 2012.

Noninterest Income

Noninterest income was \$1.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$768 thousand for the year ended December 31, 2012. The two primary reasons for the increase in noninterest income were gain on the sales of loans and earnings derived from our BOLI program. Our heightened focus on mortgage banking activities and

broadening the secondary market investor base led to revenue derived from mortgage banking activities of \$215 thousand for 2013 compared to \$122 thousand in 2012, primarily due to a rise in volume of residential mortgage loans originated and sold. In addition, the Bank initiated a BOLI program in January 2013 that generated \$282 thousand of income during 2013; there was no such income in 2012.

Service charges on deposit accounts, which consist of account activity fees such as overdraft fees and other traditional banking fees, increased \$65 thousand or 20% during 2013. This increase was due mainly to an increase in overdraft or non-sufficient fees as more customer checks were presented where the funds were insufficient to cover the amount of the check.

Sales of other real estate owned resulted in a net loss of \$37 thousand on the sale of one property held in OREO for 2013, compared to a net loss of \$131 thousand on the sales of similar properties during 2012. This year over year decrease in the loss recognized resulted in a year over year improvement in noninterest income of \$94 thousand.

Other operating income, which includes certain loan fees and various transaction-related fees such as wire transfer fees, interchange fees resulting from debit card transactions and ATM usage fees, increased \$22 thousand or 4.8% as a result of increased customer activity during 2013 compared to 2012. The increase was primarily due to our having a larger base of deposit customers and balances during 2013, which is the primary source of these transaction related revenues.

Noninterest Expenses

Noninterest expenses increased \$2.4 million or 22.3%, to \$13.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the \$10.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. More than half of this increase in expenditures was in compensation and benefits expenses, which increased by \$1.3 million or 21.8% for 2013 versus 2012. During 2013 the Bank expanded its mortgage banking team including a highly seasoned executive management member and also additional business development officers focused on our expansion through the greater Baltimore market, in addition to expanded operational, compliance and administrative support staff. We also increased staff during 2013 as we added one branch via acquisition and opened another branch location in Towson, Maryland. In addition to the increased compensation expenses resulting from our increased staff, benefits also increased \$293 thousand or 24.3% for 2013 over 2012, partially due to the payroll taxes on the higher number of staff and also due to an increase of \$126 thousand or 18.5% in the cost of providing medical insurance.

Occupancy and equipment expenses during 2013 increased \$83 thousand or 5.5% from the prior year due to both increases in rental payments for our existing facilities and the incremental costs of operating additional locations as we continue to expand our presence in the markets we serve.

Marketing and business development expenses during 2013 increased \$146 thousand or 23.4% over the prior year to support sales growth and research initiatives in conjunction with ongoing internal growth activities and also our strategic growth initiatives.

Professional fees primarily consist of legal, accounting and consulting expenses, increased \$348 thousand or 65.1% during 2013 compared to the prior year. This increase was primarily from legal and investment banking fees for the branch acquisition consummated in 2013, and ongoing strategic growth initiatives as mentioned above.

Provision for other real estate owned increased nearly \$300 thousand due to a lower valuation on one of our foreclosed properties held. Expenses related to the ongoing maintenance and real estate taxes on these properties decreased slightly for 2013 compared to 2012.

Other operating expenses consist mainly of loan related expenses (including collection costs associated with non-performing assets), and a variety of general expenses such as telephone and data lines, supplies and postage and courier services. In aggregate, these expenses increased \$89 thousand or 6.9% year over year. Generally, we have experienced a decline in the costs relating to loan collection activities, as our asset quality has improved, while we have recorded increases in the general expense categories mentioned above due to our growth in staff levels, locations, and customer base.

Income Tax Expense

Taking into consideration the above-stated changes in net interest income, the provision for credit losses, our noninterest income and noninterest expense levels, pretax income increased by \$186 thousand or 6.7% from \$2.8 million in 2012 to \$2.9 million in 2013.

Income tax expense amounted to \$984 thousand for year ended December 31, 2013 and \$1.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, resulting in effective tax rates of 33.4% and 41.3%, respectively. The effective tax rate is influenced by sources of non-taxable income, such as the income from our BOLI program, and also by certain non-deductible expense items relative to pre-tax income.

A comparison between the three months ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014 is presented below.

General

Net income available to common shareholders increased \$383 thousand, or 162.8%, to \$618 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$235 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The increase in net income available to common shareholders was primarily due to the \$4.1 million increase in revenues (net interest income plus non-interest income) partially offset by a \$3.3 million increase in non-interest expense. Much of this revenue growth and the increased operating expenses are attributable to our continued strategic and organic growth initiatives.

Interest Income

Interest income increased \$2.5 million, or 50.2%, to \$7.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$4.9 million for the same period in 2014. The increase was due to a \$2.1 million, or 44.6% increase in interest income on loans and leases, and a \$377 thousand increase in interest on mortgage loans held for sale. The increase in interest income on loans was due to a \$150 million or 37.2% increase in the average balance of portfolio loans quarter over quarter. Also contributing to the increase in interest income was an increase in the average yield on loans and leases from 4.86% for first quarter of 2014 to 5.12% for the same period in 2015. This yield increase was partially impacted by the yields on loans acquired since March 31, 2014. Interest income from other sources, primarily loans held for sale, increased primarily due to increased average balance of loans held for sale. The average balance of our loans held for sale portfolio during the quarter ended March 31, 2015 increased \$33.7 million from the average balance during the quarter ended March 31, 2014.

Interest Expense

Interest expense increased \$144 thousand, or 27.9%, to \$659 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2015, compared to \$515 thousand for the same period in 2014. Even though we grew average interest-bearing sources of funds 41.6% during the first quarter of 2015 compared to the first quarter of 2014, we only experienced a 27.9% increase in interest expense due to an overall decrease in the average rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities, which dropped from 0.59% for the first quarter of 2014 to 0.55% for the same period in 2015. This lower cumulative cost of funds benefited from our ability to raise additional deposits at lower rates, including the funds added via acquisition.

Net Interest Income

Net interest income increased \$2.3 million, or 52.8%, during the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2014. As noted above, the increase in net interest income was due to an increase of \$2.5 million, or 50.2%, in interest income partially offset by an increase of \$144 thousand or 27.9% in interest expense.

Provision for Credit Losses

We had a provision for credit losses of \$250 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$176 thousand for the same period in 2014, an increase of \$74 thousand. The provision for 2015 reflects additional general provisions that are required given our continued growth in the size of the loan portfolio, while maintaining specific provisions required on loans that are individually evaluated and deemed to be impaired.

Noninterest Income

Noninterest income was \$2.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 compared to \$623 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2014, a \$1.7 million or 277.0% increase. The increase in noninterest income in the first quarter of 2015 was primarily derived from substantial growth in our mortgage banking activities. Due to higher levels of mortgage originations, total loan fees generated and gains recorded on the sales of loans produced approximately \$1.8 million in noninterest revenues for the first quarter of 2015 compared to \$292 thousand for the same period in 2014. This generated a quarterly increase of \$1.5 million or over 500%. In addition, service charges on deposits increased by nearly \$62 thousand or 40.0% for the first three months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014, due to higher levels of overdraft and analysis fees. Other operating income consists mainly of non-depository account fees for customer related services such as wire, merchant card and ATM activity, which increased \$122 thousand or 143% primarily due to increased fee income resulting from our organic and acquired deposit growth.

Noninterest Expenses

Noninterest expenses increased \$3.3 million or 74.4%, to \$7.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015 from \$4.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. This \$3.3 million increase in expenses included (a) approximately \$900 thousand in higher costs relating to the mortgage banking operations, (b) an incremental \$1.6 million in expenses associated with operating the branches and operations of NBRS acquired during the fourth quarter of 2014, of which \$255 thousand were costs incurred in the first quarter for our data systems conversion, which will be completed in the second quarter of 2015, (c) nearly \$168 thousand in legal costs associated with the Patapsco merger agreement, and (d) an additional \$600 thousand in additional costs from continued growth in organic operations. Compensation related expenses represented nearly one-third of the increase in expenses as they increased by \$1.1 million for the first quarter of 2015 versus the same period in 2014. Of this \$1.1 million increase, \$277 thousand resulted from the mortgage division, which was still in formation in the first quarter of 2014, \$643 thousand

related to the additional staffing costs associated with the NBRS Financial Bank acquisition, and the remaining \$170 thousand related to increases in the core infrastructure staff for the Bank's legacy operations. We had 210 full time equivalent employees (FTE) at March 31, 2015 compared to 134 FTE at March 31, 2014, representing an increase of 76 FTE or 57%. Occupancy related expense increased by \$505 thousand, or 107%, for the first quarter of 2015 compared to the first quarter of 2014, totaling \$975 thousand in the first three months of 2015 versus \$470 thousand in the same period of 2014. Similar to compensation costs, the majority of the increase was due to our expansion as \$79 thousand of the total increase in occupancy related to additional mortgage office sites and \$357 thousand related to the 2014 acquired locations, with the remainder for continued operations of all of our other offices. Other than compensation and occupancy expenses, the remainder of our operating costs increased by \$1.7 million for the first quarter of 2015 versus the first quarter of 2014. Similar to the two expense categories discussed above, a full quarter of mortgage banking operations for 2015 accounted for \$555 thousand of the other expenses, while the other expenses of the acquired operations totaled \$642 thousand during the first quarter of 2015.

Net Income Available to Common Shareholders

Net income available to common shareholders for the three months ended March 31, 2015 increased \$383 thousand, or 162.7%, to \$618 thousand compared to net income available to common shareholders of \$235 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The increase in net income available to common shareholders was primarily due to the \$4.1 million increase in revenues (net interest income plus non-interest income) partially offset by the \$3.3 million increase in non-interest expense. Much of this revenue growth and the increased operating expenses are attributable to our continued growth initiatives.

Taking into consideration the above-stated changes in net interest income, the provision for credit losses, our noninterest income and noninterest expense levels, pretax income increased by \$649 thousand from \$382 thousand in the first quarter of 2014 to \$1.0 million in the first quarter of 2015. Income tax expense amounted to \$382 thousand during the first three months of 2015 compared to \$116 thousand for the first three months of 2014.

Nonperforming and Problem Assets

Management performs reviews of all delinquent loans and our loan officers contact customers to attempt to resolve potential credit issues in a timely manner. When in the best interests of Howard Bank and the customer, we will do a troubled debt restructure with respect to a particular loan. When not possible, we seek to aggressively move loans through the legal and foreclosure process within applicable legal constraints.

Loans are placed on non-accrual status when payment of principal or interest is 90 days or more past due and the value of the collateral securing the loan, if any, is less than the outstanding balance of the loan. Loans are also placed on non-accrual status if management has serious doubt about further collectability of principal or interest on the loan, even though the loan is currently performing. When loans are placed on a non-accrual status, unpaid accrued interest is fully reversed, and further income, if any, is recognized only to the extent received. The loan may be returned to accrual status if the loan is brought current, has performed in accordance with the contractual terms for a reasonable period of time and ultimate collectability of the total contractual principal and interest is no longer in doubt.

The tables below set forth the amounts and categories of our nonperforming assets, which consist of non-accrual loans, troubled debt restructurings and OREO (which includes real estate acquired through, or in lieu of, foreclosure), at the dates indicated.

(in thousands)	March 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Non-accrual loans:		
Real estate loans:		
Construction and land	\$ 1,144	\$ 1,144
Residential - First Lien	344	719
Residential - Junior Lien	59	57
Commercial	594	-
Commercial and leases	1,443	2,015
Consumer	112	92
Total non-accrual loans	3,696	4,027
Accruing troubled debt restructure loans:		
Real estate loans:		
Residential - First Lien	301	-
Commercial	2,100	-
Commercial and leases	224	226
Total accruing troubled debt restructure loans	2,625	226
Total non-performing loans	6,321	4,253
Other real estate owned:		
Land	595	595
Commercial	1,877	1,877
Residential	-	-

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Total other real estate owned		2,472		2,472		
Total non-performing assets		\$ 8,793		\$ 6,725		
Ratios:						
Non-performing loans to total gross loans		1.11	%	0.77	%	
Non-performing assets to total assets		1.24	%	0.97	%	
		December 31,				
(in thousands)		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Non-accrual loans:						
Real estate loans:						
Construction and land		\$1,144	\$-	\$432	\$-	\$-
Residential - First Lien		719	331	442	368	-
Residential - Junior Lien		57	-	-	44	-
Commercial		-	258	384	1,988	3,601
Commercial and leases		2,015	2,593	1,143	3,229	1,764
Consumer		92	-	-	9	-
Total non-accrual loans		4,027	3,182	2,401	5,638	5,365
Troubled debt restructure loans:						
Real estate loans:						
Construction and land		-	-	-	-	-
Residential - First Lien		-	-	-	240	-
Residential - Junior Lien		-	-	-	-	-
Commercial		226	-	-	-	-
Commercial and leases		-	-	-	-	285
Consumer		-	-	-	-	-
Total troubled debt restructure loans		226	-	-	240	285
Total non-performing loans		4,253	3,182	2,401	5,878	5,650
Other real estate owned:						
Land		595	595	595	595	877
Commercial		1,877	1,782	2,130	1,084	1,941
Residential		-	-	178	206	206
Total other real estate owned		2,472	2,377	2,903	1,885	3,024
Total non-performing assets		\$6,725	\$5,559	\$5,304	\$7,763	\$8,674
Ratios:						
Non-performing loans to total gross loans		0.77 %	0.79 %	0.72 %	2.13 %	2.20 %
Non-performing assets to total assets		0.97 %	1.11 %	1.32 %	2.40 %	2.89 %

Of the \$4.0 million in non-accrual loans shown at December 31, 2014, approximately \$3.1 million was from legacy loans, while the additional \$0.9 million (which represented the increase over 2013) resulted from our acquisition of NBRFS Financial Bank from the FDIC. The performing troubled debt restructure debt of \$0.2 million was from a legacy loan organically originated. No OREO was acquired in the NBRFS Financial Bank acquisition.

Of the \$3.7 million in non-accrual loans at March 31, 2015, approximately \$2.8 million was from legacy loans, while the additional \$0.9 million resulted from our acquisition of NBRFS Financial Bank from the FDIC. The performing troubled debt restructure debt of \$2.6 million at March 31, 2015 was from a legacy loan organically originated.

Included in total non-accrual loans at March 31, 2015 was one troubled debt restructured loan (“TDR”) in the amount of \$594 thousand that was not performing in accordance with the modified terms, and the accrual of interest has ceased. There were three TDRs totaling \$2.6 million currently performing subject to their modified terms. There were six loans that were 90 days or more past due and still accruing interest at March 31, 2015 consisting of three commercial credits totaling \$332 thousand, one home equity line of credit in the amount of \$74 thousand, and two residential first lien loans totaling \$458 thousand.

Included in total non-accrual loans at December 31, 2014 above are seven TDRs totaling \$1.0 million that were not performing in accordance with the modified terms, and the accrual of interest has ceased. These TDRs are six commercial loans that represent one relationship and one residential first lien credit. Loans 90 days or more past due and still accruing interest at December 31, 2014 consisted of one construction and land loan of \$278 thousand, one commercial real estate loan with a balance of \$150 thousand, one residential first lien of \$158 thousand and three commercial loan with a balance of \$571 thousand.

Interest income that would have been recorded during the three months ended March 31, 2015 and the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 if non-accrual loans had been current and in accordance with their original terms was \$20 thousand, \$126 thousand, \$116 thousand and \$113 thousand, respectively. No interest income was recorded on such loans during these perio