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**FEDERAL**

**Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies**

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq*.) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20551-0001, not later than October 19, 2026.

**A**. **Federal Reserve Bank of Boston** (Prabal Chakrabarti, Executive Vice President) 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2204. Comments can also be sent electronically to BOS.SRC.Applications.Comments@bos.frb.org:

1. *Hometown Financial Group, Inc., Easthampton, Massachusetts ("Applicant");* a newly-formed Maryland corporation, to become a bank holding company by acquiring TruNorth Bank, Easthampton, Massachusetts ("Bank"), in connection with the conversion of Hometown Financial Group, MHC (the "MHC"), Easthampton, Massachusetts, from mutual form to stock form (the "Conversion"). As part of the Conversion, the MHC would merge with its subsidiary, Hometown Financial Group, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation and the mid-tier holding company of Bank. As a result of the Conversion, the Applicant would become the stock holding company of Bank and the MHC and Hometown Financial Group, Inc. would both cease to exist. In addition, Bank to acquire Primary Bank, Bedford, New Hampshire.

**B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis** (Mark Nagle, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291. Comments can also be sent electronically to MA@mpls.frb.org:

1. *Bank Forward Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust, Fargo, North Dakota*; to acquire additional voting shares, up to 45.15 percent, of Security State Bank Holding

Company, and thereby indirectly acquire additional voting shares of Bank Forward, both of Fargo, North Dakota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**Michele Taylor Fennell,**
*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

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