



STERLING BANCORP
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NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STERLING BANCORP TO REPORT 2009 FOURTH QUARTER AND
YEAR-END FINANCIAL RESULTS ON FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

New York, NY, January 27, 2010 — Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL), the parent company of New York City-based Sterling National Bank, will issue its financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2009 prior to the opening of the U.S. financial markets on Monday, February 1, 2010.

The Company also will hold a conference call on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time to discuss the financial results. To access the conference call live, interested parties may dial 800-398-9398 at least 10 minutes prior to the call.

A replay of the conference call will be available beginning at approximately 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Monday, February 1, 2010 until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Thursday, February 11, 2010. To access the replay by telephone, interested parties may dial 800-475-6701 and enter the Access Code 144015.

About Sterling Bancorp

Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL) is a New York-based banking and financial services company with assets of \$2.1 billion. Established in 1929, the Company's principal banking subsidiary, Sterling National Bank, has successfully served the needs of businesses, professionals and individuals in the NY metropolitan area and beyond. Now in its 80th year, Sterling is well known for its focus on business customers, an extensive and diverse product portfolio and a high-touch, hands-on approach to customer service.

Sterling offers working capital lines, asset-based financing, factoring, accounts receivable financing and management, payroll funding and processing, equipment leasing and financing, commercial and residential mortgages, import trade financing, a wide array of depository products and cash management services, trust and estate administration and custodial account services.

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