



STERLING BANCORP
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NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STERLING BANCORP TO HOST INVESTOR DAY
ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2008**

New York, NY, September 4, 2008 — Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL), the parent company of New York City-based Sterling National Bank, will hold an Investor Day in New York City on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time. The Investor Day agenda will feature presentations by Sterling's senior banking and business executives.

A live audio webcast of the Investor Day presentations with accompanying slides will be available on the Company's website beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. To access the live webcast, interested parties should visit www.sterlingbancorp.com approximately 10 minutes prior to the start-time to register.

An archived webcast of the Sterling Bancorp Investor Day presentations will be available on the Company's website beginning at approximately 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 24, 2008.

About Sterling Bancorp

Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL) is a New York-based banking and financial services company that serves the needs of businesses, professionals and individuals. With assets exceeding \$2.1 billion, Sterling offers a broad array of products and services, combined with a unique high-touch approach to customer service. The Company's principal banking subsidiary, Sterling National Bank, with offices in New York City and Queens, Nassau and Westchester counties, was founded in 1929.

Known for its focus on business customers, Sterling offers such services as working capital lines, asset-based financing, factoring and accounts receivable management, payroll funding and processing, equipment leasing and financing, commercial and residential mortgages, international trade financing, cash management, a wide array of deposit products, trust and estate administration, and investment management services.

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