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GULFSIDE BANK ACQUIRES RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE TEAM

Five New Hires Builds a Robust Department

SARASOTA, FL (March 1, 2022)—Gulfside Bank has hired five senior banking professionals over the last two months effectively creating an entire department focused on residential mortgages.

“We’re always on the lookout for talented banking professionals to round out our rapidly growing team,” says Dennis Murphy, President and CEO of Gulfside Bank. “We anticipated the changes that were happening in the local market last year and saw an opportunity as the only locally owned community bank in Sarasota to bring on some of the most seasoned residential mortgage lenders in the area.”

The addition of the residential mortgage team complements the Bank's existing commercial, private banking and wealth management offerings and positions the Bank to capitalize on the red-hot local residential real estate market.

Among the five hires, Gulfside Bank now employs two residential lenders and one loan processor focused on conventional residential mortgage loans and a dedicated lender and processor for non-conventional residential portfolio mortgage loans:



Mark Moore



Robert Wright



Kathy Collums

Mark Moore joins Gulfside Bank as a Residential Lender. Moore’s prior experience includes four years at Sabal Palm Bank, 20 years at Peoples Community Bank, two years at Accredited Home Lenders, and 14 years at Northwest Financial, which later became Wells Fargo.



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Mark grew up in Alabama and Louisiana before relocating to Florida from Texas in 2002 with Wells Fargo. A graduate from Louisiana Tech University, Mark is married, has a stepdaughter, and enjoys golfing and sailing when he's not working.

Robert Wright joins Gulfside Bank as a Residential Lender. Wright was a Residential Loan Specialist at Sabal Palm Bank. Before that he spent six years with Movement Mortgage, 13 years with Embrace Home Loans, and four years with Wells Fargo.

Robert was born in Tampa but relocated to Rhode Island in 1979 where he spent the majority of his career in banking. "I closed my first loan in 1993 and have helped more than 3,000 families buy a home or refinance their mortgage since," shares Wright.

Chris Blanchard joins Gulfside Bank as a Mortgage Loan Processor. Blanchard spent six years at Sabal Palm Bank as a Loan Assistant. Prior to that he was an Assistant Branch Manager at Cadence Bank. Blanchard has a total of 28 years in banking.

"I started working at a local community bank in high school," recalls Blanchard. "There was a job board with an opening for a part-time teller, and I went full-time after high school."

Chris was born and raised in Sarasota. He has a B.A. in Business Management from Eckerd College and a Master's degree from Webster College. Chris is married and enjoys traveling and working in his yard in his spare time.

Kathy Collums joins Gulfside Bank as a Senior Vice President and Consumer Banking Director. At Gulfside, she will be responsible for oversight of the retail banking unit, including future branch expansion efforts, as well as origination of the Bank's non-conventional residential portfolio mortgage loans. Collums began her banking career in 1979 as a teller, and over the next four decades rose to the level of Senior Vice President. In 2006 Kathy was an original founder of Sabal Palm Bank and most recently served as the bank's Senior Vice President, City Executive.

"I am absolutely thrilled to join Gulfside Bank," says Collums. "I was born and raised in Sarasota, and I've spent my entire career in banking. It is truly an honor to be part of the only locally-owned community bank in Sarasota."

Kathy is married to Chuck Collums, and they have one son, Zachary. Interests include family, exercise, philanthropy, outdoor adventures, and sports. Kathy's husband has been a high school football official for many years and officiates college football for the Southern Conference, giving the Collums family ample opportunity to watch a lot of football!

T. J. Pitzer joins Gulfside Bank as a Mortgage Loan Processor. For the last 11 years she served as the Loan Assistant to Kathy Collums at Sabal Palm Bank, and prior to that Pitzer amassed an additional 15 years of banking experience.



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An avid sailor in her youth, T. J. moved from Dallas, Texas to Tampa, Florida in 1985 after racing in the Stiletto Regatta. "I just fell in love with the weather and wanted to live on the Gulf Coast," recalls Pitzer.

T.J. resides in North Port. She has two children, three grandchildren, and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

ABOUT GULFSIDE BANK

Gulfside Bank is a full-service community bank with offices in Sarasota and Lakewood Ranch, Florida, offering a variety of retail, commercial and private banking services. With deep roots in the community, Gulfside Bank is locally owned and managed, and is committed to building long-lasting relationships with its clients, no matter how big or how small. For more information, visit them online at gulfsidebank.com.

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