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Comptroller of the Currency  
Administrator of National Banks

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New York, New York 10173-0002

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Telephone No.: (212) 790-4055  
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July 29, 2011

Keith S. Rainwater  
Senior Vice President & Assistant Controller  
SCBT Financial Corporation  
P.O. Box 1030  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-1030

**Corporate Decision #2011-14**  
**August 2011**

Re: Purchase and Assumption Application  
SCBT, National Association, Orangeburg, South Carolina to acquire the assets and  
assume the deposits from the FDIC as receiver for BankMeridian, National Association,  
Columbia, South Carolina

OCC Control No.: 2011 NE 02 0019

Dear Mr. Rainwater:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) hereby approves the application of SCBT, National Association, Orangeburg, South Carolina (“Acquirer” or “SCBT”), to purchase certain assets and assume certain liabilities of BankMeridian, National Association, Columbia, South Carolina (“Failed Entity”), for the reasons set below. As discussed below, the transaction may be consummated immediately upon approval. 12 U.S.C. § 1828(c)(6).

Failed Entity, a national bank with deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”), was declared insolvent by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 29, 2011, and the FDIC was appointed as receiver. The Comptroller has now been asked to grant his written approval of the proposed agreement negotiated between the FDIC and Acquirer by which the latter would purchase certain assets and assume certain liabilities of Failed Entity.

This approval is granted based upon the information contained in the Acquirer’s application and other information and representations made to the OCC during its processing of the application.

### **The Purchase and Assumption**

Acquirer applied to the OCC for approval to purchase certain assets of and assume certain liabilities of Failed Entity under 12 U.S.C. §§ 24 (Seventh) and 1828(c) (the “Transaction”). The Acquirer and the Failed Entity are located in South Carolina and all of the Failed Entity’s

branches are located in South Carolina. A national bank may acquire all or part of a depository institution through a purchase and assumption transaction under 12 U.S.C. § 24 (Seventh). Thus, the Transaction is legally authorized and the OCC approves the Transaction.

Acquirer also requested OCC approval to retain the main office and the branches of the Failed Entity as branches upon consummation of the Transaction. The OCC has determined that approval is consistent with 12 U.S.C. § 36(c), governing intrastate branching, and South Carolina branching law incorporated therein. Consequently, Acquirer is authorized to retain Failed Entity's main office and branches as branches of the Acquirer upon consummation.<sup>1</sup>

### **Bank Merger Act**

The OCC reviewed the proposed purchase and assumption Transaction under the criteria of the Bank Merger Act, 12 U.S.C § 1828(c), and applicable OCC regulations and policies. The OCC considered the financial and managerial resources of the banks, their future prospects, the convenience and needs of the communities to be served. In addition, the Bank Merger Act requires the OCC to consider “the effectiveness of any insured depository institution involved in the proposed merger transaction in combatting money laundering activities, including overseas branches,” 12 U.S.C. § 1828(c)(11). We considered these factors and found them consistent with approval under the statutory provisions.

In addition, the OCC also finds, under the standards set forth in the Bank Merger Act, that it must act on the application immediately. 12 U.S.C. §§ 1828(c)(3), 1828(c) (4)(C)(i), and 1828(c)(6). Consequently, there is no requirement for publication of notice of the Transaction, for a request by the OCC of a competitive factors report from the Attorney General, or for a post-approval waiting period prior to consummation of the Transaction.

### **Community Reinvestment Act**

The Community Reinvestment Act (“CRA”) requires the OCC to take into account the applicants’ record of helping to meet the credit needs of the community, including low-and-moderate-income (“LMI”) neighborhoods, when evaluating certain applications, including transactions that are subject to the Bank Merger Act. 12 U.S.C. § 2903; 12 C.F.R. § 25.29. The OCC considers the CRA performance evaluation of each institution involved in the Transaction. A review of the record of these applicants and other information available to the OCC as a result of its regulatory responsibilities revealed no evidence that the applicants’ record of helping to meet the credit needs of their communities, including LMI neighborhoods, is less than satisfactory.

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<sup>1</sup> Including messenger service branches authorized under OCC branch numbers 135453A and 135454A

## **Consummation Guidance**

This approval is granted based on our understanding that other applicable regulatory approvals, non-objections or waivers with respect to the proposed Transaction will have been received prior to the consummation of the Transaction.

Within seven days of consummation of the Transaction, please provide the Northeastern District Office with copies of the following documents:

- An original Secretary's Certificate certifying that a majority of the board of directors approved.
- An executed purchase and assumption agreement.
- Documentation that all other conditions that the OCC imposed have been met.

This approval and the activities and communications by OCC employees in connection with the filing do not constitute a contract, express or implied, or any other obligation binding upon the OCC, the United States, any agency or entity of the United States, or any officer or employee of the United States, and do not affect the ability of the OCC to exercise its supervisory, regulatory and examination authorities under applicable law and regulations. Our approval is based on the bank's representations, submissions, and information available to the OCC as of this date. The OCC may modify, suspend or rescind this approval if a material change in the information on which the OCC relied occurs prior to the date of the transaction to which this decision pertains. The foregoing may not be waived or modified by any employee or agent of the OCC or the United States.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Wai-Fan Chang at (212) 790 - 4055. Please reference the application control number in any correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/

Steven Maggio  
Director for District Licensing