

FCCO- First Community Corporation

Loan Growth Expected to Resume & Additional NIM Leverage Likely; Maintain “Outperform”

- **Reiterate “Outperform” and Price Target of \$23;**
- **Maintain 2017 Core EPS of \$1.10 and trim 2018 to \$1.25 (\$0.05)**
- **Loan growth expected to resume as production remains healthy and payoffs normalize**
- **Profitability forecast to increase as earning assets are remixed and balance sheet efficiency improves**

We are maintaining our “Outperform” rating and Price Target at \$23 which reflects ~18x our 2018 EPS or ~185% of Tangible Book Value one year out or a 13% Core Deposit Premium. Our valuation is supported by the company’s favorable growth prospects, healthy operating markets, strong balance sheet, excellent credit quality and increasing profitability as the company continues to remix earning assets and improve balance sheet efficiency. Management is targeting an 80% Loan-to-Earning Asset ratio over time vs. its current 67% level. Our EPS forecast calls for the ratio to improve to ~75% in late 2018 which corresponds to an ~95% bps ROAA. We do not consider FCCO a near term seller; however, we believe the franchise will garner greater interest by larger regional banks over time. Management’s current focus is completing its pending bank acquisition and maximizing core earnings power.

We are maintaining our Core 2017 EPS at \$1.10 and trimming our 2018 EPS a nickel to \$1.25. Our 2018 EPS reduction stems from a slightly smaller balance sheet and more conservative NIM assumption which more than trumps higher fee income. Our 2017 EPS holds pat as the negative impact of a smaller balance sheet and more conservative NIM outlook is offset by a slightly lower provision and tax rate. Our forecast assumes the Cornerstone (CTOT) deal is completed in early 4Q17.

Outlook: Absent nonrecurring items and elevated loan payoffs, FCCO posted solid second quarter results and carries good momentum heading into third quarter, especially as it relates to loan production and further NIM leverage. Loan pipelines are strong aided by the company’s healthy operating markets and increased geographic diversification supporting our outlook for double digit organic growth in the near term. Loan payoffs remain a risk to our forecast and all three markets (Greenville, SC, Augusta, GA and Columbia, SC) are expected to contribute to future loan growth. Core NIM has expanded steadily in recent quarters aided by recent rate hikes and the remixing of the balance sheet away from securities and into loans. Looking ahead, we are optimistic this trend can continue. Specific-

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FCCO: \$20.35

“Outperform”// Price Target: \$23.00

Summary Statistics

Exchange	NASDAQ
Market Cap (\$M)	\$135.0
Avg. Volume	4,956
Annual Dividend	\$0.28
Dividend Yield	1.39%
Tangible Book/Share	\$11.79
Price/Tangible Book	171%
Price/2017 EPS	18.3x
Price/2018 EPS	16.1x
Total Assets (\$M)	\$915,462
TCE/TA	8.69%
ROAA (2017)	0.78%
ROAE (2017)	8.57%

EPS Estimates

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Q1	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.24	-
Q2	\$0.20	\$0.25	\$0.29	-
Q3	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.30	-
Q4	\$0.24	\$0.27	\$0.27	-
FY	\$0.90	\$0.98	\$1.10	\$1.25

Industry Type	Bank
Headquarters	Lexington, SC
Offices	15
Date Established	1995
CEO	Michael C. Crapps
CFO	Joseph G. Sawyer

Source (all data): FIG Partners Research, SNL Financial LC



ly, our outlook calls for three rate hikes between now and year end 2018 (1 in 2017 and 2 in 2018) and for a good amount of future loan growth to be funded by the Securities portfolio. We are forecasting NIM to approximate 3.45% by 4Q17 and a higher 3.55% by 4Q18.

Fee income increased sharply in 2Q17 aided by a seasonal rebound in mortgage revenues and strong performance in wealth management aided by growth in AUM. We are maintaining our 2H17 forecast for Fee Income and increasing our 2018 outlook by ~5% due primarily to growth in these two segments. Specifically, we are projecting growth of 11% and 13%, respectively, in mortgage and wealth management in 2018. Mortgage is expected to benefit as FCCO capitalizes on opportunities in the Greenville, SC market as well as Augusta, GA. A new sales director for the mortgage division was appointed in July which is expected to help accelerate future recruiting efforts.

Core operating expenses increased 3.7% in 2Q17 and we are maintaining our expense forecast for 2H17 and 2018. The core expense run rate is projected to be flattish in 3Q17 at ~\$7 Mil. and increase ~\$1 Mil. in 4Q17 due largely to the company's pending acquisition. We expect expense synergies from the deal to begin to be realized in early 2018 and help mitigate future expense growth. Expenses are slated to approximate \$31.6 Mil. in 2018.

Credit quality remains excellent and we expect trends to remain favorable in the near term. Our outlook along with the company large unallocated reserve allowed us to modestly trim our 2H17 provision forecast. We expect provisioning to match or slightly exceed NCOs resulting in a slight moderation in the reserve ratio given our loan growth outlook. We are projecting ~10 bps of NCOs in 2018. The Cornerstone deal will also contribute to a reduction in the GAAP reserve ratio.

RANK: Core Deposit	RANK: Price-to- TBV	RANK: P/E 2017	RANK: P/E 2018	RANK: ROA (^{'17})	RANK: ROA (^{'18})	RANK: ROTCE (^{'17})
122	92	38	56	108	104	93
FCCO **Percentile Ranks** 42% P/E 69% Core Deposits 52% P-to-TBV 73% ROA						

We think comparing FCCO with 178 other small-cap Banks ranging from \$200 Mil-\$1 Billion in market-capitalization is important.

This illustrates how the stock trades in the middle quartile on Price-to-Tangible Book value and in the upper third on the Core Deposit Premium. In comparison, the expected ROA is near the bottom 30% though is expected to ramp up as the balance sheet efficiency improves in future quarters.



Maintaining Price Target at \$23.00

FIG Research Rating: "Outperform"

Price Target: \$23.00

	2017	Multiple	Price
GAAP EPS	\$1.06	21.3x	\$22.64
Dividends	\$0.36	1.0x	<u>\$0.36</u>
		Combined	\$23.00
Tangible Book 12/17	\$11.92	1.93x	\$23.00

Implied Gain/Loss versus Current Price: 13.0%

<u>2018 Outlook</u>			
2018 EPS	\$1.25	17.6x	\$22.12
Cash Dividends	\$0.40	1.0x	\$0.88
			\$23.00
Tangible Book 12/18	\$12.80	1.80x	\$23.00

Source: FIG Partners Research & Forward Estimates

Deposit Premium Analysis

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Dec-17</u>	<u>Dec-18</u>
Market-Cap	136.4	154.2	154.2
TCE in \$\$	79.0	90.3	97.0
Total Deposits	773.1	908.9	936.5
CORE Deposits	630.3	766.1	793.7
Premium - Total	7.4%	7.0%	6.1%
Premium - CORE	9.1%	8.3%	7.2%

We are maintaining our "Outperform" rating and Price Target at \$23 which reflects ~18x our 2018 EPS or ~185% of Tangible Book Value one year out or a 13% Core Deposit Premium.

Background and Risks

Headquartered in Lexington, South Carolina, First Community (FCCO) is a ~\$915 Million bank holding company (BHC) and the parent of First Community Bank, NA.

Founded in 1995 by a group of former executives from Republic National Bank (acquired by South Financial Group, Inc.), FCCO provides traditional retail, commercial and mortgage banking services through a network of 14 branches in the Midlands area of South Carolina.

We see primary risks to include (1) integration of acquisitions; (2) negative impact from persistently low or rapidly changing interest rates and/or a flattening yield curve; and (3) potential for rising credit costs in light of further growth in unemployment.



FCCO Peer Comparison

Company Name		Market Cap. (\$M)	Total Assets (\$000) MRQ	CDs % of Total MRQ	Cost of Deposits MRQ	TCE Ratio MRQ	Core Deposit Premium Today	Price-to- T.Book 7/18/17	P/E 2017 EPS Consensus	P/E 2018 EPS Consensus	ROA Forecast (2017) Consensus	ROA Forecast (2018) Consensus	ROTCE Estimated (2017) Consensus
FCCO	First Cmnty Corp	\$135	\$915,462	23	0.23	11.1	9.4%	179	19.1x	15.5x	0.79	0.88	8.9%
ACBI	Atlantic Cap Bcshs	\$473	\$2,802,078	8	0.39	10.3	9.3%	166	27.9x	20.8x	0.61	0.77	5.8%
AMNB	Amer Natl Bkshs	\$317	\$1,715,805	26	0.34	9.5	15.1%	199	18.3x	15.4x	0.99	1.08	10.6%
CARO	Carolina Finl Corp	\$538	\$2,182,109	35	0.51	10.6	30.0%	238	18.2x	14.9x	1.33	1.39	13.5%
CHFN	Charter Finl	\$272	\$1,484,796	32	0.39	12.1	11.7%	155	15.6x	15.8x	0.89	1.10	10.2%
CNBW	CNB Corp	\$115	\$1,102,769	27	0.17	9.7	1.3%	108	na	na	NA	NA	na
FBK	FB Finl Corp	\$997	\$3,166,459	14	0.32	9.3	30.5%	289	17.8x	14.6x	1.41	1.59	15.7%
FBMS	First Banc shares	\$243	\$1,783,204	18	0.32	7.6	8.5%	183	16.2x	13.8x	0.88	0.97	10.4%
HTBI	HomeTrust Bcshs	\$459	\$3,165,446	23	0.25	11.4	6.4%	128	26.1x	21.5x	0.42	0.62	4.9%
LION	Fidelity Sthrn	\$606	\$4,531,057	17	0.38	7.9	8.0%	174	14.7x	13.4x	0.91	0.94	11.4%
PBNC	Paragon Comm Corp	\$283	\$1,550,027	15	0.54	9.0	13.3%	202	18.2x	na	0.97	NA	10.7%
PSTB	Park Sterling Corp	\$620	\$3,308,756	28	0.38	8.9	18.5%	214	19.9x	16.8x	0.93	1.00	10.5%
SBAZ	State Bank Corp	\$65	\$590,276	13	0.14	8.1	3.9%	137	na	na	NA	NA	na
SONA	Southern National	\$418	\$1,177,333	64	0.95	10.0	94.2%	184	na	16.3x	0.88	1.04	na
				23	0.38	11.7	11.7%	183	18.2x	15.6x	0.91	1.02	10.5%

Source: FIG Partners Research, SNL Financial LC

FCCO Snapshot										% Change	
	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	Y/Y	LQ
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	\$0.22	\$0.25	\$0.24	\$0.22	\$0.26	\$0.25	\$0.26	\$0.26	\$0.24	-5.6%	-5.1%
Tangible Book Value	\$10.44	\$10.76	\$10.84	\$11.24	\$11.62	\$11.63	\$11.28	\$11.50	\$11.79	1.4%	2.5%
Shares Outstanding EOP	\$6.68	\$6.68	\$6.69	\$6.69	\$6.70	\$6.70	\$6.71	\$6.70	\$6.70	0.0%	0.1%
Net Interest Income	\$6.20	\$6.25	\$6.35	\$6.34	\$6.68	\$6.65	\$6.79	\$7.06	\$7.05	5.6%	-0.2%
Loan Loss Provision	\$0.39	\$0.19	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.22	\$0.18	\$0.24	\$0.12	\$0.08	-64.1%	-32.8%
Non-Interest Income	\$2.398	\$2.329	\$2.103	\$2.030	\$2.200	\$2.368	\$2.200	\$1.982	\$2.696	22.5%	36.0%
Securities Gains	\$167	\$0	\$84	\$59	\$64	\$478	\$0	\$54	\$172	168.8%	218.5%
Non-Interest Expense	\$6.39	\$6.07	\$6.07	\$6.34	\$6.33	\$6.58	\$6.52	\$6.72	\$6.97	10.1%	3.7%
Net Income	\$1.44	\$1.68	\$1.60	\$1.47	\$1.75	\$1.68	\$1.79	\$1.76	\$1.66	-4.6%	-5.2%
Total Core Revenue	\$8,602	\$8,582	\$8,451	\$8,367	\$8,877	\$9,019	\$8,994	\$8,857	\$9,744	9.8%	10.0%
Total Core Fee Income	\$2,398	\$2,329	\$2,103	\$2,030	\$2,200	\$2,368	\$2,200	\$1,982	\$2,696	22.5%	36.0%
Core Expense	\$6,037	\$5,843	\$5,889	\$6,128	\$6,232	\$6,388	\$6,429	\$6,618	\$6,868	10.2%	3.8%
ROAA	0.69%	0.80%	0.75%	0.68%	0.79%	0.74%	0.79%	0.77%	0.73%	-7.6%	-4.8%
ROAE	7.50%	8.68%	8.13%	7.31%	8.48%	7.94%	8.58%	8.51%	7.85%	-7.4%	-7.7%
Net Interest Margin	3.25%	3.22%	3.19%	3.22%	3.32%	3.19%	3.25%	3.42%	3.39%	2.1%	-0.9%
Core Efficiency Ratio	69.0%	66.9%	68.6%	72.2%	69.3%	69.9%	70.6%	73.9%	69.7%	0.6%	-5.6%
Core Exp. / Avg. Assets	2.90%	2.79%	2.74%	2.83%	2.83%	2.84%	2.84%	2.90%	3.02%	6.8%	4.2%
Total Loans	\$474	\$484	\$489	\$494	\$511	\$523	\$547	\$555	\$553	8.2%	-0.3%
Intangibles	\$6.68	\$6.59	\$6.50	\$6.41	\$6.34	\$6.26	\$6.18	\$6.11	\$6.03	-4.8%	-1.2%
Total Deposits	\$684	\$704	\$716	\$722	\$730	\$766	\$767	\$776	\$773	6.0%	-0.3%
Total Common Equity	\$76	\$78	\$79	\$82	\$84	\$84	\$82	\$83	\$85	1.0%	2.3%
Avg Assets	\$832	\$838	\$858	\$865	\$880	\$901	\$906	\$913	\$909	3.2%	-0.4%
Avg Loans	\$473	\$482	\$487	\$492	\$509	\$520	\$537	\$558	\$558	9.6%	0.2%
Average Earning Assets	\$766	\$770	\$790	\$792	\$809	\$830	\$832	\$839	\$834	3.2%	-0.5%
Avg Deposits	\$688	\$688	\$709	\$717	\$728	\$752	\$761	\$757	\$772	5.9%	1.9%
Loan / Deposit	69.3%	68.7%	68.3%	68.4%	70.1%	68.3%	71.3%	71.6%	71.6%	2.1%	0.0%
TCE Ratio	8.40%	8.50%	8.47%	8.70%	8.82%	8.58%	8.33%	8.48%	8.69%	-1.5%	2.5%
Net Charge-offs	\$0.36	\$0.01	\$0.02	\$0.05	\$0.03	\$0.01	\$0.06	(\$0.04)	(\$0.04)	-263.0%	15.8%
NPL's + 90 Days Past	\$7.02	\$6.73	\$6.47	\$7.71	\$6.86	\$7.70	\$6.88	\$5.44	\$4.76	-30.6%	-12.5%
OREO	\$2.52	\$2.45	\$2.46	\$1.48	\$1.36	\$1.20	\$1.15	\$1.16	\$0.84	-38.2%	-27.5%
Total NPA's	\$9.5	\$9.2	\$8.9	\$9.2	\$7.8	\$7.9	\$7.5	\$6.5	\$5.6	-28.5%	-13.7%
NPA / (Loans + OREO)	2.00%	1.89%	1.82%	1.85%	1.53%	1.51%	1.37%	1.17%	1.01%	-33.9%	-13.4%
Provision / Avg Loans	0.08%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.01%	-67.2%	-32.9%
Reserve / NPL + 90	61%	66%	71%	61%	75%	75%	82%	101%	115%	53.2%	14.6%

Source: FIG Partners Research, SNL Financial

Earnings Model

	Annual			2016 Quarterly				2017 Quarterly				2018 Quarterly			
	2016A	2017E	2018E	1Q16A	2Q16A	3Q16A	4Q16A	1Q17A	2Q17A	3Q17E	4Q17E	1Q18E	2Q18E	3Q18E	4Q18E
<u>Income Data: (\$ in Millions)</u>															
Net Interest Income	\$26.5	\$29.8	\$34.6	\$6.3	\$6.7	\$6.7	\$6.8	\$7.1	\$7.0	\$7.3	\$8.4	\$8.3	\$8.5	\$8.8	\$8.9
Loan Loss Provision	\$0.8	\$0.5	\$1.1	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.3
Non-Interest Income	\$8.8	\$9.8	\$11.0	\$2.0	\$2.2	\$2.4	\$2.2	\$2.0	\$2.7	\$2.6	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$2.9	\$3.0	\$2.6
Gain/Loss on Loan Sales	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Gain/Loss on Securities	\$0.6	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
One-Time Items	(\$0.5)	(\$0.7)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$0.5)	\$0.0	(\$0.1)	(\$0.6)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Non-Interest Expense	\$25.8	\$28.6	\$31.6	\$6.3	\$6.3	\$6.583	\$6.5	\$6.7	\$7.0	\$7.0	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$7.9	\$7.8	\$7.8
Pre-Tax Income	\$8.8	\$10.0	\$13.0	\$1.9	\$2.4	\$2.3	\$2.2	\$2.2	\$2.2	\$2.7	\$2.8	\$2.5	\$3.3	\$3.7	\$3.5
Taxes	\$2.2	\$2.5	\$3.4	\$0.5	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.6	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$0.6	\$0.9	\$1.0	\$1.0
Extraordinary Items	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Net Income	\$6.7	\$7.5	\$9.6	\$1.5	\$1.7	\$1.7	\$1.8	\$1.8	\$1.7	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.4	\$2.7	\$2.5
Preferred Dividend	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Net Income Avail. To Common	\$6.7	\$7.5	\$9.6	\$1.5	\$1.7	\$1.7	\$1.8	\$1.8	\$1.7	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.4	\$2.7	\$2.5
Avg. Shares O/S	6.8	\$7.0	\$7.7	\$6.8	\$6.7	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$7.7	\$7.7	\$7.7	\$7.7	\$7.7
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	\$0.99	\$1.06	\$1.25	\$0.22	\$0.26	\$0.25	\$0.26	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.30	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.31	\$0.35	\$0.33
<u>Per Share Data:</u>															
Reported Book Value	\$12.20	\$13.83	\$14.70	\$12.19	\$12.57	\$12.56	\$12.20	\$12.41	\$12.69	\$12.90	\$13.83	\$13.99	\$14.21	\$14.47	\$14.70
Tangible Book Value	\$11.28	\$11.92	\$12.80	\$11.24	\$11.62	\$11.63	\$11.28	\$11.50	\$11.79	\$12.00	\$11.92	\$12.09	\$12.30	\$12.56	\$12.80
Dividends	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.40	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.09	\$0.09	\$0.09	\$0.09	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
Pre-Tax, Pre-Provision EPS	\$1.40	\$1.55	\$1.84	\$0.31	\$0.38	\$0.38	\$0.37	\$0.34	\$0.35	\$0.43	\$0.39	\$0.37	\$0.47	\$0.53	\$0.50
CORE GAAP EPS	\$0.97	\$1.09	\$1.25	\$0.21	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.29	\$0.30	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.31	\$0.35	\$0.33
<u>KEY Ratios:</u>															
Net Interest Margin	3.25%	3.42%	3.52%	3.22%	3.32%	3.19%	3.25%	3.42%	3.39%	3.43%	3.45%	3.49%	3.50%	3.54%	3.55%
Return on Avg Assets	0.75%	0.78%	0.88%	0.68%	0.79%	0.74%	0.79%	0.77%	0.73%	0.88%	0.76%	0.73%	0.88%	0.99%	0.92%
Return on Avg Equity	8.09%	8.57%	8.93%	7.31%	8.48%	7.94%	8.58%	8.51%	7.85%	9.39%	8.52%	7.47%	8.98%	9.99%	9.22%
Return on Tang. Comm. Eq.	9.10%	8.48%	10.12%	8.10%	9.23%	8.87%	9.73%	9.37%	8.67%	10.25%	9.23%	8.81%	10.50%	11.60%	10.70%
Pre-Tax Pre-Provision ROA	1.07%	1.15%	1.29%	0.96%	1.17%	1.13%	1.10%	1.03%	1.06%	1.28%	1.11%	1.05%	1.33%	1.47%	1.38%
Efficiency Ratio	72.21%	71.65%	68.47%	72.90%	68.80%	70.42%	69.93%	71.75%	69.25%	70.03%	72.39%	73.62%	68.37%	65.53%	66.74%
Overhead Ratio	2.90%	3.01%	2.89%	2.93%	2.88%	2.92%	2.88%	2.95%	3.07%	3.05%	2.97%	2.98%	2.92%	2.84%	2.82%
TCE/TA	8.33%	8.48%	8.81%	8.70%	8.82%	8.58%	8.33%	8.48%	8.69%	8.76%	8.48%	8.57%	8.64%	8.73%	8.81%
<u>Period-End Balances: (\$ in Millions)</u>															
Earning Assets	\$835	\$974	\$1,006	\$798	\$816	\$841	\$835	\$840	\$841	\$850	\$974	\$977	\$986	\$996	\$1,006
Total Assets	\$915	\$1,080	\$1,115	\$870	\$889	\$915	\$915	\$915	\$915	\$925	\$1,080	\$1,083	\$1,093	\$1,104	\$1,115
Risk-Weighted Assets	\$635	\$643	\$664	\$568	\$583	\$599	\$635	\$632	\$630	\$637	\$643	\$645	\$651	\$658	\$664
Gross Loans	\$547	\$659	\$730	\$494	\$511	\$523	\$547	\$555	\$553	\$570	\$659	\$666	\$688	\$708	\$730
Total Deposits	\$767	\$909	\$937	\$722	\$730	\$766	\$767	\$776	\$773	\$779	\$909	\$913	\$920	\$927	\$937
Intangibles	\$6	\$14	\$14	\$6.414	\$6.335	\$6.255	\$6.180	\$6.105	\$6.031	\$6	\$14	\$14	\$14	\$14	\$14
Total Common Equity	\$82	\$105	\$111	\$81.61	\$84.21	\$84.21	\$81.86	\$83.13	\$85.06	\$86	\$105	\$106.01	\$108	\$110	\$111

**FIG Partners LLC Distribution of Ratings**

	Buy / Outperform	Hold / Market- Perform	Sell / Underperform
% Rated	37.3%	62.7%	0.0%
IB Client % in Category	27.7%	13.9%	0.0%

Equity Rating System as of July 1, 2003

Buy/Outperform “O” FIG expects that total return of the subject stock will outperform the industry benchmark (BIX) over the next 12 months

Hold/Market-Perform “M-P” FIG expects that total return of the subject stock will perform inline with the industry benchmark (BIX) over the next 12 months

Sell/Underperform “U” FIG expects that total return of the subject stock will under perform the industry benchmark (BIX) over the next 12 months

For purposes of FINRA rule 2711, outperform is classified as a buy, market perform is a hold and underperform is a sell. The industry benchmark that we use is the S&P Bank Index referred to as the BIX.

**Additional Risks to Our Earnings Model Assumptions & Ratings:**

Unexpected and/or rapid changes in interest rates may have significant negative impact on the company's balance sheet. Likewise, persistently low interest rates, and/or a flat yield curve may add downward pressure to revenues and the absolute level of NIM-Net Interest Margin.

Declines in asset quality beyond our estimates due to an economic slowdown in the company's operating footprint may require increased expenses for loan losses which could decrease profitability. Further, this may cause an increase in Net Charge-offs, Nonperforming loans, and Classified Assets.

New rules set forth by regulatory agencies could reduce future profitability by eliminating certain revenue items, adding additional expenses, or requiring this institution to hold more capital. A similar effect is possible if new legislation (local, state, or federal) is passed.

Any regulatory action or litigation against the company could impact future earnings and also affect the public market perception towards this stock.



Compliance

- Neither the research analyst nor any member of the analyst's household has any financial interest in the subject company.
- At the prior month end, neither FIG Partners LLC nor any of its partners or officers owned more than 1% of the outstanding equity securities of the subject company.
- There are no material conflicts of interest of the analyst or FIG Partners LLC at the time of this report.
- FIG has not been a manager or co-manager of a public offering of any securities of the recommended issuer within the last 12 months.
- FIG has not received investment banking compensation from the subject company in the last 12 months.
- FIG intends to seek investment banking compensation from the subject in the next three months.
- The subject company is a client of FIG.
- Neither the analyst nor anyone at FIG serves as an officer, director, or advisory board member of the subject company.
- FIG will usually make a market in the subject security and was making a market in this security at the time of this report's publication.
- All analysts are compensated based on a number of factors including the overall profits of FIG Partners LLC which includes investment banking revenues, but no analyst receives any compensation which is based on a specific investment banking service or transaction.
- To determine price target, our analysts utilize a variety of valuation techniques including but not limited to: peer analysis, absolute P/E, relative P/E, projected P/E, absolute P/B, relative P/B, projected P/B, deposit premium, and a discounted cash flow model.
- This research report reflects the analyst's actual opinion.
- No research analyst is subject to the supervision or control of any employee of the member's investment banking department.
- No employee of the investment banking department has reviewed or approved this report prior to publication
- The report has not been approved by the subject company, but may have been reviewed for factual accuracy except for the research summary, research rating and price target.
- The subject company has not promised directly or indirectly favorable research, a specific rating or a specific price target nor has the subject company been threatened with a change in research as an inducement for business or compensation.
- Additional information is available by request.
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