



September 15, 2023

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Kearny Financial Corp. (the "Annual Meeting"). This year's Annual Meeting will be held in a virtual meeting format only, on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. You will be able to attend the Annual Meeting virtually and vote and submit questions during the virtual Annual Meeting by visiting <https://meetnow.global/M7L7GP7>.

We are furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders primarily via the Internet by mailing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or "Notice," instead of mailing printed copies of those materials to each stockholder. The Notice directs stockholders to a website where they can access our proxy materials, including our Proxy Statement and our Annual Report, and view instructions on how to vote via the Internet or by telephone. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, please follow the instructions included in the Notice. If you have previously elected to receive our proxy materials electronically, you will continue to receive access to these materials electronically unless you elect otherwise.

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial Corp. for use at the Annual Meeting and at any adjournment thereof. This Proxy Statement is first being made available to stockholders on or about September 15, 2023. Stockholders may submit a proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting by following the instructions on the Notice, via the Internet, by telephone, or (if they have received paper copies of the proxy materials) by returning a proxy card.

The Annual Meeting is being held so that stockholders may consider the election of six directors, the ratification of the appointment of Crowe LLP as Kearny Financial Corp.'s independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2024, and the consideration of an advisory, non-binding resolution, with respect to the executive compensation described in the Proxy Statement.

The Board of Directors of Kearny Financial Corp. has determined that the matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting are in the best interests of Kearny Financial Corp. and its stockholders. **For the reasons set forth in the Proxy Statement, the Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" each of the proposals to be presented at the Annual Meeting.**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the officers and employees of Kearny Financial Corp. and its subsidiary, Kearny Bank, I thank you for your continued support of Kearny Financial Corp.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Craig L. Montanaro", written over a horizontal line.

Craig L. Montanaro
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Kearny Financial Corp.
120 Passaic Avenue
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004
(973) 244-4500

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of Kearny Financial Corp. (the “Company”) will be held in a virtual meeting format only, on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. You can virtually attend the live webcast of the Annual Meeting at <https://meetnow.global/M7L7GP7> and by following the instructions in the Proxy Statement. There is no physical location for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is for the purpose of considering and acting upon the following matters:

1. To elect six directors;
2. To ratify the appointment of Crowe LLP as the Company’s independent auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024;
3. An advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement; and

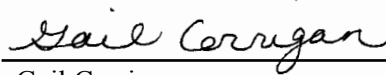
such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof may also be acted upon. The Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors of the Company has determined that the matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting, described in this Notice of Annual Meeting and the accompanying Proxy Statement, are in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. For the reasons set forth in the Proxy Statement, the Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote “**FOR**” each of its nominees, a vote “**FOR**” the ratification of Crowe LLP as independent auditors, and a vote “**FOR**” the non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation.

Any action may be taken on any one of the foregoing proposals at the Annual Meeting on the date specified above, or on any date or dates to which, by original or later adjournment, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned. Pursuant to the Company’s bylaws, the Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on August 28, 2023 as the record date for determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments thereof.

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. Stockholders whose shares are held in registered form have a choice of voting by proxy card, telephone or the Internet, as described on your proxy card. Stockholders whose shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other holder of record must vote in the manner directed by such holder. Check your proxy card or the information forwarded by your broker, bank or other holder of record to see which options are available to you. Any stockholder of record attending the virtual Annual Meeting may withdraw his or her proxy and vote personally on any matter properly brought before the Annual Meeting. If you are a stockholder whose shares are not registered in your own name, you will need appropriate documentation from the stockholder of record to vote at the virtual Annual Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gail Corrigan
Corporate Secretary

Fairfield, New Jersey
September 15, 2023

**Important Notice Regarding Internet
Availability of Proxy Materials
For the Stockholder Meeting to be
Held on October 26, 2023**

**The Proxy Statement and Annual Report to
Stockholders are available at www.edocumentview.com/KRNY
(or through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of the page of our website at www.kearnybank.com)**

Kearny Financial Corp.

Proxy Statement

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KEARNY FINANCIAL CORP.

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS To Be Held on October 26, 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Proxy Statement is being furnished to the stockholders of Kearny Financial Corp. (the “Company” or “Kearny Financial”) in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies for use at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time (the “Annual Meeting”). This Proxy Statement and the proxy card are first being made available to stockholders on or about September 15, 2023.

The Annual Meeting

Date, Time and Place	The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, and will be a virtual meeting format only. You can virtually attend the live webcast of the Annual Meeting at https://meetnow.global/M7L7GP7 .
Record Date	August 28, 2023
Shares Entitled to Vote	65,145,639 shares of Kearny Financial common stock were outstanding on the Record Date and are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.
Purpose of the Annual Meeting	To consider and vote on: 1) the election of six directors; 2) the ratification of Crowe LLP (“Crowe”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2024; and 3) the approval of a resolution to approve our executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement.
Vote Required	Directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast, without regard to either broker non-votes or proxies as to which authority to vote for the nominees being proposed is withheld. The vote to approve the advisory, non-binding resolution with respect to executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement and the ratification of Crowe as our independent registered public accounting firm, is determined by a majority of the votes cast, without regard to broker non-votes or proxies marked “ABSTAIN.”

Your Board of Directors
Recommends You Vote in Favor of
the Proposals

Your Board of Directors unanimously recommends that stockholders vote **“FOR”** each of the nominees for director listed in this Proxy Statement, **“FOR”** the ratification of Crowe as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2024, and **“FOR”** approval of an advisory, non-binding resolution, with respect to executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement.

Kearny Financial

Kearny Financial is the holding company for Kearny Bank, an FDIC-insured, New Jersey stock savings bank. Kearny Financial had approximately \$8.1 billion in total assets at June 30, 2023, and currently operates 43 retail branch offices located throughout northern and central New Jersey and Brooklyn and Staten Island, New York. Kearny Financial’s executive offices are located at 120 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004, and its telephone number is (973) 244-4500.

Who Can Vote at the Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors has fixed August 28, 2023 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly, only holders of record of shares of Kearny Financial common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, at the close of business on such date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On August 28, 2023, 65,145,639 shares of Kearny Financial common stock were outstanding and held by 4,195 registered holders of record. Certain shares of the Company are held in “street” name and accordingly, the number of beneficial owners of such shares is not known or included in the foregoing number. The presence, by attendance at the virtual Annual Meeting or by properly executed proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Kearny Financial common stock is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

How Many Votes You Have

Each holder of shares of Kearny Financial common stock outstanding on August 28, 2023 will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record. However, Kearny Financial’s articles of incorporation provide that stockholders of record who beneficially own in excess of 10% of the then outstanding shares of common stock of Kearny Financial are not entitled to vote any of the shares held in excess of that 10% limit. A person or entity is deemed to beneficially own shares that are owned by an affiliate of, as well as by any person acting in concert with, such person or entity.

Matters to Be Considered

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to: 1) elect six directors; 2) ratify the appointment of Crowe as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2024; and 3) approve a resolution to approve our executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement.

You may be asked to vote upon other matters that may properly be submitted to a vote at the Annual Meeting. We may adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting for the purpose, among others, of allowing additional time to solicit proxies. The Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Annual Meeting.

How to Vote

We are making our proxy materials available to our stockholders on the Internet. You may read, print and download our 2023 Annual Report to Stockholders and our Proxy Statement at www.edocumentview.com/KRNY (or through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of the page of our website at www.kearnybank.com). On or about September 15, 2023, we mailed a Notice to Stockholders containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials and vote online. On an ongoing basis, stockholders may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email.

You may vote your shares by Internet, telephone, regular mail or at the virtual Annual Meeting. Each of these voting options is described on your proxy card or Notice. You should complete and return your proxy card, or vote using the Internet or telephone voting options, in order to ensure that your vote is counted at the Annual Meeting, or at any adjournment of the Annual Meeting, regardless of whether you plan to attend the virtual Annual Meeting. **If you return an executed proxy card without marking your instructions, your executed proxy card will be voted “FOR” the election of the six director nominees named in this Proxy Statement, “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Crowe as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and “FOR” the advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement.**

Registered stockholders can vote online by visiting www.envisionreports.com/KRNY and following the on-screen instructions. The Notice previously provided to you contains the necessary codes required to vote online or by telephone. If you wish to vote by telephone, please call 1-800-652-8683 using a touch-tone phone and follow the prompted instructions. You may also vote by mail by requesting a paper proxy card using the instructions provided in the Notice. Finally, you may vote during the virtual Annual Meeting.

If you are a stockholder whose shares are not registered in your own name, you will need appropriate documentation from the stockholder of record to vote during the virtual Annual Meeting. If you want to vote your shares of Kearny Financial common stock that are held in street name during the virtual Annual Meeting, please see the instructions below detailing how you may register to attend and participate in the virtual Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors is currently unaware of any other matters that may be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, or at any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, shares represented by properly submitted proxies will be voted, or not voted, by the persons named as proxies on the proxy card in their best judgment.

How to Attend the Virtual Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be a completely virtual meeting of stockholders, which will be conducted exclusively by webcast. No physical meeting will be held.

You will be able to attend the Annual Meeting online and submit your questions during the meeting by visiting <https://meetnow.global/M7L7GP7>. You also will be able to vote your shares online at the virtual Annual Meeting.

To participate in the Annual Meeting, you will need to review the information included on your Notice, on your proxy card or on the instructions that accompanied your proxy materials.

If you hold your shares through an intermediary, such as a bank or broker, you can access the virtual meeting as a guest, or if you would like to vote or ask a question at the virtual Annual Meeting, you must register in advance using the instructions below.

The virtual Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. We encourage you to access the meeting prior to the start time leaving ample time for check in. Please follow the registration instructions as outlined in this Proxy Statement.

How to Register to Attend the Virtual Annual Meeting

All stockholders can listen to the virtual Annual Meeting by signing onto the virtual Annual Meeting as a guest. However, if you wish to participate in the virtual Annual Meeting, you must sign on as a stockholder.

If you are a registered stockholder (i.e., you hold your shares through our transfer agent, Computershare), you do not need to register to attend the virtual Annual Meeting. Please follow the instructions on the proxy card, Notice or proxy material notification email that you received.

If you hold your shares through an intermediary, such as a bank or broker (a “Beneficial Holder”), and want to attend the virtual Annual Meeting (with the ability to ask a question and/or vote, if you choose to do so) you have two options:

- (1) submit proof of your proxy power (legal proxy) from your bank or broker reflecting your Company holdings along with your name and email address to Computershare by email to: legalproxy@computershare.com, or by mail:

Computershare
Kearny Financial Corp. Legal Proxy
P.O. Box 43001
Providence, RI 02940-3001

Requests for registration must be labeled as “Legal Proxy” and be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on October 20, 2023.

You will receive a confirmation of your registration by email after your registration materials have been received.

- (2) For the 2023 proxy season, an industry solution allows Beneficial Holders to register online for the virtual Annual Meeting to attend, ask questions and vote. We expect that the vast majority of Beneficial Holders will be able to fully participate using the control number received with their voting instruction form. Please note, however, that this option is intended to be provided as a convenience to Beneficial Holders only. There is no guarantee this option will be available for every type of Beneficial Holder voting control number. The inability to provide this option to any or all Beneficial Holders will in no way impact the validity of the virtual Annual Meeting. Beneficial Holders may choose to register in advance, as described above, if they prefer to use this traditional, paper-based option.

In any event, please go to <https://meetnow.global/M7L7GP7> for more information on the available options and registration instructions.

The virtual Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. We encourage you to access the meeting prior to the start time leaving ample time for check in.

Participants in Employee Stock Plans and Holders of Non-Vested Restricted Stock Awards

If you are a participant in the Kearny Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the “ESOP”), hold Kearny Financial common stock through the Kearny Bank Employees’ Savings Plan (the “401(k) Plan”), or hold non-vested restricted stock awards under the 2016 Equity Incentive Plan, you will receive a voting instruction form so that you may vote the shares under these plans and awards. Under the terms of the plans, you are entitled to direct the trustees how to vote the shares of Kearny Financial common stock credited to your account in the ESOP and 401(k) Plan and you are entitled to vote any non-vested restricted stock awards. The 401(k) Plan trustee and ESOP trustee, as applicable, will vote all shares for which it does not receive timely instructions from participants in the same proportion as shares for which each, as applicable, received voting instructions, and the unallocated ESOP shares will also be voted in the same proportion as shares for which the ESOP trustee received voting instructions. **It is important that you direct the trustee how to vote your shares to allow sufficient time for voting by the trustees, your voting instructions must be received by October 20, 2023.**

Quorum and Vote Required

The presence, by attendance at the virtual Annual Meeting or by properly executed proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Kearny Financial common stock is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted solely for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present. A proxy submitted by a broker that is not voted is sometimes referred to as a broker non-vote.

Directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast, without regard to either broker non-votes or proxies as to which authority to vote for the nominees being proposed is “Withheld.” The ratification of the appointment of Crowe as the independent registered public accounting firm and the advisory vote to approve our executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement is determined by a majority of the votes cast, without regard to broker non-votes or proxies marked “Abstain.”

Revocability of Proxies

You may revoke your proxy at any time before the vote is taken at the Annual Meeting. You may revoke your proxy by:

- submitting written notice of revocation to the Corporate Secretary of Kearny Financial prior to the voting of such proxy;
- submitting a properly executed proxy bearing a later date;
- using the Internet or telephone voting options explained on the proxy card; or
- voting during the virtual Annual Meeting; however, simply attending the virtual Annual Meeting without voting will not revoke an earlier proxy.

Written notices of revocation and other communications regarding the revocation of your proxy should be addressed to:

Kearny Financial Corp.
120 Passaic Avenue
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004
Attention: Gail Corrigan, Corporate Secretary

If your shares are held in street name, you should follow your broker's instructions regarding the revocation of proxies.

Solicitation of Proxies

Kearny Financial will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from you. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, Kearny Financial will request that banks, brokers and other holders of record send proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of Kearny Financial common stock and secure their voting instructions. Laurel Hill Advisory Group, LLC will assist us in soliciting proxies, and we have agreed to pay them a fee of \$7,500 plus reasonable expenses for their services. If necessary, Kearny Financial may also use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from stockholders. In the event there are not sufficient votes for a quorum, or to approve or ratify any matter being presented at the time of this Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned in order to permit the further solicitation of proxies.

Recommendation of the Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote **"FOR"** each of the nominees for director listed in this Proxy Statement, **"FOR"** the ratification of Crowe as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending June 30, 2024, and **"FOR"** approval on an advisory basis of executive compensation as described in this Proxy Statement.

Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth information, as of August 28, 2023, regarding certain beneficial owners of shares of Kearny Financial common stock, including information regarding persons and entities known to Kearny Financial to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of Kearny Financial's issued and outstanding common stock and information regarding each director, named executive officer and all directors and executive officers of Kearny Financial as a group. In computing the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, we deemed shares of each class of common stock subject to options held by that person that were exercisable on or within 60 days of August 28, 2023 to be outstanding. We did not deem these shares outstanding, however, for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of All Common Stock Outstanding ⁽¹⁾
5% Owners (including address):		
T. Rowe Price Investment Management, Inc. 100 East Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21201	6,747,497 ⁽²⁾	10.36%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355	6,357,716 ⁽³⁾	9.76%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP Building One 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746	5,713,352 ⁽⁴⁾	8.77%
Kearny Bank ESOP Plan Trust c/o Pentegra Services, Inc. 2 Enterprise Dr., Suite 408 Shelton, CT 06484	4,797,763 ⁽³⁾	7.36%
BlackRock, Inc. 55 East 52 nd Street New York, NY 10055	5,134,725 ⁽⁵⁾	7.88%
Renaissance Technologies LLC 800 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022	3,599,013 ⁽⁶⁾	5.52%

Directors and Nominees:		
Theodore J. Aanensen	246,677 ⁽⁷⁾	*
Raymond E. Chandonnet	155,848 ⁽⁸⁾	*
Curtland E. Fields	17,700	*
John N. Hopkins	615,504 ⁽⁹⁾	*
Catherine A. Lawton	120,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	*
John J. Mazur, Jr.	323,600 ⁽¹¹⁾	*
Joseph P. Mazza	305,548 ⁽¹²⁾	*
John F. McGovern	392,987 ⁽¹³⁾	*
Craig L. Montanaro	984,782 ⁽¹⁴⁾	1.50%
Leopold W. Montanaro	355,227 ⁽¹⁵⁾	*
Christopher Petermann	146,339 ⁽¹⁶⁾	*
Charles J. Pivrotto	60,368 ⁽¹⁷⁾	*
John F. Regan	216,521 ⁽¹⁸⁾	*
Melvina Wong-Zaza	1,050	*

Named Executive Officers:

Keith Suchodolski	247,839 ⁽¹⁹⁾	*
Patrick M. Joyce	289,261 ⁽²⁰⁾	*
Thomas D. DeMedici	296,115 ⁽²¹⁾	*
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	179,308 ⁽²²⁾	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (21 persons)	5,547,254	8.22%

* Less than 1%.

(1) Based on 65,145,639 shares of Kearny Financial common stock outstanding and entitled to vote as of August 28, 2023.

(2) Based on Schedule 13G filed on February 14, 2023.

(3) Based on Schedule 13G/A filed on February 9, 2023.

(4) Based on Schedule 13G/A filed on February 10, 2023.

(5) Based on Schedule 13G/A filed on January 31, 2023.

(6) Based on Schedule 13G/A filed on February 13, 2023.

(7) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares, 11,529 shares held by Mr. Aanensen's spouse (49 shares of which are held in the spouse's deposit reinvestment account) and 1,000 shares held in trust for Mr. Aanensen's grandchild.

(8) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares.

(9) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares and 13,804 shares held by Mr. Hopkins' spouse.

(10) Includes options to acquire 60,000 shares.

(11) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares and 2,541 shares held by Mr. Mazur's spouse.

(12) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares.

(13) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares.

(14) Includes options to acquire 540,000 shares, 123,819 shares held in the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. Montanaro, 54,349 shares held in the ESOP, 19,415 shares held in the Benefits Equalization Plan (the "BEP") and 4,417 shares held by Mr. Montanaro's child. 8,748 of the shares held by Mr. Montanaro have been pledged as collateral for a loan.

(15) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares.

(16) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares and 200 shares held by Mr. Petermann's child.

(17) Includes 5,955 shares held in a 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. Pivrotto.

(18) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares.

(19) Includes options to acquire 141,902 shares, 10,143 shares held in the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. Suchodolski, 15,047 shares held in the ESOP and 895 shares held in the BEP.

(20) Includes options to acquire 150,000 shares, 28,110 shares held in the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. Joyce, 57,416 shares held in the ESOP and 1,904 shares held in the BEP.

(21) Includes options to acquire 174,510 shares, 32,190 shares held in the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. DeMedici, 21,560 shares held in the ESOP and 658 shares held in the BEP.

(22) Includes options to acquire 100,000 shares, 113 shares held in the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. Bilotta, 6,353 shares held in the ESOP and 252 shares held in the BEP.

PROPOSAL I – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Kearny Financial’s Board of Directors currently consists of 14 members and is divided into three classes, with one class of directors elected each year. Each member of the Board of Directors also serves as a director of Kearny Bank.

Six directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting. On the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Board of Directors has nominated Theodore J. Aanensen, Curtland E. Fields, Joseph P. Mazza, Charles J. Pivrotto, John F. Regan and Melvina Wong-Zaza for election as directors, each of whom has agreed to serve if so elected. All will serve until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. Each of the nominees is a current member of the Kearny Financial Board of Directors and each was previously elected by stockholders, except for Mr. Fields and Ms. Wong-Zaza who were appointed to the Board in June 2023.

Except as indicated herein, there are no arrangements or understandings between any nominee and any other person pursuant to which any such nominee was selected. **Unless authority to vote for the nominees is withheld, it is intended that the shares represented by the proxy card, if executed and returned, will be voted “FOR” the election of all nominees.**

In the event that any nominee is unable or declines to serve, the persons named on the proxy card as proxies will vote with respect to a substitute nominee designated by Kearny Financial’s current Board of Directors. At this time, the Board of Directors knows of no reason why any of the nominees would be unable or would decline to serve, if elected.

KEARNY FINANCIAL’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR NAMED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.

Directors and Executive Officers of Kearny Financial

The following table sets forth for each nominee, continuing director and executive officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank, as applicable: name, position with Kearny Financial, age, year of first election or appointment and expiration of current term if a director.

Name and Position with Company	Age as of June 30, 2023	Year First Elected or Appointed	Current Term to Expire
BOARD NOMINEE FOR TERM TO EXPIRE IN 2025			
Melvina Wong-Zaza <i>Director</i>	58	2023	2023
BOARD NOMINEES FOR TERM TO EXPIRE IN 2026			
Theodore J. Aanensen <i>Director</i>	78	1986	2023
Curtland E. Fields <i>Director</i>	71	2023	2023
Joseph P. Mazza <i>Director</i>	79	1993	2023
Charles J. Pivrotto <i>Director</i>	69	2018	2023
John F. Regan <i>Director</i>	78	1999	2023
DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE			
John N. Hopkins <i>Director</i>	76	2002	2024
Catherine A. Lawton <i>Director</i>	66	2018	2024
Craig L. Montanaro <i>President and Chief Executive Officer, Director</i>	56	2010	2024
Leopold W. Montanaro <i>Director</i>	83	2003	2024
John J. Mazur, Jr. <i>Chairman of the Board, Director</i>	69	1996	2025
Raymond E. Chandonnet <i>Director</i>	57	2015	2025
John F. McGovern <i>Director</i>	62	1999	2025
Christopher Petermann <i>Director</i>	64	2015	2025

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT DIRECTORS

Name and Position with Company	Age as of June 30, 2023	Year First Elected or Appointed
Keith Suchodolski <i>Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer</i>	43	2018
Patrick M. Joyce <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer</i>	58	2002
Erika K. Parisi <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer</i>	58	2002
Thomas D. DeMedici <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer</i>	62	2017
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr. <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Banking Officer</i>	62	2018
John V. Dunne <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Risk Officer</i>	72	2019
Timothy A. Swansson <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer</i>	46	2019

Business Experience and Qualifications of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of individuals with considerable and varied business experiences, backgrounds, skills and qualifications. Collectively, they have a strong knowledge of our Company's business, strategy and markets and are committed to enhancing long-term stockholder value. Information regarding the Board of Directors' nominees and the directors continuing in office is provided below. Unless otherwise stated, each individual has held his or her current occupation for the last five years.

Nominees for Director

Theodore J. Aanensen was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 1986. He served as Chairman of the Board of Kearny Bank from January 2000 through January 2004 and as Chairman of the Board of Kearny Financial from March 2001 through January 2004. He is a co-owner of Aanensen's, a luxury home remodeling and custom cabinetry company established in Kearny, New Jersey in 1951, serving as President since 1982. Mr. Aanensen is a graduate of Upsala College.

With over 50 years of business experience, Mr. Aanensen has strong leadership, sales and customer assessment skills. Mr. Aanensen's broad understanding of Kearny Bank's industry strengthens the Board's collective knowledge of our business and the policies and practices of the Board as its governing body.

Curtland E. Fields was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in June 2023. He is President, Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of the Turrell Fund, a foundation serving children and their families in New Jersey and Vermont. Mr. Fields has also been a Trustee of the Fund since 1997, and he was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the Fund in 2005 after a distinguished career with AT&T. Mr. Fields served as President of the \$4 billion Consumer Services Division at AT&T and prior to that as President of AT&T's largest operating region in the Midwest. His experience at AT&T included assignments of increasing responsibility in finance, operations and marketing and included key assignments in the Office of the Chairman. Mr. Fields holds an undergraduate degree in architecture and engineering, with high honors, from Princeton University. He also holds a master's in business administration, in finance and marketing, with honors, from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fields' background brings a strong understanding of financial environments, business management skills and experience in community endeavors which makes him a valuable addition to the Board.

Joseph P. Mazza was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 1993. He was the sole owner of a dental practice in Rutherford, New Jersey from 1971 to 2021. Dr. Mazza also serves on the Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. Board of Trustees, where he served as Chairman of the Audit Committee and currently serves as Chairman of the Strategy Committee. In 2019, he was elected to the Board of Directors of Flagship Health Systems, Inc. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Rutherford Senior Citizens Center (55 Kip), a regional senior center. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971, both in the U.S. and abroad, and then continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel through 1993. Dr. Mazza is a graduate of Seton Hall University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mazza brings to the Board strong leadership and business management skills along with valuable experience relating to governance and ethical issues.

Charles J. Pivrotto was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 2018. Mr. Pivrotto served on the Board of Clifton Bancorp Inc. and Clifton Savings Bank and was the Audit Committee Chairman from February 2007 until the bank was acquired by Kearny Financial in 2018. Mr. Pivrotto is a Certified Public Accountant ("CPA") and was formerly the managing shareholder of Pivrotto & Company, CPA's, PA, and he is currently a partner at Geltrude & Company, LLC. Mr. Pivrotto has been awarded a Certificate of Educational Achievement by the American Institute of CPA's Continuing Professional Education Division for "Tax Planning and Advising for Closely Held Businesses." He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Pivrotto is a graduate of William Paterson University.

Mr. Pivrotto's extensive expertise in financial reporting, accounting and tax matters and regulatory and compliance issues provides the Board with broad and valuable risk assessment, financial reporting, internal control and business management insight.

John F. Regan was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 1999. Now retired, he was the majority shareholder and President of two automobile sales and service companies, DeMassi Pontiac, Buick and GMC, located in Riverdale, New Jersey and Regan Pontiac, Buick and GMC, located in Long Island City, New York since 1995. Both companies closed in 2009.

Mr. Regan's involvement in our local community brings knowledge of the local economy and business opportunities to Kearny Bank. His solid leadership and business management skills, as well as a depth of knowledge in the areas of operational efficiency and effectiveness, are valuable assets to the Board.

Melvina Wong-Zaza was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in June 2023. She currently holds the position of Director, Strategic Global Clients at CMA-CGM Group, a global shipping company where she provides executive leadership and innovative solutions to global clients in Asia, Europe and USA markets. Her career spans over 30 years in senior management and executive roles bridging sales, strategic marketing/pricing, customer service/documentation center management and e-commerce. Ms. Wong-Zaza is experienced at developing and expanding new markets with a focus on establishing long-term profitable client relationships.

Ms. Wong-Zaza brings to the Board strong leadership and business management skills along with expertise in sales and operational effectiveness.

Continuing Directors with Terms to Expire in 2024

John N. Hopkins was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 2002. His career at Kearny Bank began in 1975 where he held various positions until his retirement in March 2011 as Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that time, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer. He previously held the roles of Executive Vice President from 1994 to 2002 and as Chief Financial Officer from 1994 to 1999. Active in professional and charitable organizations, he served on several committees of the New Jersey Bankers Association and on the Board of Directors of TICIC, Inc., a consortium that provides long-term financing for affordable and senior housing in New Jersey. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Clara Maass Medical Center, Director Emeritus of the Rutherford Senior Citizens Center, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of West Hudson Hospital in Kearny and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the St. Barnabas Healthcare System (now RWJ Barnabas Health). He is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Mr. Hopkins' many years of service in the operations of Kearny Bank and his past duties as Chief Executive Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank bring an extensive knowledge of the financial, economic and regulatory challenges we face which makes him well suited to counsel the Board on these matters.

Catherine A. Lawton was elected as a director of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in October 2018. Prior to her retirement in 2019, Ms. Lawton was a principal in the investment banking group of Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P. ("Sandler O'Neill"), a full-service investment bank serving the financial institutions industry. During her 25-year career at Sandler O'Neill, Ms. Lawton was responsible for providing a wide range of investment banking services to community banks, including general strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, and public and private capital raising transactions. From 1993 to 2004, Ms. Lawton also served as Sandler O'Neill's general counsel. Prior to joining Sandler O'Neill, Ms. Lawton spent nine years in the corporate and banking group of a large New York law firm advising financial institutions and prior to that was a certified public accountant with KPMG. Ms. Lawton holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. She currently serves as a trustee of the University of Virginia Law School Foundation.

Ms. Lawton brings a deep knowledge of markets and valuation to the Board, together with a strength in corporate governance, risk assessment and general financial matters.

Craig L. Montanaro was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 2010. Mr. Montanaro joined Kearny Bank in 2003 when Kearny acquired West Essex Bank where he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in April 2011. Prior to that time, he had served as President and Chief Operating Officer since April 2010. He previously performed the duties of Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Planning for Kearny Bank and Kearny Financial from 2005 to March 2010 and from 2003 to 2004 served as Vice President and Regional Branch Administrator. Mr. Montanaro serves as President and member of the Board of Directors of the KearnyBank Foundation. Active in community and professional organizations, he serves as Chairman of the Chilton Hospital Foundation as well as a Trustee of the Wood-Ridge Memorial Foundation. Mr. Montanaro is also a member of the Boards of Directors of Junior Achievement of New Jersey, New Jersey Bankers Business Services and New Jersey Bankers where he serves as 2nd Vice Chair. He is a graduate of Syracuse University earning a Bachelor's Degree in finance and marketing and in 2000 received his MBA from Fairfield University. He also received a Graduate Degree in banking from the National School of Banking at Fairfield University. Craig L. Montanaro is the son of Director Leopold W. Montanaro.

In addition to his wide range of management experience and leadership skills, Mr. Montanaro's strong economic background and his knowledge and understanding of the financial, economic, social and regulatory environments make him a valuable asset to the Board of Directors.

Leopold W. Montanaro was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 2003. He also serves as a director of the KearnyBank Foundation. Mr. Montanaro is retired and was the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of West Essex Bancorp, Inc. and West Essex Bank where he was employed since 1972 until that bank was acquired by Kearny Financial in 2003. He also served in the U.S. Naval Submarine Service. Mr. Montanaro is the father of Craig L. Montanaro, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kearny Bank and Kearny Financial.

Mr. Montanaro's past service as President of a financial institution, director on the board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Thrift and Bankers Association and his participation in our local community for 50 years brings an extensive knowledge of the financial, economic and regulatory challenges we face as well as knowledge of the local economy and business opportunities for Kearny Bank.

Continuing Directors with Terms to Expire in 2025

John J. Mazur, Jr. was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 1996 and was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in 2004. He currently serves on the Board of the Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce as well as the Board of Regents at Felician University and serves as advisor to the Board of the Meadowlands YMCA. Mr. Mazur was the President/Chief Executive Officer of Elegant Desserts, a wholesale bakery located in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, which opened in 1994 and sold gourmet cakes locally and nationally until it was sold in 2017. He continued as President of the new company through March 2020. From 1976 to 2003, he was also a partner and general manager of Mazur's Bakery, in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, a family-owned business that operated from 1936 until 2003 when it was sold. Mr. Mazur is a graduate of Villanova University.

Mr. Mazur is currently in real estate management and actively involved in bringing in new business relationships to the Bank. He has extensive knowledge of the banking industry and brings strong marketing and sales skills to the Board as well as a wide range of experience in business management and employee relations.

Raymond E. Chandonnet was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 2015. He is Chief Financial Officer of MotorEnvy, a luxury car subscription service company based in Clifton, New Jersey. He is also the founder and sole practitioner of BankStrategies.net, an advisory company he started in 2015 that provides balance sheet, earnings and technology strategy consulting, training and business development to banks, credit unions and FinTech companies. From June 2020 to July 2021, Mr. Chandonnet served as Chief Revenue Officer with Neocova, a technology company that provides data analytics to community financial institutions. Mr. Chandonnet previously served from 2019 to 2020 as Managing Director and head of the Financial Strategy Advisory Services practice at Hovde Group, a boutique investment banking firm that focuses on financial institutions. He also was founder and sole practitioner of Second Act Capital Partners LLC (2015-2017), an advisory firm that focused on creating partnerships between community/regional banks and FinTech companies. Prior to starting his own companies, Mr. Chandonnet served as a partner and Chief Balance Sheet Strategist with Sandler O'Neill from 2007 to 2014, and as head of Bank Strategy for JPMorgan Securities (2005-2007), Lehman Brothers (2001-2005), First Union Capital Markets (1997-2001), and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (1992-1997). The roster of clients he has worked with over his career includes banks and credit unions, Federal Home Loan Banks, regulators, public accounting firms, and FinTech companies. Mr. Chandonnet is a frequent publisher and speaker on a wide range of issues related to bank financial management and technology utilization and holds a Master's Degree in finance from Bentley College Graduate School of Business in Waltham, MA and a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Merrimack College in North Andover, MA.

Mr. Chandonnet's background brings a strong understanding of accounting, regulatory and tax issues to the Board along with his beneficial knowledge of balance sheet structure and strategies and his familiarity with information technology and FinTech.

John F. McGovern was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 1999. He has worked as a self-employed Certified Public Accountant (“CPA”) since 1986 and Certified Financial Planner (“CFP”) since 1995 and holds the designation of Personal Financial Specialist (“PFS”) from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Since 2001, he has been a federally registered investment advisor. Mr. McGovern is also the owner of McGovern Monuments, Inc., a monument sales and lettering company located in North Arlington, New Jersey that has been family owned and operated since 1924. Mr. McGovern is involved in local and community organizations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. He has been designated as an audit committee financial expert under the Securities and Exchange Commission’s rules and regulations.

Through his considerable experience as a CPA/PFS and CFP and his strong risk assessment, financial reporting and internal control expertise, as well as extensive knowledge of accounting and regulatory issues, Mr. McGovern provides an essential understanding of public accounting and financial matters to the Board.

Christopher Petermann was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial and the Board of Directors of Kearny Bank in 2015. He is a Certified Public Accountant, the Co-Managing Partner of PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP, a member of the firm’s Executive Committee and serves as Co-Partner-in-Charge for the Private Foundation and Philanthropic Services Practice. He has over 30 years of specialized experience in accounting for exempt organizations and private foundations, as well as closely held businesses and financial services entities. He holds a number of professional committee and community board positions including involvement with the NJ Symphony Orchestra, along with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. In 2022, he was appointed to the Board of American Capital Management, Inc. Mr. Petermann holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Bucknell University. He has been designated as an audit committee financial expert under the Securities and Exchange Commission’s rules and regulations.

Mr. Petermann provides the Board with proficient guidance relative to financial reporting, accounting and tax matters as well as internal control and governance issues as an independent director.

Board of Directors Composition

The Board of Directors regularly reviews the skills and characteristics required of directors to help ensure a qualified Board. The table below summarizes certain knowledge, skills and experience that our directors bring to the Board to enable effective oversight and is not an exhaustive list of each director's strengths or contributions to the Board. The degree of knowledge, skills and experience may vary among Board members.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience	# of Board Members
Audit and/or Compliance	11
Financial	14
Commercial Real Estate	12
Environmental, Social and Governance	9
Industry Knowledge	13
Leadership	14
Risk Management	13
Strategic Planning	14
Technology and/or Cyber Matters	7

The Board of Directors is committed to the principles of diversity and understands the value that diverse perspectives bring to our Board and its governance process. In furtherance of this commitment, the Company has prioritized the identification of a diverse pool of candidates when selecting new director nominees. During fiscal 2023, the Board became more diverse and the Company will continue to actively pursue candidates that can bring a diverse set of perspectives to the Board when considering new director nominees. The onboarding of new directors with varied skill sets and backgrounds continues to be an important component of the Board's succession planning.

Board Diversity Matrix

	As of June 30, 2023				As of June 30, 2022			
Total Number of Directors	14				12			
	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Non-Binary</u>	<u>Did Not Disclose Gender</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Non-Binary</u>	<u>Did Not Disclose Gender</u>
Part I: Gender Identity								
Directors	2	12	0	0	1	11	0	0
Part II: Demographic Background								
African American or Black	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alaskan Native or Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	1	11	0	0	1	11	0	0
Two or More Races or Ethnicities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LGBTQ+			0				0	
Did Not Disclose Demographic Background			0				0	

Business Experience and Qualifications of Executive Officers Who Are Not Directors

The business experience for the past five years of each of our executive officers who are not directors is set forth below. Unless otherwise indicated, the executive officer has held his or her position for the past five years.

Keith Suchodolski was appointed Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in July 2022, having previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank since July 2018. Additionally, he served as Senior Vice President/Corporate Finance and Chief Accounting Officer since March 2018, Senior Vice President and Controller since June 2014 and First Vice President and Controller since January 2013. Mr. Suchodolski had previously served as the Controller of various financial institutions in the Mid-Atlantic region since 2005 and has been employed in the banking industry since 2001. Mr. Suchodolski holds a Master of Business Administration degree, with a specialization in Finance, from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Patrick M. Joyce was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in April 2014, having previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer of Kearny Bank since 2002 and as Vice President of Loan Originations from 1999 to 2002. He was formerly employed by South Bergen Saving Bank where he served as Assistant Corporate Secretary and as a Loan Originator and joined Kearny Bank when South Bergen Savings Bank was acquired by Kearny Bank in 1999. He joined South Bergen Savings Bank in 1985.

Thomas D. DeMedici was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in June 2017, having previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer of Kearny Bank since September 2010. He is a seasoned banking professional with over 35 years of banking and lending experience. During his career, Mr. DeMedici has held previous executive officer positions at other banking institutions including President and Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President/Chief Lending Officer.

Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr. was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer of Kearny Financial in July 2022, having previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer of Kearny Bank since June 2018. He is an experienced banker with more than 40 years of banking experience. Mr. Bilotta previously held the role of Executive Vice President and Director of Retail Banking at Peapack Gladstone Bank where he was responsible for all aspects of retail banking, sales development, corporate marketing, business development, treasury management and government banking from 2013 until his appointment as an executive officer of Kearny Bank. Prior to Peapack Gladstone Bank, Mr. Bilotta held executive positions at a variety of financial institutions.

John V. Dunne was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in July 2019. He previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Risk Officer since March 2016. Mr. Dunne has over 40 years of experience in banking, primarily in management positions regarding internal audit and risk management. Prior to joining Kearny Bank, Mr. Dunne served as Director of Regulatory Management at Credit Agricole Indosuez, Director of Risk Management at Dime Bank and Chief Risk Officer at Alma Bank. His past responsibilities included risk management, internal audit, compliance and information security matters. Mr. Dunne holds an MBA in Finance from Pace University.

Erika K. Parisi was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in July 2019, having previously served as Executive Vice President and Director of Customer Relationship Management Analytics of Kearny Bank since June 2016. She has also served as Executive Vice President and Branch Administrator of Kearny Bank since April 2014, as Senior Vice President and Branch Administrator of Kearny Bank since 2002 and Vice President and Branch Administrator from 1999 to 2002. She was formerly employed by South Bergen Savings Bank as Vice President/Branch Administrator and joined Kearny Bank when South Bergen Savings Bank was acquired by Kearny Bank in 1999. She joined South Bergen Savings Bank in 1991. Ms. Parisi holds a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in accounting, from the State University of New York at Albany.

Timothy A. Swansson was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Technology and Innovation Officer of Kearny Financial and Kearny Bank in July 2019. He previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology and Innovation Officer of Kearny Bank since 2017 and had also served as Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer; Senior Vice President and Director of Information Technology; and 1st Vice President and Director of Information Technology. He was formerly employed by a technology service provider and had been working directly with Kearny Bank since 2003 until he was appointed an officer of Kearny Bank in 2008.

Corporate Governance Matters

Corporate Governance Highlights

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- | | |
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| • Separation of Board Chair and CEO | • Creation of an ESG Committee to reflect the importance of environmental, social and corporate governance matters at the Bank and Company |
| • No directors currently serve on other public company boards | |
| • Shareholder right to call special meetings | • All directors attended greater than 75% of all fiscal 2023 board and committee meetings that they were eligible to attend |
| • Annual Board and committee self-evaluations | • Ongoing director training and education |
| • Annual review of CEO succession plan by the independent directors with the CEO | • Annual Say-on-Pay voting |
| • Executive and director stock ownership requirements | • Compensation recoupment “clawback” policy |
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Board Independence

The Board of Directors determines the independence of each director and director nominee in accordance with Nasdaq Stock Market rules, which include all elements of independence as set forth in the listing requirements for Nasdaq securities. The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Aanensen, Chandonnet, Fields, Hopkins, Mazur, Mazza, McGovern, Petermann, Pivrotto, Regan and Meses. Lawton and Wong-Zaza are “independent” within the meaning of such standards. In determining the independence of our directors and director nominees, the Board of Directors considered certain transactions, relationships and arrangements between the Company and its directors and director nominees that are not required to be disclosed in this Proxy Statement under the heading “Transactions With Certain Related Persons.”

Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted a Code of Ethics that reflects current circumstances and Securities and Exchange Commission and Nasdaq definitions for such codes. The code of business conduct and ethics covers the Company, Kearny Bank and other subsidiaries. Among other things, the code of business conduct and ethics includes provisions regarding honest and ethical conduct, conflicts of interest, full and fair disclosure, compliance with law, and reporting of and sanctions for violations. The code applies to all directors, officers and employees of the Company and subsidiaries. A copy of the Code of Ethics (referred to as Conflicts of Interest & Code of Conduct) may be viewed through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of the page of our website at www.kearnybank.com. As further matters are documented, or if those documents (including the Code of Ethics) are changed, waivers from the code of business conduct and ethics are granted, or new procedures are adopted, those new documents, changes and/or waivers will be posted on the website.

Transactions With Certain Related Persons

Since the beginning of the last fiscal year, no directors, executive officers or their immediate family members have had a direct or indirect material interest in any transactions in which we or any subsidiary were a participant involving an amount in excess of \$120,000 (other than loans from Kearny Bank).

Kearny Bank makes loans to its executive officers and directors in the ordinary course of business. Kearny Bank has adopted written policies governing these loans. In accordance with federal regulations, all such loans or extensions of credit were made in the ordinary course of business on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with persons not related to Kearny Bank and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features. All such loans are approved in advance by the Board of Directors with any interested director abstaining. Loans to insiders are monitored on a monthly basis to ensure continued compliance with Kearny Bank's lending policies.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing transactions with directors, executive officers and their family members, for the purpose of determining whether the transactions are in compliance with our policies and should be ratified and approved.

Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Management

Under the Board of Directors' current leadership structure, the offices of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer are held by separate individuals. John J. Mazur, Jr. serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Mazur is an independent director and does not serve in any executive capacity with the Company. The Company's Chief Executive Officer is Craig L. Montanaro. Although the offices of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer are currently held by separate individuals, the Board of Directors has not made a determination that this is the appropriate leadership structure for the Board of Directors in all circumstances and reserves the right to combine these offices in the future if deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

The Board of Directors has general authority over the Company's risk oversight function, with authority delegated to the Enterprise Risk Management Committee to review risk management policies and practices in specific areas of the Company's business. The Audit & Compliance Committee is primarily responsible for providing oversight of the financial reporting process, the audit process, the system of internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations. The Audit & Compliance Committee works closely with officers involved in the risk management function and the internal audit staff who report directly to the Audit & Compliance Committee.

Operation of the Board of Directors

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Board of Directors of Kearny Financial held 17 meetings. During this period, no director attended fewer than 75% of the total meetings of the Board of Directors and committees on which he or she served during the period for which he or she had been a director. The Board of Directors maintains an Audit & Compliance Committee, an Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") Committee, an Executive Committee, an Interest Rate Risk Management Committee, an Asset Quality Committee, an Enterprise Risk Management Committee, a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and a Compensation Committee. There were two executive sessions of the Board of Directors held during the year ended June 30, 2023.

Environmental Social and Governance Committee. This committee consists of Directors Petermann (Chair), Lawton, Mazur and Montanaro (Craig). The responsibilities of this committee include primary oversight of all ESG matters and reviewing ESG-related strategies, initiatives, policies and risk management. This committee meets as needed and met two times during the year ended June 30, 2023.

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of focusing on long-term financial sustainability and the prudent management of ESG factors and believes that a thoughtful, coordinated approach to ESG will support a more sustainable future for our stakeholders. The Company's ESG strategy will advance alongside the focus and scale of our business, referencing the evolving ESG principles for our industry. For further details, please refer to the Company's ESG report, which is located on our Investor Relations website.

Enterprise Risk Management Committee. This committee consists of Directors Lawton (Chair), Chandonnet, Hopkins, McGovern, Montanaro (Leopold) and Regan. The responsibilities of this committee encompass determining the Company's appropriate level of risk and strategy, monitoring management's implementation thereof, identifying and managing multiple and cross-enterprise operational and strategic risks and monitoring the Company's overall risk position. This committee is scheduled to meet quarterly and as needed and met six times during the year ended June 30, 2023.

Compensation Committee. This committee consists of Directors Aanensen (Chair), Petermann and Regan. Each member of the Compensation Committee is independent in accordance with the current listing standards of The Nasdaq Stock Market, including the enhanced independent requirements for compensation committee members of listed companies under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Compensation Committee which is available through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of the page of our website at www.kearnybank.com. The responsibilities of this committee include appraisal of the performance of executive officers, administration of management compensation plans and review of directors' compensation. This committee reviews industry compensation surveys and reviews the recommendations of management on employee compensation matters. This committee meets as needed and met eight times during the year ended June 30, 2023.

Audit & Compliance Committee. This committee consists of Directors McGovern (Chair), Mazur, Mazza and Petermann. Each member of the Audit & Compliance Committee is independent in accordance with the listing standards of The Nasdaq Stock Market, including those standards specifically applicable to audit committee members. The Board of Directors has determined that John F. McGovern and Christopher Petermann are audit committee financial experts within the meaning of the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. This committee's responsibilities include oversight of the internal audit and regulatory compliance activities and monitoring management and employee compliance with the Board of Directors' audit policies and applicable laws and regulations. This committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the external auditors. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit & Compliance Committee, which governs its composition, responsibilities and operation. A copy of this charter is available through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of the page of our website at www.kearnybank.com. This committee meets monthly and also periodically with the internal auditor, the compliance officer and the external auditors and met 16 times during the year ended June 30, 2023.

Audit & Compliance Committee Report. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Audit & Compliance Committee: (i) reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with management; (ii) discussed with the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, Crowe, all matters required to be discussed by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (iii) received from Crowe written disclosures and the letter concerning the firm's independence with respect to the Company, as required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. Based on the foregoing review and discussions, the Audit & Compliance Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This Audit & Compliance Committee Report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this Proxy Statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that Kearny Financial specifically incorporates this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission under such Acts.

Audit & Compliance Committee:	John F. McGovern (Chair)
	John J. Mazur, Jr.
	Joseph P. Mazza
	Christopher Petermann

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. This committee consists of Directors Mazur (Chair), Aanensen, McGovern, Petermann and Regan and is responsible for, among other things, the annual selection of nominees for election as directors. Each member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is independent in accordance with the listing standards of The Nasdaq Stock Market. This committee operates under a written charter, which governs its composition, responsibilities and operations. A copy of this charter is available through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of the page of our website at www.kearnybank.com. The committee meets as needed and met three times during the year ended June 30, 2023.

The charter states that in evaluating candidates for nomination, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider, among other things, the candidates' knowledge (including relevant industry knowledge), understanding of the Company's business, experience, skills, substantive areas of expertise, financial literacy, innovative thinking, business judgment, achievements, independence, personal and professional integrity, character, reputation, ability to represent the interests of all stockholders, time availability in light of other commitments, dedication, absence of conflicts of interest, diversity and other factors required to be considered under applicable laws, rules or regulations or that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers appropriate in the context of the needs of the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers diversity in market knowledge, background, experience, qualifications and other factors as part of its evaluation of each candidate.

The Company does not pay fees to any third party to identify or evaluate or assist in identifying or evaluating potential nominees. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's process for identifying and evaluating potential nominees includes soliciting recommendations from directors and officers of the Company and Kearny Bank. Additionally, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider persons recommended by stockholders of the Company in selecting the individuals the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recommends to the Board of Directors for selection as the Board of Directors' nominees. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will evaluate persons recommended by directors or officers of the Company or Kearny Bank and persons recommended by stockholders in the same manner.

To be considered in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's selection of individuals the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recommends to the Board of Directors for selection as the Board of Directors' nominees, recommendations from stockholders must be received by the Company in writing by at least 120 days prior to the date the proxy statement for the previous year's annual meeting was first distributed to stockholders. Recommendations should identify the submitting stockholder, the person recommended for consideration and the reasons the submitting stockholder believes such person should be considered.

Management believes that it is in the best interest of Kearny Financial and its stockholders to provide sufficient time to enable management to disclose to stockholders information about a dissident slate of nominations for directors. This advance notice requirement may also give management time to solicit its own proxies in an attempt to defeat any dissident slate of nominations, should management determine that doing so is in the best interests of stockholders generally. Similarly, adequate advance notice of stockholder proposals will give management time to study such proposals and to determine whether to recommend to the stockholders that such proposals be adopted. In certain instances, such provisions could make it more difficult to oppose management's nominees or proposals, even if stockholders believe such nominees or proposals are in their best interests.

Employee, Officer and Director Hedging

The Company has adopted an anti-hedging and anti-pledging policy, which prohibits directors and executive officers from engaging in or effecting any transaction designed to hedge or offset the economic risk of owning shares of Company common stock.

Accordingly, any hedging, derivative or other equivalent transaction that is specifically designed to reduce or limit the extent to which declines in the trading price of Company common stock would affect the value of the shares of Company common stock owned by an executive officer or director is prohibited. Cashless exercises of employee stock options are not deemed short sales and are not prohibited. This policy does not prohibit transactions in the stock of other companies.

The anti-hedging and anti-pledging policy also prohibits directors and executive officers from holding Company securities in a margin account or pledging Company securities as collateral for any other loan. An exception to this prohibition may be granted, in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors or the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors and may be based on any relevant factors, including the percentage of securities held by the individual that is currently pledged and the magnitude of aggregate pledged shares in relation to total shares outstanding, market value or trading volume. Other than 8,748 shares pledged by Craig L. Montanaro, no other shares are currently pledged by a director or executive officer. The shares referenced are unchanged from the prior fiscal year.

The Company does not have anti-hedging policies or procedures that are applicable to the Company's employees who are not executive officers and as such, hedging transactions by non-executive employees are not prohibited.

The information provided under this Employee, Officer and Director Hedging section shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that Kearny Financial specifically incorporates this information by reference.

Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”)

This section discusses the Company’s executive compensation philosophy, guidelines and programs, and the material factors affecting the Company’s decisions regarding the compensation of its senior executives. This CD&A is presented to give our stockholders a clear and comprehensive picture of the Company’s executive compensation program, and its individual components. The Named Executive Officers (“NEOs”) for the fiscal year 2023 are:

- Craig L. Montanaro, President and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”)
- Keith Suchodolski, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”)
- Patrick M. Joyce, Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer (“CLO”)
- Thomas D. DeMedici, Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer (“CCO”)
- Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer (“CBO”)

Executive Summary

Our executive compensation program is designed to create a competitive compensation program that rewards sustained financial performance while safeguarding the long-term success of the Company and promoting a culture of high performance.

Despite a challenging economic environment, the Company produced the following financial results during fiscal year 2023:

- Total assets increased by \$344.9 million, or 4.5% to \$8.06 billion at June 30, 2023.
- Loans receivable increased \$411.6 million, or 7.6% to \$5.83 billion at June 30, 2023.
- Net loan charge-offs totaled \$810 thousand, or 0.01% of average loans, for the year ended June 30, 2023 compared to \$3.6 million, or 0.07% of average loans for the year ended June 30, 2022.
- Deposits, excluding brokered and listing service CDs, declined \$100.1 million, or 2.0% from June 30, 2022.
- During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Company repurchased 2.8 million shares of common stock at a cost of \$27.4 million, or \$9.73 per share.
- Net income totaled \$40.8 million, or earnings per share of \$0.63. Adjusted (non-GAAP) net income totaled \$50.6 million, or earnings per share of \$0.78.

“Say on Pay” Vote. On October 27, 2022, stockholders voted on a non-binding resolution to approve the compensation for the NEOs, commonly referred to as a “say on pay” vote. The resolution was approved with a 96.32% affirmative vote, demonstrating strong support of the Compensation Committee’s executive pay decisions. We received over 95% vote in favor of our executive compensation in each of the last four years.

Compensation Best Practices. Our executive compensation program is grounded in the following policies and practices, which promote sound compensation governance, enhance our pay-for-performance philosophy and further align our executives’ interests with those of our stockholders:

WHAT WE DO			WHAT WE DO NOT DO	
✓	Significant emphasis on performance-based, “at-risk” compensation		X	No fully discretionary annual incentive plans
✓	Independent compensation consultant engaged by the Compensation Committee		X	No repricing and exchange of underwater options for cash or shares without stockholder approval
✓	Annual risk assessments		X	No short vesting periods for awards of restricted stock and grants of stock options
✓	Compensation recoupment “clawback” policy		X	No significant perquisites
✓	Stock ownership guidelines		X	No excise tax gross-ups in our employment and change in control agreements
✓	Anti-hedging and pledging policy		X	No “single trigger” change in control severance

Compensation Actions At-A-Glance. Taking into account our performance, stockholder feedback and our compensation best-practices, the Compensation Committee took the following actions concerning the compensation of the NEOs:

- *Base Salaries:* The Committee approved increases for the NEOs effective July 1, 2022. For details, please refer to page 31 of this CD&A.
- *Executive Management Incentive Program:* Each of the NEOs participated in the Executive Management Incentive Program. Consistent with our financial performance, incentive payouts for fiscal year 2023 were below target performance. For details, please refer to pages 31-33 of this CD&A.
- *Long-Term Equity Awards:* Each of the NEOs received an equity grant during fiscal year 2023. For details, please refer to pages 33-35 of this CD&A.

What Guides our Executive Compensation Program

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives. Our compensation philosophy is driven by the following guiding principles that reinforce the critical connections between business performance, stockholder value creation and senior leadership:

- *Pay for Performance:* A substantial portion of an NEO’s total compensation should be variable and contingent upon the attainment of certain specific and measurable annual- and long-term business performance objectives.
- *Stockholder Alignment:* Executives should be compensated through a mix of components (base salaries, annual- and long-term incentives) designed to create long-term value for our stockholders, as well as foster a culture of ownership.

- *Competitiveness:* Target compensation is set at a level that is competitive with that being offered to individuals holding similar positions at other organizations with which we compete for business and talent.
- *Attraction and Retention:* The executive compensation program should enable Kearny Bank to retain superior executive talent, as well as attract additional top-tier leadership.

The Principal Components of Compensation. Our compensation philosophy is supported by the following principal components in our executive compensation program.

Compensation Component	Form	Purpose
Base Salary	Cash (Fixed)	Provide a fixed level of pay that recognizes the NEO's scope of responsibilities, skills, performance and experience for the value of his or her role.
Executive Management Incentive Program	Cash (Variable)	Motivate and reward NEOs for achieving annual Company, business unit and individual goals that support the long-term strategic plan.
Long-Term Equity Awards	Equity (Variable)	Provide incentives for NEOs to execute on longer-term financial/strategic growth goals that drive stockholder value creation and support the Company's retention strategy.

The Decision-Making Process. The Compensation Committee oversees the executive compensation program for the NEOs. The Compensation Committee is comprised of independent, non-employee members of our Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee works closely with its independent consultant and management to examine the effectiveness of the Company's executive compensation program throughout the year and when considering and making any material long term equity awards. Details of the Compensation Committee's authority and responsibilities are specified in the Compensation Committee's charter, which is available through the Investor Relations link located at the bottom of our website at www.kearnybank.com.

The Role of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee reviews all compensation and awards to the NEOs. The Compensation Committee utilizes publicly available information to gather data related to compensation practices for executive officers of financial services companies in order to determine market competitive levels of compensation as well as reviewing internal pay levels within the executive group.

The Compensation Committee considers a variety of factors as it evaluates compensation for each officer including:

- the Company's overall financial performance as compared to budget and prior year's performance;
- bank regulatory compliance and examination results;
- the Company's performance metrics compared to other financial services companies in our market area, including return on assets, loan and deposit growth, level of non-performing loans, and other risk management metrics; and
- the individual achievements of each officer in their respective areas of responsibility; and the market competitiveness of the Company's compensation and benefits programs applicable to its executive management group.

The Compensation Committee also considers the potential risks to which the incentive compensation programs may expose the Company, and the established policies, controls and procedures of the Company and Kearny Bank that exist to protect against such risks to the Company (See “Compensation Risk Assessment”).

Role of Management. Upon the request of the Compensation Committee, the CEO may be asked to provide input regarding the performance and compensation of his direct reports. The Compensation Committee takes this information under advisement; the Compensation Committee makes its decisions independently and regularly hosts executive sessions. The CEO may not be present during voting or deliberations on his compensation.

The Role of the Independent Consultant. The Compensation Committee has the sole authority to retain and terminate a compensation consultant and to approve the consultant’s fees and all other terms of the engagement. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Compensation Committee retained the services of Pearl Meyer & Partners LLC (“Pearl Meyer”), an independent compensation consulting firm.

A representative from Pearl Meyer attends the Compensation Committee meetings upon request for the purpose of reviewing compensation data with the Compensation Committee and participating in general discussions on compensation for the NEOs and periodically meets with the Compensation Committee without management present. While the Compensation Committee considers input from Pearl Meyer when making compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee’s final decisions reflect many factors and considerations.

Pearl Meyer reports directly to the Compensation Committee and provides consulting services to the Committee or under the Committee's direction. The Compensation Committee has analyzed whether the work of Pearl Meyer as a compensation consultant has raised any conflict of interest, taking into consideration the following factors, among others: (i) the provision of other services to the Company by Pearl Meyer; (ii) the amount of fees from the Company paid to Pearl Meyer as a percentage of Pearl Meyer’s total revenue; (iii) Pearl Meyer’s policies and procedures that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest; (iv) any business or personal relationship of Pearl Meyer or the individual compensation advisors employed by Pearl Meyer with an executive officer of the Company; (v) any business or personal relationship of the individual compensation advisors with any member of the Compensation Committee; and (vi) any stock of the Company owned by Pearl Meyer or the individual compensation advisors employed by Pearl Meyer. The Compensation Committee has determined, based on its analysis of the above factors, among others, that the work of Pearl Meyer and the individual compensation advisors employed by Pearl Meyer as compensation consultants to the Company has not created any conflict of interest.

The Role of Benchmarking. It is the Compensation Committee’s goal to provide the NEOs with a total compensation package that is both competitive and reflective of the performance achieved by the Company compared to the performance achieved by the Company’s peers. The Compensation Committee periodically considers publicly-available data for informational purposes when making its compensation-related decisions. However, market data is not the sole determinant of the Company’s practices or executive compensation levels. When determining base salaries, incentive opportunities and annual equity grants for NEOs, the Compensation Committee also considers the performance of the Company and the individual, the nature of an individual’s role within the Company, as well as experience and contributions to his or her current role.

In setting compensation for fiscal year 2023, the Board and the Compensation Committee engaged Pearl Meyer to provide a review of the compensation of its most senior executives including the NEOs. As part of this review and analysis, Pearl Meyer developed the following peer group, which consists of 19 publicly-traded commercial banks with assets between \$4 billion and \$14.5 billion.

Amalgamated Financial Corp.	OceanFirst Financial Corp.
Columbia Financial, Inc.	Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation
ConnectOne Bancorp, Inc.	Provident Financial Services, Inc.
First Commonwealth Financial Corporation	Republic First Bancorp, Inc.
Flushing Financial Corporation	S&T Bancorp, Inc.
Lakeland Bancorp, Inc.	The First of Long Island Corporation
Metropolitan Bank Holding Corp.	Tompkins Financial Corporation
NBT Bancorp Inc.	TrustCo Bank Corp. NY
Northfield Bancorp, Inc.	Univest Financial Corporation
Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	

For each of the peer companies, data regarding base salaries, annual incentives, and long-term incentives was obtained from their annual proxy statements. This data was supplemented with industry data collected from banking surveys. Survey data was narrowed to those companies with median assets of approximately \$7.4 billion.

Additional factors and recommendations from Pearl Meyer were also considered and resulted in base salary increases to each NEO for fiscal year 2023.

Details of Compensation Components

Base Salary. Base salaries for executives and other officers are reviewed by the Compensation Committee on an annual basis. Salaries are reflective of the executive’s job responsibilities, job performance and experience, and the competitive market.

After considering the comprehensive market analysis presented by Pearl Meyer, the Compensation Committee determined that base salary levels should be adjusted in order to better align with the market and to recognize the significant efforts of the executive management team. As a result, the Compensation Committee approved the following adjustments for fiscal year 2023. Also reflected are salary increases for fiscal 2024.

Executive	Fiscal 2022 Base Salary (\$)	Fiscal 2023 Base Salary (\$)	% Change	Fiscal 2024 Base Salary (\$)	% Change
Craig L. Montanaro	675,000	725,000	7.4%	746,750	3.0%
Keith Suchodolski	385,950	409,107	6.0%	421,381	3.0%
Patrick M. Joyce	340,685	352,609	3.5%	363,188	3.0%
Thomas D. DeMedici	326,115	337,530	3.5%	347,656	3.0%
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	317,183	333,042	5.0%	343,034	3.0%

Executive Management Incentive Program. All NEOs participate in the Executive Management Incentive Program (the “Program”). The Program is designed to recognize and reward executives for their annual contribution to Kearny Bank’s performance. Eligibility is limited to executives that have a significant impact on the success of the Company. The Program is a short-term cash incentive plan that directly ties annual cash awards to the Company’s performance as achieved across multiple performance measures. The performance measures and goals are defined each year and approved by the Compensation Committee.

Performance Gates

In order to ensure that incentive payments are tied to performance achievement, the Compensation Committee has established performance gates tied to Net Income and annualized net charge-off to average loans (“NCOs”).

Performance Gate	Consequence if Performance Gate Not Achieved	Actual Achievement Level
Net Income at least 50% of Target	No payments are made under the Program	Achieved - Net Income was 66.72% of Target
NCOs below threshold level	No payments are made under the Program	Achieved - NCOs fell below threshold level
Net Income at least 75% of Target	Payments under the Program will be limited to no more than Target-level	Not Achieved - Net Income was 66.72% of Target, payments were limited to no more than Target level

Target Incentive Opportunities

The table below represents the Target opportunity as a percentage of base salary, and the component weightings for each NEO for fiscal year 2023 performance:

Executive	Target Opportunity	Component Weightings	
		Corporate	Individual
Craig L. Montanaro	45%	80%	20%
Keith Suchodolski	40%	80%	20%
Patrick M. Joyce	35%	70%	30%
Thomas D. DeMedici	35%	70%	30%
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	35%	70%	30%

At the beginning of each year, a range of performance is established for each performance metric (Floor which represents minimally-acceptable performance); Target; and Cap (which represents exceptional performance). Results against each range determines the payout opportunity for each performance metric, ranging from 0% (results are below Floor) to 150% (results are at or above Cap) of the established Target.

Corporate Performance Metrics

The following discusses the performance metrics, weightings and calculation of the Corporate component of the Program representing 80% of the CEO and CFO's total incentive opportunity and 70% for other NEOs. Pre-tax, pre-provision net revenue per share is weighted at 70% and non-interest expense ratio is weighted at 30% of the corporate component.

Executive	Corporate Performance Metrics & Weightings	
	Pre-tax, Pre-provision Net Revenue Per Share	Non-interest Expense Ratio
Chief Executive Officer	56.00%	24.00%
Chief Financial Officer	56.00%	24.00%
Other NEOs	49.00%	21.00%

The table below lists the performance measures in each Corporate category, the goal at target and the actual results, for fiscal year 2023:

Corporate Performance Metrics	Target	Actual	% Achieved
Pre-tax, Pre-provision Net Revenue Per Share	\$1.39	\$0.85	61.15%
Non-interest Expense Ratio	1.66%	1.53%	107.60%

Pre-tax, Pre-provision Net Revenue Per Share is calculated as follows:

Net income (GAAP)	\$40,811
Adjustments to net income (GAAP):	
Provision for income taxes	11,568
Provision for credit losses	2,486
Pre-tax, pre-provision net revenue (non-GAAP)	<u>\$54,865</u>
Weighted average common shares – basic	64,804
Pre-tax, pre-provision net revenue per share – basic (non-GAAP)	<u>\$0.85</u>

Individual Performance Metrics

For fiscal year 2023, each NEO is assigned individual performance metrics representing 20% of the CEO and CFO's total incentive opportunity and 30% for the other NEOs. Goals are generally milestone-based. An assessment regarding payout is made by the Compensation Committee informed by quantitative and qualitative data and feedback provided by the CEO. The following table summarizes the general nature of the goals and the aggregate payout for each NEO on the individual component:

Executive	Individual Goals	% of Target Goal	Earned % of Base Salary
Craig L. Montanaro	Operating efficiency, Fintech partnerships and M&A	83%	7.50%
Keith Suchodolski	Operating efficiency, technology enhancement and ESG	100%	8.00%
Patrick M. Joyce	Expansion of lending footprint, technology enhancement and ESG	100%	10.50%
Thomas D. DeMedici	Risk mitigation, technology enhancement and ESG	100%	10.50%
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	Core deposit growth, technology enhancement and revenue diversification	100%	10.50%

Earned Payouts

The following shows each NEO's payout as a percentage of base salary on the Corporate and Individual performance metrics for fiscal year 2023 performance:

Executive	Performance Categories				
	Corporate Metrics				Payout Earned
	Payout at Target	Pre-tax, Pre-provision Net Revenue Per Share	Non-interest Expense Ratio	Individual Performance Metrics	
Craig L. Montanaro	45%	5.62%	10.80%	7.50%	23.92%
Keith Suchodolski	40%	5.00%	9.60%	8.00%	22.60%
Patrick M. Joyce	35%	3.82%	7.35%	10.50%	21.67%
Thomas D. DeMedici	35%	3.82%	7.35%	10.50%	21.67%
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	35%	3.82%	7.35%	10.50%	21.67%

Executive	Base Salary (\$)	Payout at Target (\$)	Payout at Target (%)	Actual Payout Earned (\$)	% of Base Salary
Craig L. Montanaro	725,000	326,250	45%	173,421	23.92%
Keith Suchodolski	409,107	163,643	40%	92,441	22.60%
Patrick M. Joyce	352,609	123,413	35%	76,427	21.67%
Thomas D. DeMedici	337,530	118,135	35%	73,159	21.67%
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	333,042	116,565	35%	72,186	21.67%

Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation

All NEOs are eligible for long-term incentives, which are issued under the terms of our stockholder-approved 2021 Plan. The 2021 Plan provides incentives for executives to execute on longer-term performance goals that drive stockholder value creation, with an emphasis on performance-based vesting for restricted stock units. It also supports the Company's leadership retention strategy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, each NEO received an equity grant under the 2021 Plan on August 7, 2022.

As a result of the stockholders' approval of the 2021 Plan, the 2016 Plan is frozen and equity awards that would otherwise be available for grant under the 2016 Plan will not be granted. The Compensation Committee will continue to administer outstanding grants under the 2016 Plan. All awards granted during fiscal 2023 and described in this section are subject to the requirements stated in the following table:

2021 Equity Incentive Plan		
Type of Equity	Percentage of Award	Overview
Performance – Based Restricted Stock Units	50% of all restricted stock unit awards	- Awards vest at the end of a three-year performance period (June 30, 2023 - June 30, 2025). - Vesting depends on the achievement of pre-determined annual pre-tax, pre-provision earnings per share (EPS) measured over a three-year period as established by the Compensation Committee at grant date. - A performance gate has been established whereby the awards will vest only if annualized net charge-offs to average loans (“NCOs”) over the performance period are equal to or below 0.50%. - The number of shares that can be earned range from 0% to 150% of the target depending on performance and will be determined at the end of the performance period.
Time-Based Restricted Stock Units	50% of all restricted stock unit awards	- Vesting: Awards vest 33% per year over a three-year period commencing on August 7, 2023. - Paid in Company shares at vesting.

2023 Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Vesting. The table below reflects the long-term incentive awards that vested on August 7, 2022 for each NEO under the 2021 Plan; on January 7, 2023 for Messrs. Suchodolski and DeMedici and on September 15, 2022 for Mr. Bilotta (granted under the 2016 Plan).

NEO	Performance-Based Restricted Stock	Time-Based Restricted Stock	Stock Options
Craig L. Montanaro	—	6,648	—
Keith Suchodolski	6,300	9,587	15,000
Patrick M. Joyce	—	2,517	—
Thomas D. DeMedici	5,000	7,409	10,000
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	8,500	10,843	20,000

For awards that vested under the 2016 Plan, the vesting of awards is dependent upon the achievement of pre-determined, annual return on average assets (“ROAA”) performance goals established by the Compensation Committee. For awards that vested between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, the ROAA target was 0.85%, which was evaluated against actual performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. Actual performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 exceeded the ROAA target; therefore, awards vested for the NEOs as indicated above. The accomplishment of the ROAA target resulted in the full vesting of the number of shares allocated to the year (i.e. 20% of the shares granted).

2023 Long-Term Equity Incentive Award Grants. The table below reflects the long-term incentive awards that were granted on August 7, 2022 as follows:

NEO	Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units	Time-Based Restricted Stock Units
Craig L. Montanaro	24,317	24,317
Keith Suchodolski	12,864	12,864
Patrick M. Joyce	8,870	8,870
Thomas D. DeMedici	8,491	8,491
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	8,378	8,378

For a more detailed description of the material factors utilized in the granting of the above-referenced restricted stock units, please see “Executive Compensation – 2021 Equity Incentive Plan” below.

Other Compensation Guidelines, Practices and Policies

Stock Ownership Guidelines. The Board of Directors believes that it is in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders to align the financial interests of its executive officers and directors with those of stockholders. Accordingly, the Company's stock ownership guidelines for NEOs and Directors of the Company require the following minimum investment in Company common stock:

Position	Guideline
CEO	A number of shares having a market value equal to three times (3.0x) annual base salary
All Other NEOs	A number of shares having a market value equal to two times (2.0x) annual base salary
Non-Employee Directors	A number of shares having a market value equal to three times (3.0x) annual cash retainer (excluding any committee fees)

Newly appointed Named Executive Officers and Directors have five years from the time they are appointed, promoted or elected, as the case may be, to meet these guidelines. In order to expedite this process, a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of shares (net of taxes) acquired through the Company's equity incentive plan(s) will be required to be held upon each vesting until the stock ownership guidelines are met. For the purpose of determining if the stock ownership guidelines are met, unvested performance shares and unexercised stock options (whether vested or non-vested) will not be considered. Stock ownership for NEOs and Directors is reviewed on an annual basis and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee maintains responsibility for the administration of this policy. The NEOs and Directors comply with the Company's stock ownership guidelines within the approved grace period to satisfy the stock ownership guidelines.

“Claw-Back” Provision. The executive compensation program includes a claw-back provision. In the event the Company or Kearny Bank is required to restate its financial statements, participants will be required to forfeit any incentive award earned or distributed during the period for which the restatement is required in excess of what they would have otherwise received based on restated results. The Compensation Committee has discretion in determining the application of claw-backs and the amounts to be reclaimed under this provision.

Anti-Hedging and Pledging Policy. Please see the disclosure provided above under the section entitled “Employee, Officer and Director Hedging.”

Retirement Income. The NEOs are eligible to participate in benefit plans available to all employees, including the 401(k) Plan and the ESOP. Each NEO also participates in the related ESOP Benefits Equalization Plan, which provides benefits that would otherwise be limited under the ESOP due to IRS limits, and certain NEOs participate in the frozen Kearny Bank defined benefit pension plan and the frozen Benefits Equalization Plan related to the defined benefit plan (each of which have been frozen as of July 1, 2007 so that future service or salary changes will not increase retirement benefits).

Compensation Risk Assessment. During the fiscal year 2023, senior management conducted an updated Compensation Risk Assessment that was reviewed by the Compensation Committee and concluded the Company’s compensation policies and practices do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

Tax Deductibility of Executive Compensation. Prior to the implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the “Tax Cuts Act”), Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally disallowed a federal income tax deduction for compensation over \$1.0 million paid for any fiscal year to our President and Chief Executive Officer and specified other executive officers, subject to certain exceptions such as “performance-based” compensation. As a result of the Tax Cuts Act, the Company may no longer take an annual deduction for any compensation paid to its NEOs in excess of \$1.0 million per NEO. Due to the continued importance and benefit to the Company and our stockholders of awarding compensation that is structured to properly incentivize our executive officers, the Compensation Committee believes that it is in our best interests to retain flexibility in awarding compensation, even if some awards may be non-deductible compensation expense to the Company.

Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis that is required by the rules established by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based on such review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and incorporated into the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

This Compensation Committee Report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this Proxy Statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, other than the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, where it shall be deemed to be "furnished," and shall not otherwise be deemed "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission under such Acts.

Compensation Committee:	Theodore J. Aanensen (Chair)
	Christopher Petermann
	John F. Regan

Executive Compensation

Summary Compensation Table. The following table sets forth for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021 certain information as to the total compensation paid to our President and Chief Executive Officer, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and our three other most highly compensated executive officers. Each executive is referred to as a named executive officer (“NEO”).

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Option Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Change in Pension Value and			Total (\$)
						Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽⁵⁾ (\$)	
Craig L. Montanaro President and CEO	2023	738,942	—	576,313	—	173,421	195,975	59,194	1,743,845
	2022	675,000	—	545,668	—	322,532	436,709	142,756	2,122,665
	2021	650,000	—	—	—	352,274	—	144,681	1,146,955
Keith Suchodolski SEVP and CFO	2023	416,975	—	304,877	—	92,441	—	64,049	878,342
	2022	370,373	—	269,770	—	130,260	—	59,468	829,871
	2021	339,000	—	—	—	133,494	—	56,074	528,568
Patrick M. Joyce EVP and CLO	2023	359,390	—	210,219	—	76,427	—	23,787	669,823
	2022	340,685	—	206,568	—	119,818	—	55,195	722,266
	2021	329,164	—	—	—	127,152	—	66,761	523,077
Thomas D. DeMedici EVP and CCO	2023	344,021	—	201,237	—	73,159	—	44,947	663,364
	2022	326,115	—	197,731	—	114,694	—	54,145	692,685
	2021	315,087	—	—	—	121,714	—	54,005	490,806
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr. EVP and CBO	2023	339,447	—	198,559	—	72,186	—	69,148	679,340
	2022	317,183	—	192,313	—	113,337	—	67,004	689,837
	2021	304,983	—	—	—	121,814	—	64,400	491,197

- (1) Annual base salaries for the NEOs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 were \$725,000 for Mr. Montanaro, \$409,107 for Mr. Suchodolski, \$352,609 for Mr. Joyce, \$337,530 for Mr. DeMedici and \$333,042 for Mr. Bilotta. Amounts shown are higher than the annual base salary since there were 53 pay weeks during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.
- (2) Amounts shown represent awards under the Company's performance-based, long-term incentive compensation program. For stock awards, fifty percent (50%) of the total awards are subject to performance-based vesting requirements and the other fifty percent (50%) are subject to time-based vesting. In accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, the reported amount represents the full grant date value of each award. Restricted stock unit awards subject to time-based vesting vest at a rate of 33% per year beginning on August 7, 2023 and thereafter on each subsequent anniversary. Performance shares (restricted stock units subject to performance-based vesting) vest at the end of a three-year performance period provided that certain performance metrics are achieved. The assumptions used in the calculation of these amounts are included in Note 14 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. For restricted stock unit awards, the amount shown reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of the restricted stock unit awards. For those restricted stock unit awards that are subject to performance conditions, the grant date fair values are based on the outcome of such conditions at target level. Assuming the highest level of performance is achieved, which would result in the vesting of 150% of the performance shares granted, the aggregate grant date fair value of the performance shares would be: \$432,241 for Mr. Montanaro, \$228,658 for Mr. Suchodolski, \$157,664 for Mr. Joyce, \$150,933 for Mr. DeMedici and \$148,919 for Mr. Bilotta.
- (3) Reflects the amounts earned by each NEO under the Kearny Bank Executive Management Incentive Compensation Plan. Please see the section titled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Executive Management Incentive Program” for a discussion of this plan and the determination of the 2023 bonus amounts.

- (4) Reflects: (1) change in pension value in Mr. Montanaro's accrued benefit under the SERP (defined below), and (2) the actuarial change in pension value in Messrs. Montanaro and Joyce's accrued benefit under the defined benefit pension plan from June 30 of the prior year to June 30 of the reported year. Mr. Montanaro is the only participant in the SERP and Messrs. Montanaro and Joyce are the only NEOs that participate in the defined benefit pension plan. Pension values may fluctuate significantly from year to year depending on a number of factors, including age and the assumptions used to determine the present value of a named executive officer's accumulated benefit. For 2023, 2022 and 2021, the change in pension value under the defined benefit pension plan for Messrs. Montanaro and Joyce were negative \$5,000 and \$12,000, respectively, \$37,000 and \$84,000, respectively, and \$6,000 and \$13,000, respectively; however, applicable SEC rules require that we report any negative number as a zero in the above table.
- (5) For fiscal year 2023, all other compensation included the following:

Name	401(k) Plan Company Contributions (\$)	Bank Owned Life Insurance (\$)	ESOP and ESOP BEP Company Contributions ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Long-Term Care Premiums (\$)	Dividends Paid on Unvested Stock Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Other ⁽³⁾ (\$)
Craig L. Montanaro	6,775	1,923	26,140	4,703	1,463	18,190
Keith Suchodolski	11,054	421	14,841	8,444	18,489	10,800
Patrick M. Joyce	4,795	1,168	12,935	4,335	554	—
Thomas D. DeMedici	11,094	1,441	12,382	—	14,630	5,400
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	10,006	—	12,135	14,822	26,185	6,000

- (1) Amount shown includes ESOP contributions, and for Messrs. Montanaro, Suchodolski, Joyce, DeMedici and Bilotta, allocations under the related ESOP Benefits Equalization Plan of \$14,592, \$3,293, \$1,387, \$834 and \$587, respectively.
- (2) Amounts shown reflect the amount of dividends paid upon vesting of the underlying stock award. If a NEO does not vest in the underlying stock award, a NEO will not receive such dividends.
- (3) For Mr. Montanaro, the amount shown includes an automobile allowance of \$5,352 and country club dues of \$12,838. For Messrs. Suchodolski, DeMedici and Bilotta, the amount shown includes an automobile allowance of \$10,800, \$5,400 and \$6,000 respectively.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards. The following table sets forth information regarding plan-based awards made to the NEOs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽²⁾			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock ⁽³⁾ (#)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)				
Craig L. Montanaro	8/7/2022	163,125	326,250	489,375	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keith Suchodolski	8/7/2022	81,822	163,643	245,465	12,159	24,317	36,476	24,317	—	—	576,313
Patrick M. Joyce	8/7/2022	61,707	123,413	185,120	4,435	8,870	13,305	8,870	—	—	210,219
Thomas D. DeMedici	8/7/2022	59,068	118,135	177,203	4,246	8,491	12,737	8,491	—	—	201,237
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	8/7/2022	58,283	116,565	174,848	4,189	8,378	12,567	8,378	—	—	198,559

- (1) The amounts reported in these columns include potential cash payouts corresponding to achievement of the threshold, target and maximum performance objectives under the Executive Management Incentive Program. Please see the section titled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Executive Management Incentive Program” for a discussion of this plan.
- (2) The amount of each performance-based restricted stock unit award is contingent upon satisfying a performance-based target at the end of a three-year performance period (fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 through June 30, 2025), and if the performance objectives are met or exceeded, the number of shares earned will become vested on August 7, 2025. The awards were made under the 2021 Plan and please see the section titled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation” for a discussion of this plan.
- (3) The amounts shown in this column reflect the number of shares of time-based restricted stock units granted to the NEO pursuant to the 2021 Plan. As these awards are subject to time-based vesting, the awards will vest 33% on August 7, 2023, 33% on August 7, 2024 and 33% on August 7, 2025 provided the NEO is employed on such dates, and the awards will become 100% vested earlier upon death or disability.
- (4) The amounts shown in this column reflect the full grant date fair value of the restricted stock unit awards calculated in accordance with FASB ASC No. 718, and, for performance-based awards, the amounts shown reflect attaining the performance at the target level. The grant date per share fair value for the restricted stock unit award was \$11.85, which was the closing price of the Company's stock on the date of grant.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End. The following table provides information regarding stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards held by the NEOs as of June 30, 2023.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Restricted Stock		Performance Shares	
					Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested ⁽¹⁾ (\$)
Craig L. Montanaro	—	—	—	—	24,317 ⁽²⁾	171,434	24,317 ⁽⁶⁾	171,434
	—	—	—	—	13,296 ⁽³⁾	93,737	19,944 ⁽⁶⁾	140,605
Keith Suchodolski	540,000	—	15.35	12/1/2026	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	12,864 ⁽²⁾	90,691	12,864 ⁽⁶⁾	90,691
	—	—	—	—	6,573 ⁽³⁾	46,340	9,860 ⁽⁶⁾	69,513
	60,000	15,000 ⁽⁴⁾	13.38	1/7/2029	6,300 ⁽⁴⁾	44,415	6,300 ⁽⁷⁾	44,415
	75,000	—	15.35	12/1/2026	—	—	—	—
	6,902	—	9.82	4/1/2025	—	—	—	—
Patrick M. Joyce	—	—	—	—	8,870 ⁽²⁾	62,533	8,870 ⁽⁶⁾	62,533
	—	—	—	—	5,033 ⁽³⁾	35,483	7,550 ⁽⁶⁾	53,228
Thomas D. DeMedici	150,000	—	15.35	12/1/2026	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	8,491 ⁽²⁾	59,862	8,491 ⁽⁶⁾	59,862
	—	—	—	—	4,818 ⁽³⁾	33,967	7,227 ⁽⁶⁾	50,950
	40,000	10,000 ⁽⁴⁾	13.38	1/7/2029	5,000 ⁽⁴⁾	35,250	5,000 ⁽⁷⁾	35,250
	100,000	—	15.35	12/1/2026	—	—	—	—
	34,510	—	10.71	4/1/2024	—	—	—	—
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	—	—	—	—	8,378 ⁽²⁾	59,065	8,378 ⁽⁶⁾	59,065
	—	—	—	—	4,686 ⁽³⁾	33,037	7,029 ⁽⁶⁾	49,554
	80,000	20,000 ⁽⁵⁾	13.55	9/15/2028	8,500 ⁽⁵⁾	59,925	8,500 ⁽⁷⁾	59,925

(1) Amounts based on the closing price of the Company common stock as of June 30, 2023 (\$7.05).

(2) Awards vest at a rate of 33% per year with the remaining awards vesting on August 7, 2023, August 7, 2024 and August 7, 2025.

(3) Awards vest at a rate of 33% per year with the remaining awards vesting on August 7, 2023 and August 7, 2024.

(4) Awards vest at a rate of 20% per year with the remaining awards vesting on January 7, 2024.

(5) Awards vest at a rate of 20% per year with the remaining awards vesting on September 15, 2023.

(6) Performance shares (restricted stock units subject to performance-based vesting) vest at the end of a three-year performance period provided that certain performance metrics are achieved. For a description of the performance criteria, please see the section titled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation."

(7) Performance shares (restricted stock subject to performance-based vesting) vest at a rate of 20% per year provided that certain performance metrics are achieved, with the remaining awards vesting, if at all, on January 7, 2024, for Messrs. Suchodolski and DeMedici and September 15, 2023 for Mr. Bilotta. For a description of the performance metrics, please see the section titled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation."

2021 Equity Incentive Plan. Stockholders of the Company approved the 2021 Plan at our 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Under the 2021 Plan, individuals may receive awards of restricted stock and grants of stock options to purchase shares of Company common stock at a specified exercise price during a specified time period. The 2021 Plan provides for a total share reserve of 7,500,000 shares (the “Share Limit”); provided, however, that the Share Limit is reduced, on a one-for-one basis, for each share of common stock subject to a stock option grant, and on a three-for-one basis for each share of common stock issued pursuant to restricted stock awards or restricted stock unit awards.

The Compensation Committee believes that stock ownership provides a significant incentive in building stockholder value by further aligning the interests of our officers and employees with stockholders because such compensation is directly linked to the performance of Company common stock. This element of compensation increases in importance as the Company common stock appreciates in value and serves as a retention tool for executives. The inclusion of performance-based vesting awards also encourages long-term strategic focus of our executives.

The 2021 Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has the authority and discretion to select the persons who will receive awards; establish the terms and conditions relating to each award; adopt rules and regulations relating to the 2021 Plan; and interpret the 2021 Plan. The 2021 Plan also permits the Compensation Committee to delegate all or any portion of its responsibilities and powers.

The Company’s employees and outside directors are eligible to receive awards under the 2021 Plan. Awards may be granted in a combination of restricted stock awards, restricted stock units, incentive stock options, and non-qualified stock options. The exercise price of stock options granted under the 2021 Plan may not be less than the fair market value on the date the stock option is granted. Stock options are subject to vesting conditions and restrictions as determined by the Compensation Committee. No dividends will be paid with respect to any stock award subject to performance-vesting conditions unless and until the performance conditions are met and vesting occurs, and only on that portion of the stock award that actually vests.

All restricted stock, restricted stock units and stock option grants will be subject to conditions established by the Compensation Committee that are set forth in the award agreement. Awards granted under the 2021 Plan will vest upon death, disability, or involuntary termination of employment or service following a change in control (as such terms are defined in the 2021 Plan).

Option Exercises and Stock Vested. The following table sets forth information regarding the vesting of restricted stock awards, restricted stock units and stock option exercises for each NEO during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting ⁽¹⁾ (\$)
Craig L. Montanaro	—	—	6,648	80,241
Keith Suchodolski	—	—	15,887	185,582
Patrick M. Joyce	—	—	2,517	30,380
Thomas D. DeMedici	—	—	12,409	144,877
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	—	—	19,343	243,160

- (1) The amounts reported in this column are determined by multiplying the number of shares that vested by the per share closing price of Company common stock on the vesting date and adding the dividends paid on such vested shares. The amount of dividends paid on such vested shares are included as compensation for the individual in the Summary Compensation Table.

Frozen Pension Plan. Kearny Bank is a participating employer in a multiple-employer pension plan sponsored by the Pentegra Defined Benefit Plan for Financial Institutions (the “Pension Plan”), and effective July 1, 2007, Kearny Bank froze all future enrollments and benefit accruals under the Pension Plan and related benefits equalization plan. The Pension Plan provides for monthly payments to each participating employee at normal retirement age. A participant who is vested in the Pension Plan may take an early retirement and elect to receive a reduced monthly benefit beginning as early as age 45. The Pension Plan also provides for payments in the event of disability or death. The annual benefit amount upon retirement at age 65 equals 2% of the participant’s highest five-year average salary times years of service determined as of June 30, 2007. Benefits are payable in the form of a monthly retirement benefit and a death benefit or an alternative form that is actuarially equivalent.

Frozen Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. Kearny Bank entered into a supplemental executive retirement plan with Mr. Montanaro, which was frozen by amendment in 2022 (the “SERP”). The SERP, which is a nonqualified deferred compensation plan subject to Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, provides for a lump sum payment following a termination of the executive’s employment. If the executive dies prior to termination of employment, the Frozen SERP will not pay any benefits to the executive’s beneficiary and instead the executive’s beneficiary will receive a death benefit under the amended and restated executive life insurance agreement, effective as of July 1, 2022, entered into between Kearny Bank and the executive.

The following table provides information with respect to the payments that each NEO may receive following, or in connection with retirement, under the Pension Plan and SERP as of June 30, 2023.

Name	Plan Name	Number of Full Years Credited Service	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
Craig L. Montanaro	Pension Plan ⁽²⁾	4	121,000	—
	SERP ⁽³⁾	1	632,684	—
Keith Suchodolski	Pension Plan	—	—	—
Patrick M. Joyce	Pension Plan ⁽²⁾	8	301,000	—
Thomas D. DeMedici	Pension Plan	—	—	—
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	Pension Plan	—	—	—

- (1) Assumes retirement at normal retirement age as defined in the Pension Plan and SERP, respectively. Present value is calculated using assumptions set forth in Note 13 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. Mr. Montanaro is the only participant in the SERP and Messrs. Montanaro and Joyce are the only NEOs that participate in the defined benefit pension plan.
- (2) On July 1, 2007, Kearny Bank froze all future enrollments and benefit accruals under the Pension Plan and related benefits equalization plan. Accordingly, the number of years of credited service are unchanged from the prior year.
- (3) On December 21, 2022, Kearny Bank and Mr. Montanaro entered into an amendment to freeze the SERP to provide that no additional benefits will accrue on the executive’s behalf after December 31, 2022.

ESOP. Kearny Bank maintains an ESOP, a tax-qualified defined contribution retirement plan, for all employees who have satisfied the ESOP's eligibility requirements. Employees of Kearny Bank who have been credited with at least 1,000 hours of service during a 12-month period are eligible to participate in the ESOP. In 2005, the ESOP borrowed funds from the Company pursuant to a loan and used those funds to purchase 1,745,700 shares of common stock for the ESOP in connection with the Company's initial public offering (the "2005 Loan"). In connection with the completion of the second-step stock offering and conversion on May 18, 2015, the ESOP purchased an additional 3,612,500 shares of Company common stock. The ESOP funded its stock purchase with a loan from the Company equal to the aggregate purchase price of the common stock and the outstanding balance of the 2005 Loan (the 2005 Loan was refinanced into the new ESOP plan). This loan will be repaid principally through Kearny Bank's contribution to the ESOP and dividends payable on the common stock held by the ESOP over the 20-year term of the loan. The interest rate for the ESOP loan is 3.25%.

Shares purchased by the ESOP are held in an unallocated suspense account, and shares will be allocated to the participants' accounts as the loan is repaid on a pro-rata basis. The trustee will allocate the shares released among the participants' accounts on the basis of each participant's proportional share of eligible plan compensation relative to all participants' proportional share of eligible plan compensation.

Vested benefits will be payable generally upon the participants' termination of employment, and will be paid generally in the form of cash or Company stock, or both. Pursuant to FASB ASC Topic 718-40, the Company will record a compensation expense each year in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares released from the unallocated suspense account.

401(k) Plan. Kearny Bank maintains a 401(k) Plan, a tax-qualified defined contribution retirement plan, for all employees who have satisfied the 401(k) Plan's eligibility requirements. All eligible employees can begin participation in the 401(k) Plan on the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date on which the employee attains age 21 and has completed three months of service and 250 hours of service. A participant may contribute up to 75% of his or her compensation to the 401(k) Plan on a pre-tax basis, subject to the limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. For 2023, the salary deferral contribution limit is \$22,500, provided, however, that a participant over age 50 may contribute an additional \$7,500 to the 401(k) Plan. In addition to salary deferral contributions, the 401(k) Plan provides that Kearny Bank will make an employer matching contribution equal to 100% of a participant's salary deferral contribution, provided that such amount does not exceed 1% of a participant's compensation, plus 50% of a participant's salary deferral contribution that exceeds 1% but does not exceed 6% of a participant's compensation earned during the plan year. A participant is always 100% vested in his or her salary deferral contributions and employer matching contributions. Each participant has an individual account under the 401(k) Plan and may direct the investment of his or her account among a variety of investment options or vehicles available.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation. Kearny Bank has implemented a Benefits Equalization Plan related to the ESOP. This plan constitutes a defined contribution plan providing for deferral of compensation on a non-tax-qualified basis. The purpose of this plan is to provide a benefit to senior executives of Kearny Bank whose benefits under the ESOP are limited by Sections 401(a)(17) and 415 of the Internal Revenue Code. For example, this plan provides participants with a benefit for any compensation that they may earn in excess of \$330,000 (for 2023, as indexed), comparable to the benefits earned by all participants under the ESOP for compensation earned below that level. Kearny Bank may utilize a grantor trust in connection with this plan in order to set aside funds that ultimately may be used to pay benefits under the plan. The assets of the grantor trust will remain subject to the claims of Kearny Bank's general creditors in the event of insolvency, until paid to a participant following termination of employment according to the terms of the plan. Benefits under the plan will be paid in a lump sum in the form of shares of common stock to the extent permissible under applicable regulations, or in the alternative, benefits will be paid in cash based upon the value of such shares at the time that such benefit payments are made. The actual value of benefits under this plan and the annual financial reporting expense associated with this plan are calculated annually based upon a variety of factors, including the actual value of benefits for participants determined under the ESOP each year, the applicable limitations under the Internal Revenue Code that are subject to adjustment annually and the compensation of each participant at such time. Generally, benefits under the plan are taxable to each participant at the time of receipt of such payment, and Kearny Bank will recognize a tax-deductible compensation expense at such time.

The following table sets forth information with respect to NEOs with accumulated benefits under the Benefits Equalization Plan related to the ESOP as of June 30, 2023.

Name	Executive Contributions In Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Company Contributions in Last Fiscal Year ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Aggregate Gain/Loss in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year End (\$)
Craig L. Montanaro	—	14,592	(46,968)	—	168,431
Keith Suchodolski	—	3,293	1,803	—	6,637
Patrick M. Joyce	—	1,387	(4,683)	—	16,296
Thomas D. DeMedici	—	834	(1,089)	—	5,251
Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.	—	587	(12)	—	1,911

(1) Contributions included in the "Company Contributions in Last Fiscal Year" column are included as compensation for the individual in the Summary Compensation Table.

Employment Agreements. Kearny Bank has entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Montanaro, Suchodolski, Joyce and DeMedici and the Company is a party to the agreements solely as a guarantor. In addition, the Company has entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Montanaro, which is substantially identical to the agreement Kearny Bank entered into with Mr. Montanaro, except the compensation payable under Mr. Montanaro's agreement with the Company is reduced dollar-for-dollar for any compensation paid by Kearny Bank. Messrs. Montanaro and Suchodolski's agreements have a three-year term and Messrs. Joyce and DeMedici's agreements have a two-year term. Commencing on the first anniversary of the agreements (which is defined as July 1 of each calendar year) and on each subsequent anniversary thereafter, the agreements may be renewed for an additional year so that the remaining term is three years for Messrs. Montanaro and Suchodolski's agreements and two years for Messrs. Joyce and DeMedici's agreements, provided that the disinterested members of the board of directors of Kearny Bank conduct a performance evaluation of the executive and affirmatively approve the extension.

The current base salaries for Messrs. Montanaro, Suchodolski, Joyce and DeMedici are \$746,750, \$421,381, \$363,188 and \$347,656, respectively. In addition to base salary, each executive is generally entitled to participate in welfare benefit plans and other benefit plans applicable to senior management of Kearny Bank. Upon the termination of an executive's employment at any time on or after attainment of age 62 and until the executive becomes eligible for Medicare coverage, the executive is eligible to receive reimbursement for participation in medical coverage comparable to coverage under Kearny Bank's plan.

In the event of the executive's involuntary termination of employment for reasons other than cause, disability or death, the executive is entitled to a severance payment equal to the executive's base salary for the remaining term of the agreement, payable in a lump sum within 10 days of the executive's termination of employment, and continued medical and dental coverage for generally the remaining term of the agreement. In the event the executive voluntarily resigns during the term of the employment agreement for "good reason" (as defined in the agreement), the executive is entitled to a severance payment equal to the executive's annual base salary, payable in a lump sum within ten days of the executive's termination of employment.

In the event of a change in control of the Company or Kearny Bank followed within 24 months by the executive's involuntary termination of employment for any reason other than cause or the executive's termination for good reason, then in lieu of the severance benefits described immediately above, Mr. Montanaro is entitled to a severance benefit equal to 2.999 times his prior five-year average annual taxable compensation, Mr. Joyce is entitled to a severance benefit equal to two times the total compensation earned during the most recently completed calendar year ending on or prior to the date of the termination of employment, Mr. DeMedici is entitled to a severance benefit equal to two times the sum of (i) the executive's base salary in effect as of the date of termination, plus (ii) two times the greater of (a) the highest annual cash incentive earned in the two calendar years immediately prior to the year in which the termination occurs, or (b) the annual cash incentive at target that would be payable to the executive in the year of termination if all performance-related conditions were satisfied, and Mr. Suchodolski is entitled to a severance benefit equal to three times the sum of (i) the executive's base salary in effect as of the date of termination, or if higher, the base salary immediately prior to the date of a change in control, plus (ii) the bonus earned by the executive in the fiscal year immediately preceding the year in which the date of the termination occurs, or if higher, the bonus earned in the fiscal year immediately preceding the date of a change in control. In addition, the executives are entitled to continued participation in medical and dental coverage for generally the remaining term of the agreement. The Company and Kearny Bank determined that it would no longer enter into employment agreements that provide for change in control severance based on a multiple of average annual taxable compensation or total compensation; however, the employment agreements with Messrs. Montanaro and Joyce were entered into before the Company adopted this position. Accordingly, the Company's most recent employment agreement, which was entered into with Mr. Suchodolski in 2022 as described above, provides for change in control severance based on a multiple of base salary and bonus.

Upon any termination of employment (except following a change in control), the executives will each be required to adhere to non-competition and non-solicitation covenants for six months.

For quantification of the amounts that would be payable to each executive under their respective employment agreement in connection with a qualifying termination of employment, see the section entitled "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control" below.

Change in Control Agreement. Kearny Bank has entered into a change in control agreement with Mr. Bilotta, which provides, in the event of a change in control of the Company or Kearny Bank followed within 24 months by his involuntary termination of employment for any reason other than cause or Mr. Bilotta's termination for good reason, a severance payment generally equal to two times his annual base salary in effect as of the date of termination plus two times the bonus earned in the fiscal year immediately preceding the date of a change in control, payable in a lump sum within ten days of his termination of employment, and continued participation in medical and dental coverage for generally two years. For quantification of the amount that would be payable to Mr. Bilotta under his change in control agreement in connection with a qualifying termination of employment, see the section entitled "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control" below.

Executive Life Insurance Agreements. Kearny Bank is party to an amended and restated executive life insurance agreement with Mr. Montanaro and executive life insurance agreements with Messrs. Suchodolski, Joyce and DeMedici pursuant to which Kearny Bank has purchased life insurance policies on behalf of the executives. Under the amended and restated executive life insurance agreement with Mr. Montanaro, in the event Mr. Montanaro dies while employed by the Bank, his beneficiary will be entitled to a death benefit, which is based on his age at death and as specified in the agreement. If Mr. Montanaro dies after retirement, (as defined in the agreement), his beneficiary will be entitled to a death benefit in the aggregate amount equal to two hundred percent (200%) times Mr. Montanaro's highest annual based salary (not including bonus, equity compensation, deferred compensation or any other forms of compensation) at any time during the three calendar years prior to the date of retirement, plus \$100,000. However, the maximum death benefit to be paid in the event of Mr. Montanaro's death after retirement is \$1.5 million. In the event of a change of control (as defined in the agreement) prior to Mr. Montanaro's termination of employment or retirement, the death benefit under the agreement shall remain in effect, until Mr. Montanaro's death.

Under the executive life insurance agreement with Mr. Joyce, Mr. Joyce's beneficiary is entitled to a death benefit equal to two times the executive's highest annual base salary in effect during the three calendar years prior to death, plus an additional one hundred thousand dollars, if the executive dies while employed by Kearny Bank or in effect during the three calendar years prior to retirement if the executive is retired at the time of death and meets certain age and service requirements. The maximum death benefit, however, may not exceed \$1.5 million. In the event of a change in control of Kearny Bank prior to the executive's death or retirement, the death benefit shall remain in effect, regardless of whether the age and service requirements have been met. The executive life insurance agreement with Messrs. Suchodolski and DeMedici are similar to Mr. Joyce's agreement, except that in the case of the executive's termination of employment, for any reason, the benefit to the executives would cease. Mr. Bilotta is covered under a group term life insurance policy which provides for coverage in the amount of two times his base salary during his employment with Kearny Bank.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control. The following table summarizes the estimated payments that would be made to the NEOs upon termination of employment as of June 30, 2023, pursuant to each executive's employment agreement, change in control agreement, equity awards and other benefit plans and agreements. The amounts shown do not include the NEO's vested stock options, account balances in the SERP or Benefits Equalization Plan since the present value of the accumulated benefits in the SERP and Benefits Equalization Plan is provided in the above tables. The actual payments that would be made to the NEOs can only be determined at the time of such executive's termination of employment. The amounts shown below are estimates based on multiple assumptions and the actual amounts to be received by a NEO may differ materially from the amounts shown below.

Name and Plan	Termination for Good Reason (\$)	Termination w/o Cause No Change in Control (\$)	Termination w/o Cause With Change in Control (\$)	Death (\$)	Disability ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)
<u>Craig L. Montanaro</u>					
Employment Agreement ⁽¹⁾	725,000	2,270,680	4,398,162	725,000	1,667,500
Exec. Life Ins. Agreement ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	2,415,555	—
Restricted Stock Vesting ⁽⁴⁾	—	—	577,210	577,210	577,210
Stock Option Vesting ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—	—	—

Name and Plan	Termination for Good Reason (\$)	Termination w/o Cause No Change in Control (\$)	Termination w/o Cause With Change in Control (\$)	Death (\$)	Disability ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)
<u>Keith Suchodolski</u>					
Employment Agreement ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	409,107	1,324,277	1,525,063	409,107	940,946
Exec. Life Ins. Agreement ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	968,214	—
Restricted Stock Vesting ⁽⁴⁾	—	—	386,065	386,065	386,065
Stock Option Vesting ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—	—	—

Name and Plan	Termination for Good Reason (\$)	Termination w/o Cause No Change in Control (\$)	Termination w/o Cause With Change in Control (\$)	Death (\$)	Disability ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)
<u>Patrick M. Joyce</u>					
Employment Agreement ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	352,609	769,005	1,069,925	352,609	581,805
Exec. Life Ins. Agreement ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	855,218	—
Restricted Stock Vesting ⁽⁴⁾	—	—	213,777	213,777	213,777
Stock Option Vesting ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—	—	—

Name and Plan	Termination for Good Reason (\$)	Termination w/o Cause No Change in Control (\$)	Termination w/o Cause With Change in Control (\$)	Death (\$)	Disability ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)
<u>Thomas D. DeMedici</u>					
Employment Agreement ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	337,530	738,847	982,275	337,530	556,925
Exec. Life Ins. Agreement ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	825,060	—
Restricted Stock Vesting ⁽⁴⁾	—	—	275,141	275,141	275,141
Stock Option Vesting ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—	—	—

Name and Plan	Termination for Good Reason (\$)	Termination w/o Cause No Change in Control (\$)	Termination w/o Cause With Change in Control (\$)	Death (\$)	Disability ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)
<u>Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr.</u>					
Change in Control Agreement ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	—	—	848,247	—	—
Exec. Life Ins. Agreement ⁽³⁾	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted Stock Vesting ⁽⁴⁾	—	—	320,571	320,571	320,571
Stock Option Vesting ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—	—	—

- (1) This amount includes the estimated cost for continued medical and dental insurance coverage.
- (2) Messrs. Suchodolski, Joyce, DeMedici and Bilotta's agreements provide that change in control severance payments will be reduced, to the extent necessary, to avoid a loss of deductibility under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code and imposition of excise taxes on the named executive officer under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, Mr. Suchodolski's severance payment has been reduced by \$76,537. The amount of such reduction may differ materially in subsequent years since the amounts are based on multiple assumptions that may or may not actually occur.
- (3) The death benefit includes the amount payable under each individual's Executive Life Insurance Agreement and a death benefit of \$50,000 payable under Kearny Bank's group term life insurance plan. Mr. Bilotta is not covered by an Executive Life Insurance Agreement and his beneficiary is entitled to a death benefit under the group term life insurance plan in the amount of \$667,000.
- (4) This amount represents the value of unvested restricted stock that become fully vested upon certain events, including death, disability and an involuntary termination, other than for cause, or termination for good reason following a change in control of the Company.
- (5) No amount is shown since the exercise price of the non-vested stock options exceeds the fair market value of the common stock of the Company as of June 30, 2023.
- (6) Each executive is also covered by a long-term disability plan which, if payable, provides a monthly benefit of sixty percent (60%) of base salary, with a maximum benefit of \$15,000 per month.

2023 CEO Pay Ratio

In accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 953(b) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and Item 402 (u) of Regulation S-K, we are providing the following information about the relationship of the median of the annual total compensation of all employees of our Company and the annual total compensation of our President and Chief Executive Officer.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, our median annual total compensation for all employees other than our President and Chief Executive Officer was \$82,617. The annual total compensation for our President and Chief Executive Officer for the same period was \$1,743,845. The ratio of our CEO's compensation to the median employee's compensation was 21.1 to 1.

We reviewed the individual selected as our median employee for the prior fiscal year and used that incumbent for this year's analysis as well, consistent with regulatory guidelines. In making this selection, we reviewed the employee's job and compensation history to ensure that they continued to be appropriate for this reporting. In completing our analysis, we also reviewed our entire workforce to determine annualized gross pay plus the value of employer contributions to the Kearny Bank 401(k) Plan, Kearny Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan, and Kearny Bank's contribution to group health insurance premiums. We annualized compensation for full-time and part-time permanent employees who were employed on June 30, 2023, but did not work for us the entire year. No full-time equivalent adjustments were made for part-time employees.

We used this methodology to determine the annual total compensation for our median employee by calculating total compensation for such employee in accordance with the requirements of Item 402(c)(2)(x) of Regulation S-K. With regard to the annual total compensation of our President and Chief Executive Officer, we used the amount reported in the "Total" column of our 2023 Summary Compensation Table included in this Proxy Statement.

SEC rules for identifying the median employee and calculating the pay ratio allow companies to apply various methodologies and various assumptions and, as a result, the pay ratio reported by the Company may not be comparable to the pay ratio reported by other companies.

Pay versus Performance

We are required by SEC rules to disclose the following information regarding compensation paid to our NEOs. The amounts set forth below under the headings Compensation Actually Paid (“CAP”) to our Principal Executive Officer (“PEO”) or CEO and Average CAP to non-PEO NEOs have been calculated in a manner consistent with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K. Footnote (3) below sets forth the adjustments from the Total Compensation for the PEO and non-PEO NEOs reported in the Summary Compensation Table above.

The Compensation Committee does not utilize CAP as the basis for making compensation decisions. For further information concerning the Company’s variable pay-for-performance philosophy and how the Company aligns executive compensation with the Company’s performance, refer to “Compensation Discussion and Analysis.” Because CAP includes multiple years of grants, the calculation of CAP each year is heavily impacted by the change in the stock price and therefore, may be higher or lower than Summary Compensation Table compensation values.

Year	Summary Compensation Table Total for PEO (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Compensation Actually Paid to PEO (\$) ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	Average Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs (\$) ⁽²⁾	Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs (\$) ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	Value of Initial Fixed \$100 Investment Based On:		Net Income (\$) (thousands)	PPNR Per Share (\$) ⁽⁵⁾
					Total Shareholder Return (\$)	Peer Group Total Shareholder Return (\$) ⁽⁴⁾		
2023	\$ 1,743,845	\$ 1,368,953	\$ 722,717	\$ 519,960	\$ 96.65	\$ 126.53	\$ 40,811	\$ 0.85
2022	\$ 2,122,665	\$ 2,046,952	\$ 733,665	\$ 689,960	\$ 145.24	\$ 155.51	\$ 67,547	\$ 1.20
2021	\$ 1,146,955	\$ 1,507,135	\$ 658,512	\$ 760,123	\$ 151.08	\$ 168.09	\$ 63,233	\$ 1.01

(1) The PEO in all three reporting years is Craig L. Montanaro.

(2) Reflects compensation for Keith Suchodolski, Patrick M. Joyce, Thomas D. DeMedici and Anthony V. Bilotta, Jr. for fiscal years 2023 and 2022 and Eric B. Heyer, Keith Suchodolski, John V. Dunne and Timothy A. Swansson for fiscal year 2021.

(3) To calculate CAP, as defined in the applicable SEC rules, the following adjustments were made to compensation as reported in the Summary Compensation Table for our PEO and Non-PEO NEOs.

	PEO			Non-PEO NEOs		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Summary Compensation Table Total	\$1,743,845	\$ 2,122,665	\$ 1,146,955	\$ 722,717	\$ 733,665	\$ 658,512
Less: Amount reported in the “Stock Awards” column in the Summary Compensation Table	(576,313)	(545,668)	—	(228,723)	(216,596)	(176,022)
Plus: Fair value at fiscal year-end of equity awards granted during the fiscal year that remained unvested	342,870	443,156	—	136,076	175,905	160,447
Change in fair value at fiscal year-end versus prior fiscal year-end for awards granted in a prior fiscal year that remained unvested	(134,954)	—	240,340	(104,512)	(25,607)	85,452
Change in fair value at vesting date versus prior fiscal year-end for awards granted in a prior fiscal year that vested during the fiscal year	4,919	32,660	119,840	(5,598)	22,593	31,734
Less: Amount reported in the “Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings” column in the Summary Compensation Table	(195,975)	(436,709)	—	—	—	—
Plus: Service cost for pension plan	184,561	430,848	—	—	—	—
Compensation Actually Paid (CAP)	\$1,368,953	\$ 2,046,952	\$ 1,507,135	\$ 519,960	\$ 689,960	\$ 760,123

(4) Peer group used for total shareholder return (“TSR”) comparisons reflects the S&P US SmallCap Banks Index; which is also reported in the Stock Performance Graph in our Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2023.

(5) The Company has identified pre-tax, pre-provision net revenue (“PPNR”) per share as the company-selected measure for the pay versus performance disclosure. Please refer to page 32 of the CD&A for a reconciliation of PPNR per share.

Tabular List of Financial Performance Measures

The following table identifies the most important financial performance measures used by the Company to link CAP to the Company's NEOs in 2023 to Company performance. The role of each of these performance measures on our NEOs' compensation is discussed in "Compensation Discussion and Analysis."

Financial Performance Measures

Pre-tax, pre-provision net revenue per share

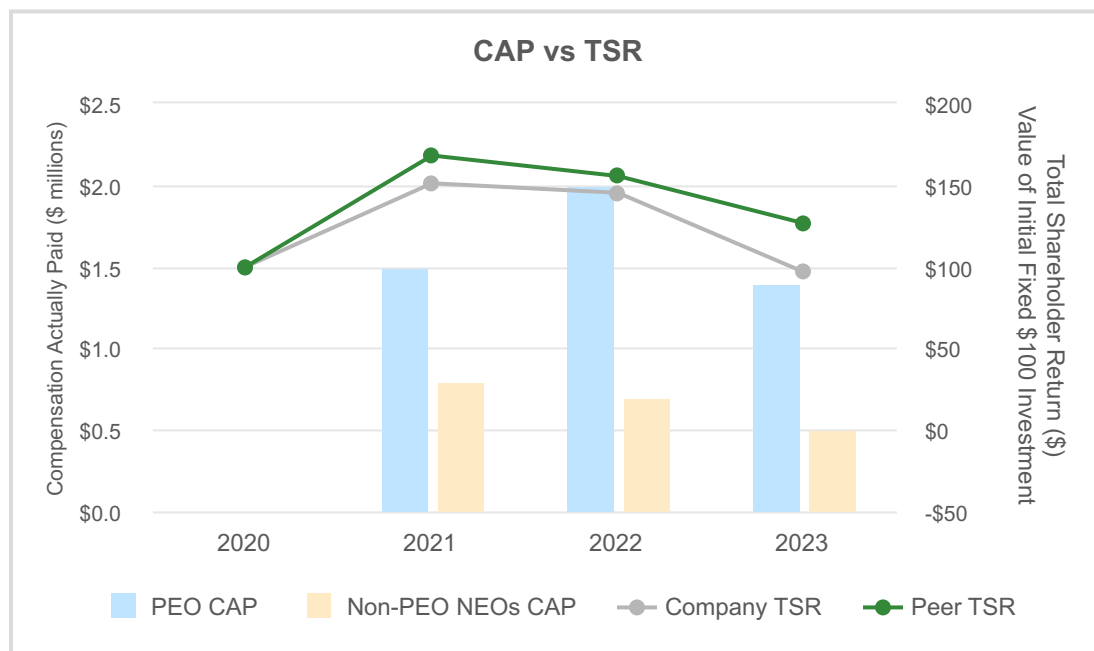
Net charge-offs

Non-interest expense ratio

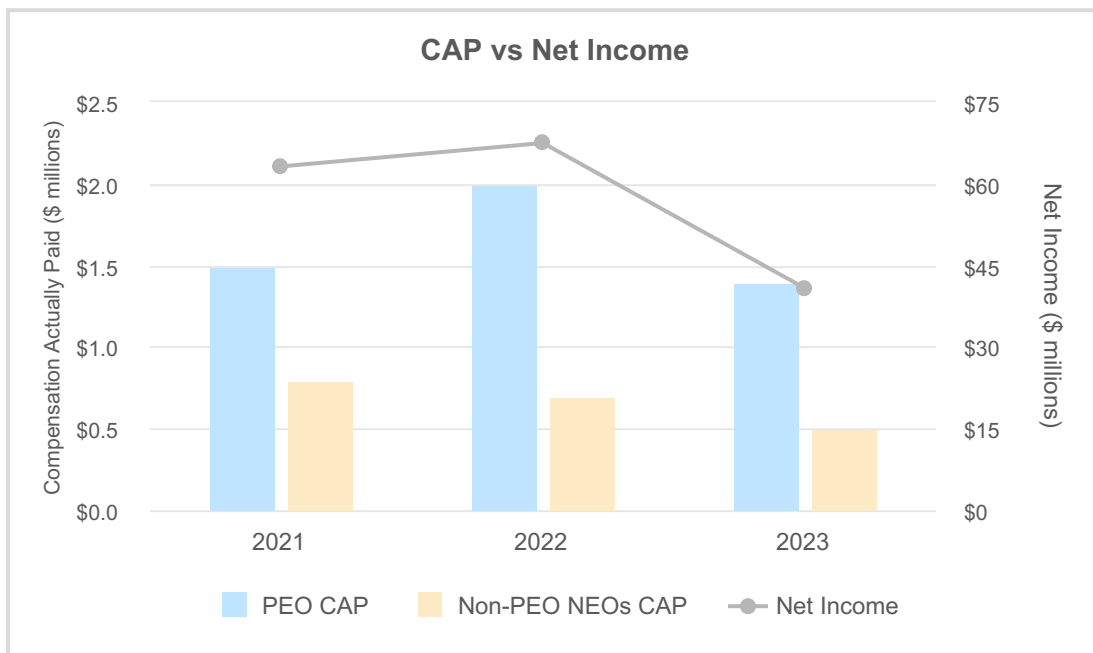
Analysis of the Information Presented in the Pay Versus Performance Table

The following charts report various financial and CAP information consistent with SEC guidelines. The first graph reports the Company's cumulative three-year TSR, peer group TSR, and CAP. The other charts report Company Net Income and PPNR per share, respectively, and CAP.

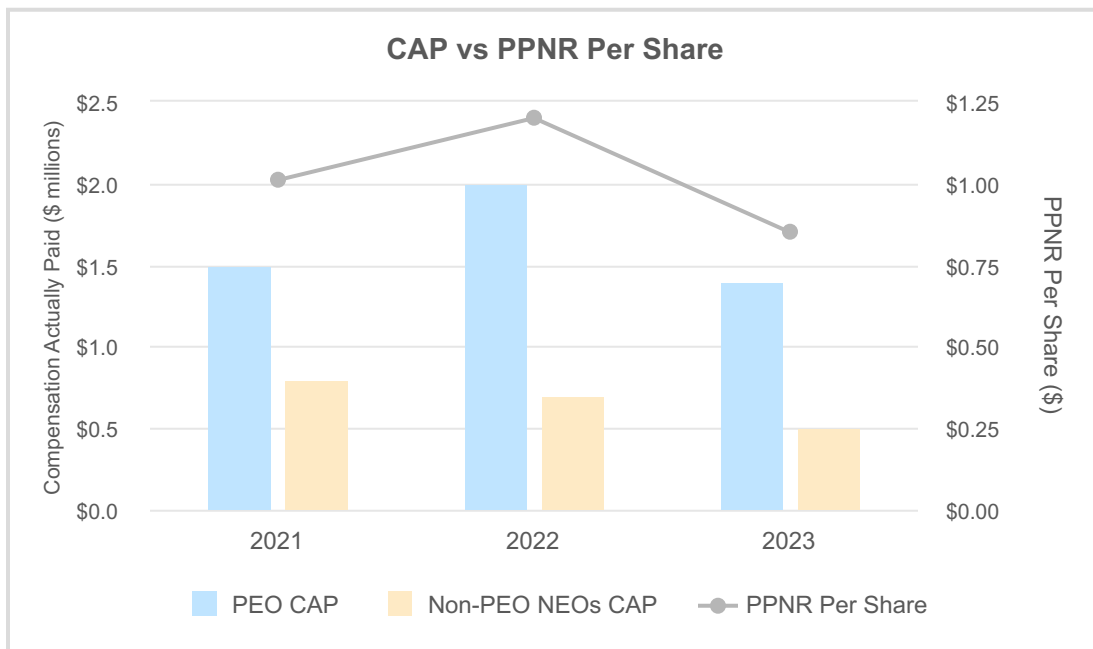
PEO and Average Non-PEO NEO CAP vs Company TSR and Peer Group TSR



PEO and Average Non-PEO NEO CAP vs GAAP Net Income



PEO and Average Non-PEO NEO CAP vs PPNR Per Share



Director Compensation

Set forth below is a table providing information concerning the compensation of the non-employee directors of the Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Mr. Craig Montanaro, our President and Chief Executive Officer, does not receive separate compensation for his service as a director, and information with respect to the compensation paid to Mr. Montanaro is included above in the Summary Compensation Table.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Option Awards ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Change in Pension Value ⁽²⁾ (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
Theodore J. Aanensen	112,800	—	—	—	27,283	140,083
Raymond E. Chandonnet	106,800	—	—	—	31,093	137,893
Curtland E. Fields ⁽³⁾	2,670	—	—	—	—	2,670
John N. Hopkins	106,800	—	—	—	38,632	145,432
Catherine A. Lawton	106,800	—	—	—	29,603	136,403
John J. Mazur, Jr.	122,250	—	—	—	19,729	141,979
Joseph P. Mazza	113,050	—	—	—	28,118	141,168
John F. McGovern	116,800	—	—	—	23,641	140,441
Leopold W. Montanaro	106,800	—	—	—	22,167	128,967
Christopher Petermann	117,050	—	—	—	31,893	148,943
Charles J. Pivrotto	106,800	—	—	—	—	106,800
John F. Regan	110,800	—	—	—	16,080	126,880
Melvina Wong-Zaza ⁽³⁾	2,670	—	—	—	—	2,670

- (1) As of June 30, 2023, each director held 100,000 vested stock options, except for Mr. Montanaro, whose compensation is reported in the Summary Compensation Table above, Directors Fields, Pivrotto and Wong-Zaza who did not hold any unvested shares of restricted stock or vested or unvested stock options and Director Lawton who holds 7,000 unvested shares of restricted stock, 15,000 unvested stock options and 60,000 vested stock options.
- (2) For more information concerning the Directors Consultation and Retirement Plan, please see Note 13 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. Reflects the actuarial change in pension value in each individual's accrued benefit under the defined benefit pension plan from June 30 of the prior year to June 30 of the reported year. Pension values may fluctuate significantly from year to year depending on a number of factors, including age and the assumptions used to determine the present value of an individual's accumulated benefit. The change in pension values for Directors Aanensen, Hopkins, Mazur, Mazza, McGovern, Montanaro and Regan were negative \$34,000, \$21,000, \$43,000, \$26,000, \$42,000, \$11,000 and \$23,000, respectively; however, applicable SEC rules require that we report a negative number as a zero in the above table.
- (3) As Directors Fields and Wong-Zaza were appointed in June 2023, the fees reflected are for partial year service.
- (4) For fiscal year 2023, all other compensation included the following:

Name	Health and Long-Term Care Premiums (\$)	Dividends on Stock Awards* (\$)	Bank Owned Life Insurance** (\$)	Total All Other Compensation (\$)
Theodore J. Aanensen	20,741	—	6,542	27,283
Raymond E. Chandonnet	31,093	—	—	31,093
Curtland E. Fields	—	—	—	—
John N. Hopkins	19,715	—	18,917	38,632
Catherine A. Lawton	19,733	9,870	—	29,603
John J. Mazur, Jr.	16,966	—	2,763	19,729
Joseph P. Mazza	21,006	—	7,112	28,118
John F. McGovern	22,335	—	1,306	23,641
Leopold W. Montanaro	17,618	—	4,549	22,167
Christopher Petermann	31,893	—	—	31,893
Charles J. Pivrotto	—	—	—	—
John F. Regan	10,493	—	5,587	16,080
Melvina Wong-Zaza	—	—	—	—

* Dividends are paid to a director upon vesting of the underlying stock award. If a director does not vest in the underlying stock award, a director will not receive such dividends. Amount shown reflects the amount of dividends paid upon vesting of the underlying stock award.

** For each current director, other than Messrs. Chandonnet, Fields, Hopkins, Montanaro, Petermann, Pivrotto and Ms. Lawton and Wong-Zaza, the Company maintains life insurance arrangements providing for a death benefit of \$500,000. Life insurance arrangements provide for a death benefit of \$1,950,000 for Mr. Hopkins, and \$288,553 for Mr. Montanaro.

Board Retainers. In fiscal 2023, each Director received a quarterly retainer for service as follows: Non-employee directors receive \$15,700 quarterly for service on the Kearny Bank's Board and \$11,000 for service on the Board of the Company. The Chairman receives a higher quarterly retainer of \$17,200 and \$11,800 for service on Kearny Bank's Board and the Board of the Company, respectively.

Members of the Kearny Bank Executive Committee do not receive retainers for service. Each member of the Kearny Bank Board of Directors is also a member of the Executive Committee. Members of the Audit & Compliance Committee and the Chairman of this committee received a quarterly retainer of \$1,562.50 and \$2,500, respectively. Members of the Compensation Committee and the Chairman of this committee received a quarterly retainer of \$1,000 and \$1,500, respectively. No fees are paid for service on other committees.

Directors who also serve as employees do not receive compensation as directors. Directors appointed prior to December 2022 are eligible to receive coverage under the Company's health, dental and long-term care insurance plans and the Company has determined that these benefits will no longer be offered to directors appointed after November 2022.

Director Life Insurance Agreements. Kearny Bank is party to Director Life Insurance Agreements with each current director, except for Messrs. Chandonnet, Fields, Petermann, Pivrotto and Ms. Lawton and Wong-Zaza, pursuant to which Kearny Bank has purchased life insurance policies on the directors. The directors become entitled to death benefits under the agreements if they (i) die while serving as a member of the Board of Directors, or (ii) retire from Board of Directors service on or after attaining age 70, or (iii) retire from Board of Directors service on or after attaining age 60 and at a time when the director's years of service with Kearny Bank and the director's age equals at least 75. Under the agreements, the director's beneficiaries are entitled to a death benefit equal to \$500,000 (and a death benefit of \$1,950,000 for John N. Hopkins and \$288,553 for Leopold W. Montanaro), which will be paid by the life insurance company. In the event of a change in control of Kearny Bank prior to the named director's death or retirement, the death benefit shall remain in effect regardless of whether the age and service requirements have been met.

Directors Consultation and Retirement Plan. On December 23, 2015, the Company amended its Directors Consultation and Retirement Plan (the "DCRP") to freeze the DCRP such that no additional benefits would accrue to any participant after December 31, 2015. Accordingly, the benefits payable to participating directors would not increase after December 31, 2015.

PROPOSAL II – RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Kearny Financial's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended June 30, 2023 was Crowe. The Audit & Compliance Committee has re-appointed Crowe to continue as the independent registered public accounting firm for Kearny Financial for the year ending June 30, 2024, subject to the ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Representatives of Crowe are expected to attend the virtual Annual Meeting. They will be given an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Ratification of Appointment of Independent Auditor. Stockholder ratification of the appointment of Crowe is not required by Kearny Financial's Bylaws or otherwise. However, the Board of Directors is submitting the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment of Crowe, the Audit & Compliance Committee will reconsider whether it should select another independent registered public accounting firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit & Compliance Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change is in the best interests of Kearny Financial and its stockholders.

The Audit & Compliance Committee has considered whether the provision of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the independence of Crowe. The Audit & Compliance Committee concluded that performing such services does not affect the independence of Crowe in performing its function as Kearny Financial's independent registered public accounting firm.

Audit Fees. The aggregate fees billed or expected to be billed to Kearny Financial for professional services rendered by Crowe for the audit of Kearny Financial's annual financial statements, review of the financial statements included in Kearny Financial's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and services that are normally provided by Crowe in connection with statutory and regulatory filings and engagements were \$605,000 and \$625,000 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, respectively.

Audit Related Fees. There were no fees billed or expected to be billed to Kearny Financial for assurance and related services rendered by Crowe that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of and review of the financial statements and that are not already reported in "Audit Fees," above.

Tax Fees. The aggregate fees billed or expected to be billed to Kearny Financial for professional services rendered by Crowe for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning were \$85,215 and \$86,630 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, respectively. Tax-related services consisted of tax return preparation and consultation.

All Other Fees. There were no "Other Fees" billed by Crowe for services rendered to Kearny Financial during the years ended June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, respectively.

Audit & Compliance Committee Approval Policies and Procedures. Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, all auditing services and non-audit services provided by an issuer's independent auditor must be approved by the issuer's audit committee prior to such services being rendered or be approved pursuant to pre-approval policies and procedures established by the issuer's audit committee. The Company's Audit & Compliance Committee approves each service prior to the engagement of the auditor for all audit and non-audit services. All of the services listed were approved by the Audit & Compliance Committee prior to the service being rendered. There were no non-audit services described that were not recognized as non-audit services at the time of engagement that were approved after the fact pursuant to the de minimis exception under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF CROWE AS THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM.

PROPOSAL III – ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis appearing earlier in this Proxy Statement describes the executive compensation program and the compensation decisions made by the Compensation Committee with respect to the Chief Executive Officer and other officers named in the Summary Compensation Table (who are referred to as the “Named Executive Officers”).

This proposal, commonly known as a “Say on Pay” proposal, gives you as a stockholder the opportunity to vote on our executive pay program. The Board of Directors is requesting stockholders to cast a non-binding advisory vote on the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the stockholders of Kearny Financial approve the compensation paid to Kearny Financial’s Named Executive Officers, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and narrative accompanying the tables.”

Our executive compensation program is based on a pay for performance philosophy that is designed to support our business strategy and align the interests of our executives with our stockholders. The Board of Directors believes that the link between compensation and the achievement of our long- and short-term business goals has helped our financial performance over time, while not encouraging excessive risk taking.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors is requesting stockholders to support this proposal. While this advisory vote is non-binding, the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors value the views of the stockholders and will consider the outcome of this vote in future executive compensation decisions.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” APPROVAL
ON AN ADVISORY BASIS OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AS DESCRIBED
IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.**

STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD AND STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

All Stockholder communications to the Board of Directors and/or individual directors should be addressed to the Board of Directors and/or the individual director and mailed to:

Kearny Financial Corp.
120 Passaic Avenue
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

The letter should indicate that the author is a Kearny Financial Corp. stockholder and, if shares are not held of record, should include appropriate evidence of stock ownership. Depending on the subject matter, the Corporate Secretary will:

- forward the communication to the director or directors to whom it is addressed;
- attempt to handle the inquiry directly (for example, where it is a request for information about the Company or a stock-related matter); or
- not forward the communication if it is primarily commercial in nature, related to an improper or irrelevant topic, or is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal or otherwise inappropriate.

Written communications received by the Company from stockholders will be shared with the full Board of Directors no later than the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

To be eligible for inclusion in the proxy materials for next year's Annual Meeting, any stockholder proposal under SEC Rule 14a-8 to take action at such meeting must be received at our executive office at 120 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004 no later than May 18, 2024. Any such proposals shall be subject to the requirements of the proxy rules adopted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Under SEC Rule 14a-19, a stockholder intending to engage in a director election contest with respect to the Company's annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2024 must give the Company notice of its intent to solicit proxies by providing the names of its nominees and certain other information at least 60 calendar days before the anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting. This deadline is August 27, 2024.

In addition to the requirement set forth under SEC Rule 14a-19, the Bylaws of Kearny Financial also provide an advance notice procedure for certain business, or nominations to the Board of Directors, to be brought before an Annual Meeting of Stockholders. In order for a stockholder to properly bring business before an annual meeting or make a nomination to the Board, the stockholder must give written notice to the Secretary of Kearny Financial not less than 110 days nor more than 120 days prior to the anniversary of the prior year's Annual Meeting of Stockholders; provided, however, that if the date of the annual meeting is advanced more than 30 days prior to the anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting, a stockholder's written notice shall be timely only if delivered or mailed to and received by the Secretary of Kearny Financial at the principal executive office of the corporation no earlier than the day on which public disclosure of the date of such annual meeting is first made and no later than the tenth day following the day on which public disclosure of the date of such annual meeting is first made.

The 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is expected to be held on October 24, 2024. It is expected that advance written notice for certain business, or nominations to the Board of Directors, to be brought before the next annual meeting must be given to us no earlier than June 28, 2024 and no later than July 8, 2024. If notice is received before June 28, 2024 or later than July 8, 2024, it will be considered untimely, and we will not be required to present the matter at the stockholders meeting.

Nothing in this Proxy Statement will be deemed to require us to include in our Proxy Statement and proxy relating to an annual meeting any stockholder proposal that does not meet all of the requirements for inclusion established by the Securities and Exchange Commission in effect at the time such proposal is received.

Unless unable to attend due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, each member of the Board of Directors is present at annual meetings. Twelve directors attended the 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (e.g., brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as “householding,” potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

Under this procedure, if stockholders have the same address and last name, do not participate in electronic delivery of proxy materials and have requested householding in the past, they will receive only one copy of our Notice and, as applicable, a printed annual report and proxy statement unless one or more of these stockholders notifies us that they wish to continue receiving individual copies.

If any stockholders in your household wish to receive a separate Notice, and if applicable, annual report and proxy statement, they may contact their broker or contact us at: Kearny Financial Corp., 120 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004, Attention: Corporate Secretary, or contact us at (973) 244-4500. Other stockholders who have multiple accounts in their names or who share an address with other stockholders can authorize us to discontinue mailings of multiple Notices, annual reports and proxy statements by contacting us.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters to come before the Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters should properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments, it is intended that proxies in the accompanying form will be voted in respect thereof in accordance with the judgment of the persons named in this Proxy Statement.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Company’s 2023 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes a copy of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, is being made available to stockholders with this Proxy Statement. Except to the extent specifically incorporated by reference, the Annual Report is not to be treated as part of the proxy solicitation material nor as having been incorporated by reference herein.

