

1ST CONSTITUTION BANCORP  
Form S-4/A  
February 14, 2018

As filed with the SEC on February 14, 2018  
Registration No. 333-222309

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

AMENDMENT NO.1  
TO  
FORM S-4  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

1ST CONSTITUTION BANCORP  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey	6022	22-3665653
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

2650 Route 130  
P.O. Box 634  
Cranbury, New Jersey 18512  
(609) 655-4500  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Mr. Robert F. Mangano  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
1st Constitution Bancorp  
2650 Route 130  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512  
(609) 655-4500  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Frank E. Lawatsch, Jr., Esq. Scott W. Goodman, Esq. Day Pitney LLP One Jefferson Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054	William H. Placke President and Chief Executive Officer New Jersey Community Bank 3441 U.S. Highway 9 Freehold, New Jersey 07728	Robert A. Schwartz, Esq. Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP 120 Albany Street Plaza New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
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(973) 966-6300

(732) 431-2265

(732) 448-2548

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the effectiveness of this registration statement.



If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer		Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer	(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company
		Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer)

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer)



## CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per unit (1,2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)	Amount of registration fee
Common stock, no par value per share	316,588	N/A	\$4,998,753	\$622.35 (3)

(1)

Based on the maximum number of shares of the registrant's common stock that may be issued in connection with the proposed merger of New Jersey Community Bank with and into the registrant's primary subsidiary, 1st Constitution Bank, assuming that all stock options and warrants granted by New Jersey Community Bank and outstanding on the date hereof are exercised prior to the closing, which number is calculated as the sum of (A)(i) the number of outstanding shares of New Jersey Community Bank common stock multiplied by (ii) the assumed maximum exchange ratio of 0.1425 of a share of the registrant's common stock to be issued in the merger for each share of New Jersey Community Bank common stock plus (B)(i) the number of shares of New Jersey Community Bank common stock subject to currently outstanding stock options multiplied by (ii) the assumed maximum exchange ratio of 0.1425 plus (C)(i) the number of shares of New Jersey Community Bank common stock subject to currently outstanding warrants multiplied by (ii) the assumed maximum exchange ratio of 0.1425. In accordance with Rule 416, this registration statement shall also register any additional shares of the registrant's common stock which may become issuable to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions and additional shares that may be issued to permit the merger to be a tax-free reorganization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, all as provided by the merger agreement.

(2)

Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee required by Section 6(b) of the Securities Act and calculated in accordance with Rule 457(f)(1) and Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act as follows: the product of (A) \$3.85, which is the average of the high and low prices per share of New Jersey Community Bank common stock on December 21, 2017 as quoted on the OTC Pink marketplace, multiplied by (B) 2,221,668, which is the sum of (i) the aggregate number of shares of New Jersey Community Bank common stock outstanding as of December 21, 2017, (ii) the aggregate number of shares of New Jersey Community Bank common stock issuable upon the exercise of New Jersey Community Bank stock options outstanding as of December 20, 2017 and (iii) the aggregate number of shares of New Jersey Community Bank common stock issuable upon the exercise of New Jersey Community Bank warrants outstanding as of December 21, 2017. Pursuant to Rule 457(f)(3) under the Securities Act, the amount of cash payable by the registrant in the merger has been deducted from the proposed maximum aggregate offering price (computed by multiplying (a) the cash consideration of \$1.60 per share of New Jersey Community Bank common stock that are (i) outstanding and that are (ii) subject to outstanding stock options and warrants).

(3)

Previously paid in connection with the filing of the initial Registration Statement on Form S-4.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the SEC, acting pursuant to such Section 8(a), may determine.



The information in this proxy statement-prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to the shares of 1st Constitution Bancorp common stock to be issued in the merger has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This proxy statement-prospectus shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

PRELIMINARY-SUBJECT TO COMPLETION  
DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Proxy Statement of New Jersey Community Bank Prospectus of 1st Constitution Bancorp

MERGER PROPOSED – YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

To the Shareholders of New Jersey Community Bank:

The Board of Directors of New Jersey Community Bank (referred to as NJCB) has approved an Agreement and Plan of Merger (referred to as the merger agreement) with 1st Constitution Bancorp (referred to as 1st Constitution) and 1st Constitution Bank pursuant to which NJCB will be merged with and into 1st Constitution Bank. If the merger contemplated by the merger agreement is completed, you will be entitled to receive, for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that you own at the effective time of the merger, a combination of 1st Constitution common stock and cash as follows:

- (i) If the exchange ratio average price (as defined below) is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be 0.1333 of a share of common stock of 1st Constitution, subject to adjustment as described below and subject to the payment of cash in lieu of fractional shares; and
- (ii) \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB.

The term “exchange ratio average price” means 1st Constitution’s average closing common stock share price during the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank or NJCB has notified the others in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received.

Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is greater than \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted downward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is less than \$17.10, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted upward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. However, in no event will the stock exchange ratio be greater than 0.1425 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the exchange ratio average price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution will have the right, in its sole discretion, to increase the exchange ratio for the stock exchange ratio to the



extent necessary for the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization.

Of the \$1.60 in cash that is part of the consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock, \$0.21 will not be paid at the closing of the merger and will be placed in escrow to cover costs and expenses, including settlement costs, if any, that 1st Constitution may incur after the closing of the merger as a result of a certain litigation matter captioned Robert O'Donnell v. New Jersey Community Bank, Shelly LoCascio, Andrew Harris (Docket No. MON-L-4711-15) (referred to as the O'Donnell litigation matter). The total amount remaining in escrow, after deducting these costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the O'Donnell litigation matter will be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the O'Donnell litigation matter.

1st Constitution will not be registering any of the rights that former NJCB shareholders have to the total escrow amount under any federal or state securities laws. Accordingly, during the escrow period, former NJCB shareholders will not be able to sell or transfer their rights to the total escrow amount except (i) for transfers to an entity's members upon its liquidation, (ii) to relatives and trusts for estate planning purposes, (iii) by virtue of the laws of descent and distribution upon death or (iv) pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

Assuming an exchange ratio for the stock consideration of 0.1333 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock and none of the outstanding options or warrants to purchase shares of NJCB common stock are exercised prior to the completion of the merger, 1st Constitution expects to issue approximately 254,396 shares of its common stock in the merger.



1st Constitution's common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "FCCY". New Jersey Community Bank's common stock is quoted on the OTC Pink marketplace under the symbol "NJCB". On February 13, 2018, the last practicable full trading day prior to the printing of this proxy statement-prospectus, the closing price of 1st Constitution common stock was \$19.25 per share.

The merger cannot be completed unless NJCB's shareholders approve the merger agreement. We have scheduled a special meeting of NJCB shareholders so you can vote on the approval of the merger agreement. You will also be asked to approve the authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. The NJCB Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote to approve the merger agreement and vote to authorize the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

The date, time and place of the special meeting of NJCB shareholders are as follows:

March 22, 2018  
9:30 a.m. (EST)  
American Hotel  
18-20 East Main Street  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

Only NJCB shareholders of record as of February 5, 2018 are entitled to attend and vote at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders.

Your vote is very important. Approval of the merger agreement by NJCB shareholders requires the approval by holders of two-thirds of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, please take the time to vote by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card to us or voting by telephone or via the internet as described in the proxy statement-prospectus. If you sign, date and mail your proxy card without indicating how you want to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote in favor of the merger agreement and in favor of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. If you do not vote by submitting a proxy card or do not vote by telephone or via the internet or do not vote in person at the NJCB special meeting, it will have the effect of a vote against the merger agreement, but will have no effect on the vote to authorize the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement, or(ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

The proxy statement-prospectus describes the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, the merger, the documents related to the merger and other related matters. Please carefully read the entire proxy statement-prospectus, including the "RISK FACTORS" beginning on page 22 for a discussion of the risks related to the proposed merger. You can also obtain information about 1st Constitution from documents 1st Constitution has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. 1st Constitution's SEC filings are available over the internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document 1st Constitution files by visiting the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. The SEC's address in Washington, D.C. is 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference room.

Sincerely,

William H. Placke  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
New Jersey Community Bank

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, nor any bank regulatory agency, nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The shares of 1st Constitution common stock to be issued in the merger are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of a bank or depository institution and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

This proxy statement-prospectus is dated [ ], 2018, and is first being mailed to NJCB shareholders on or about [ ], 2018.



New Jersey Community Bank  
3441 U.S. Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To be Held March 22, 2018

At the direction of the Board of Directors of New Jersey Community Bank, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of shareholders of New Jersey Community Bank will be held at the American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, on March 22, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. (EST) to consider and vote upon the following matters:

(1)  
Approval of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 6, 2017, by and among 1st Constitution Bancorp, 1st Constitution Bank and New Jersey Community Bank pursuant to which New Jersey Community Bank will merge with and into 1st Constitution Bank; and

(2)  
Authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn or postpone the special meeting, including, without limitation, on a motion to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed February 5, 2018 as the record date for the determination of New Jersey Community Bank shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting of New Jersey Community Bank shareholders, and only New Jersey Community Bank shareholders of record on said date will be entitled to receive notice of and to vote at said special meeting.

The New Jersey Community Bank Board of Directors recommends that New Jersey Community Bank shareholders vote:

(1)  
“FOR” approval of the merger agreement; and

(2)  
“FOR” approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Shelly I. LoCascio  
Secretary  
New Jersey Community Bank

Freehold, New Jersey

[ ], 2018

**IMPORTANT—WHETHER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY BANK SHAREHOLDERS IN PERSON OR NOT, PLEASE VOTE PROMPTLY BY SUBMITTING YOUR PROXY VIA THE INTERNET OR BY PHONE OR BY COMPLETING, SIGNING, DATING AND RETURNING YOUR PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. RETURNING THE PROXY CARD WILL NOT PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING.**





## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The accompanying proxy statement-prospectus provides a detailed description of the merger and the merger agreement. We urge you to read the proxy statement-prospectus, including any documents referenced in the proxy statement-prospectus, and its annexes carefully and in their entirety. If you have any questions concerning the merger, the other special meeting matters or the proxy statement-prospectus, or need assistance voting your shares, please contact New Jersey Community Bank (referred to as NJCB) at the address or telephone number listed below:

New Jersey Community Bank  
3441 U.S. Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728  
Attention: William H. Placke  
(732) 431-2265

Neither NJCB nor 1st Constitution Bancorp (referred to as 1st Constitution) has authorized anyone to provide you with any information other than the information included in this document and the documents to which you are referred in this document. If someone provides you with other information, please do not rely on it as being authorized by NJCB or 1st Constitution.

This proxy statement-prospectus offers only the cash and shares of 1st Constitution common stock offered in the merger, and offers such shares only where it is legal to do so.

This proxy statement-prospectus has been prepared as of [ ], 2018. Changes that may have occurred in the affairs of 1st Constitution or NJCB or their respective subsidiaries since that date are not reflected in this document.

The information contained in this document with respect to 1st Constitution was provided solely by 1st Constitution, and the information contained in this document with respect to NJCB was provided solely by NJCB.

Please do not send your stock certificates at this time. You will be sent separate instructions regarding the surrender of your stock certificates.



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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE SPECIAL MEETING

### Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

A: This document serves as both a proxy statement of NJCB and as a prospectus of 1st Constitution. As a proxy statement/prospectus, it is being provided to you by the NJCB Board of Directors in connection with the Board's solicitation of proxies for the special meeting of NJCB shareholders at which NJCB shareholders will be asked (1) to approve the merger agreement by and among 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank, and NJCB pursuant to which NJCB will be merged with and into 1st Constitution Bank and (2) to approve authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

As a prospectus, this document is being provided to you because 1st Constitution is offering to exchange shares of its common stock and cash for shares of NJCB common stock upon completion of the merger.

### Q: WHY ARE NJCB, 1ST CONSTITUTION AND 1ST CONSTITUTION BANK PROPOSING THE MERGER?

A: The Boards of Directors of NJCB, 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank are proposing to merge NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank because they believe that combining the strengths of these two financial institutions is advisable for NJCB, 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank, their respective shareholders and the respective customers of NJCB and 1st Constitution Bank. Please see "NJCB's Reasons for the Merger" beginning at page 35 and "Recommendation of the NJCB Board of Directors" at page 36 for the various factors considered by the NJCB Board of Directors in recommending that NJCB's shareholders vote FOR the proposal to approve the merger agreement and FOR the proposal to approve authorization of the NJCB Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

### Q: WHAT WILL I RECEIVE IN THE MERGER?

A: Upon completion of the merger, you will receive, subject to the terms in the merger agreement, for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that you own at the effective time of the merger, a combination of 1st Constitution common stock and cash as follows:

- (i) If the exchange ratio average price (as defined below) is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be 0.1333 of a share of common stock of 1st Constitution, subject to adjustment as described below and subject to the payment of cash in lieu of fractional shares; and
- (ii) \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB.

The term "exchange ratio average price" means 1st Constitution's average closing common stock share price during the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank or NJCB has notified the others in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received.

Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is greater than \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted downward to that percentage of a share of 1st



Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is less than \$17.10, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted upward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. However, in no event will the stock exchange ratio be greater than 0.1425 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the exchange ratio average price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution will have the right, in its sole discretion, to increase the exchange ratio for the stock consideration to the extent necessary for the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization.



The following table illustrates the effect of changes in the exchange ratio average price on the exchange ratio:

Exchange Ratio Average Price	Stock Exchange Ratio (i.e., percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock to be received for each share of NJCB common stock)
\$16.00 and below	0.1425
\$17.00	0.1341
\$17.10 – \$18.90	0.1333
\$19.00	0.1326
\$20.00	0.1260
\$21.00	0.1200

In addition, each outstanding option, whether vested or unvested, to acquire shares of NJCB common stock will be terminated and converted on the effective date of the merger into the right to receive cash equal to the product of (i) the aggregate number of shares of NJCB common stock underlying such outstanding option multiplied by (ii) the excess, if any, of \$4.00 over the per share exercise price of such outstanding option.

With respect to each outstanding warrant to acquire shares of NJCB common stock, such warrants will expire in accordance with their terms prior to the effective time of the merger. Accordingly, 1st Constitution will not pay any consideration to the holders of the warrants because the warrants will not be outstanding at the effective time of the merger.

See “Terms of the Merger – What NJCB Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger,” beginning at page 41.

**Q: WHY IS SOME OF THE CASH CONSIDERATION BEING HELD IN ESCROW?**

A: Of the \$1.60 in cash that is part of the consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock, \$0.21 will not be paid at the closing of the merger and will be placed in escrow to cover costs and expenses, including settlement costs, if any, that 1st Constitution may incur after the closing of the merger as a result of a certain litigation matter captioned Robert O’Donnell v. New Jersey Community Bank, Shelly LoCascio, Andrew Harris (Docket No. MON-L-4711-15) (referred to as the O’Donnell litigation matter). The total amount remaining in escrow, after deducting these costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the O’Donnell litigation matter will be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the O’Donnell litigation matter.

1st Constitution will not be registering any of the rights that former NJCB shareholders have to the total escrow amount under any federal or state securities laws. Accordingly, during the escrow period, former NJCB shareholders will not be able to sell or transfer their rights to the total escrow amount except (i) for transfers to an entity’s members upon its liquidation, (ii) to relatives and trusts for estate planning purposes, (iii) by virtue of the laws of descent and distribution upon death or (iv) pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

**Q: WHAT ARE THE TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER TO NJCB’S SHAREHOLDERS?**

A: The obligation of 1st Constitution and NJCB to complete the merger is conditioned upon the receipt of a legal opinion from Day Pitney LLP (referred to as Day Pitney), counsel to 1st Constitution, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Provided that the merger qualifies as a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes, you may recognize gain, but you will not recognize loss, upon the exchange of your shares of NJCB common stock for shares of 1st Constitution common stock and cash. If the sum of the fair market value of the 1st Constitution common stock

and the amount of cash you receive in exchange for your shares of NJCB common stock exceeds the adjusted tax basis of your shares of NJCB common stock, you will recognize taxable gain equal to the lesser of the amount of such excess or the amount of cash you receive in the exchange. Generally, any gain recognized upon the exchange will be capital gain, and any such capital gain will be long-term capital gain if you have established a holding period of more than one year for your shares of NJCB common stock. Depending on certain facts specific to you, any gain could instead be characterized as ordinary dividend income.



**Q: DO I HAVE RIGHTS TO DISSENT FROM THE MERGER?**

A: Yes. Any holder of NJCB common stock who elects to dissent from the merger will be entitled to payment for its shares only to the extent permitted by and in accordance with the provisions of § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended. If you fail to act pursuant to § 17:9A-140, § 17:9A-141 and § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended, you will be forever barred from bringing any action (i) to enforce your right to be paid the value of your shares or (ii) to enjoin, set aside or otherwise affect the merger under these statutory provisions. Consequently, if you wish to exercise your dissenters' rights, you are strongly urged to consult with your legal advisor before attempting to do so. See "Rights of Dissenting Shareholders," beginning at page 56 and the text of § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended, which is attached hereto as Annex C.

**Q: ARE THERE ANY REGULATORY OR OTHER CONDITIONS TO THE MERGER OCCURRING?**

A: Yes. The merger of NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank must be approved by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (referred to as the FDIC) and the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance (referred to as the NJDOBI), and a waiver must be obtained from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Applications were filed with the FDIC and the NJDOBI on December 26, 2017. Approvals for the applications to the FDIC and the NJDOBI were granted on February 2, 2018 and February 13, 2018, respectively. Following receipt of the FDIC and NJDOBI approvals, a request for a waiver from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System was submitted on February 14, 2018. In addition, the merger must be approved by the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of NJCB common stock.

Completion of the merger is also subject to certain other conditions. See "Conditions to the Merger," beginning at page 47.

**Q: WHAT DOES THE NJCB BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMEND?**

A: The NJCB Board of Directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger and believes that the merger is advisable for NJCB and its shareholders. Accordingly, the NJCB Board of Directors unanimously recommends that NJCB shareholders vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

**Q: ARE ANY NJCB SHAREHOLDERS ALREADY COMMITTED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NJCB SHAREHOLDERS?**

A: Yes. Under voting agreements with 1st Constitution, each of the directors and executive officers of NJCB and holders of 5% or more of the common stock of NJCB who are not directors or executive officers of NJCB (referred to as 5% shareholders), acting solely in his or her capacity as a shareholder, has agreed to vote all of the shares of NJCB held by them in favor of approval of the merger agreement. As of the record date for the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, these individuals who are parties to the voting agreements collectively owned approximately 44.0% of the NJCB common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders.

**Q: ARE THERE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH 1ST CONSTITUTION'S COMMON STOCK OR THE MERGER?**

A: Yes. For a description of material risks, see "RISK FACTORS," beginning at page 22.

**Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?**

A: After you have carefully read this proxy statement-prospectus, you should indicate on your proxy card how you want your shares to be voted, then sign, date and mail the proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you should vote by telephone or via the internet as soon as possible so that your shares may be represented and voted at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders. In addition, you may attend the special meeting of NJCB shareholders in person and vote, whether or not you have signed and mailed your proxy card or voted by telephone or via the internet.

If you are an NJCB shareholder and you sign, date and mail your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote FOR approval of the merger agreement described in this proxy statement-prospectus and FOR approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if





necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. If you fail to return your proxy card or do not vote by telephone, via the internet or in person or fail to instruct your broker or other nominee to vote your shares, your shares will not be voted and this will have the same effect as a vote against approval of the merger agreement but will have no effect on the proposal regarding approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

**Q: MAY I CHANGE OR REVOKE MY VOTE AFTER I HAVE MAILED MY SIGNED PROXY CARD OR SUBMITTED MY VOTE BY TELEPHONE OR VIA THE INTERNET?**

A: Yes. There are three ways for you to revoke your proxy and change or revoke your vote. First, you may send a later-dated, signed proxy card before the special meeting. Second, you may revoke your proxy by written notice (which you could personally deliver at the special meeting) to the Secretary of NJCB at any time prior to the vote being taken at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders. Third, you may submit a new proxy by telephone or via the internet. If you have instructed a broker to vote your shares, you must follow directions received from your broker to change or revoke your vote. If you deliver such a notice or if you do not submit a proxy, you may vote your shares at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders. If you wish to vote in person at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the special meeting. Attendance at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders will not by itself constitute a revocation of a proxy.

**Q: SHOULD I SEND IN MY STOCK CERTIFICATES NOW?**

A: No. 1st Constitution will mail to you instructions for exchanging your NJCB stock certificates promptly after the merger is consummated.

**Q: HOW MANY SHARES OF 1ST CONSTITUTION COMMON STOCK ARE ISSUABLE PURSUANT TO THE MERGER?**

A: If:

none of the outstanding NJCB stock options are exercised prior to the completion of the merger;

none of the outstanding NJCB warrants are exercised prior to the completion of the merger;

no adjustment is made in the stock exchange ratio of 0.1333 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock as a result of the price adjustment provisions described below under “Terms of the Merger – What NJCB Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger” and “Termination”; and

no adjustment is made in the exchange ratio because of a stock split, stock dividend or similar event affecting the stock price of 1st Constitution common stock,

then the maximum number of shares of 1st Constitution common stock issuable pursuant to the merger agreement is approximately 254,396 shares.

Q: IS THERE OTHER INFORMATION I SHOULD CONSIDER?

A: Yes. Much of the business and financial information about 1st Constitution that may be important to you is not included in this document. Instead, that information is incorporated by reference to documents separately filed by 1st Constitution with the Securities and Exchange Commission (referred to as the SEC). This means that 1st Constitution may satisfy its disclosure obligations to you by referring you to one or more documents separately filed by it with the SEC. See “INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE” beginning at page 66 for a list of documents that 1st Constitution has incorporated by reference into this proxy statement-prospectus and for instructions on how to obtain copies of those documents. The documents are available to you without charge.

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**Q: WHAT IF THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PROXY STATEMENT-PROSPECTUS AND DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC OR BETWEEN DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC?**

A: You should rely on the LATER FILED DOCUMENT. Information in this proxy statement-prospectus may update information contained in one or more of the 1st Constitution documents incorporated by reference. Similarly, information in documents that 1st Constitution may file after the date of this proxy statement-prospectus may update information contained in this proxy statement-prospectus or information contained in previously filed documents. Later-dated documents filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference update and, in the event of a conflict, supersede earlier documents filed with the SEC.

**Q: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO MERGE?**

A: The merger agreement provides that the merger will not be consummated prior to March 1, 2018. Nonetheless, we are working toward completing the merger as quickly as possible and currently anticipate that the merger will be completed in April 2018. We cannot close the merger until (a) after we receive all necessary bank regulatory approvals and the 15 to 30 day period following FDIC approval during which the Justice Department may file objections to the merger relating to competitive factors has passed and (b) after the NJCB shareholders have approved the merger agreement at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders.

**Q: WHOM SHOULD I CALL WITH QUESTIONS OR TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS PROXY STATEMENT-PROSPECTUS?**

A: If you have questions about the NJCB special meeting or if you need additional copies of this proxy statement-prospectus, you should contact:

Mr. William H. Placke  
New Jersey Community Bank  
3441 U.S. Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728  
Telephone: (732) 431-2265



## SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this proxy statement-prospectus. Because this is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should carefully read this entire document and the other documents we refer to in this document before you decide how to vote. These references will give you a more complete description of the merger agreement and the merger and the other matters to be considered at the special meeting. We have included page references in this summary to direct you to more complete descriptions of the topics provided elsewhere in this proxy statement-prospectus.

The Companies (See page 58)

New Jersey Community Bank  
3441 U.S. Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728  
Telephone: (732) 431-2265

NJCB is an independent New Jersey state chartered full service community bank that opened for business in 2008. The Bank conducts a general commercial and retail banking business encompassing a wide range of lending products including commercial and commercial real estate loans, term loans and revolving credit arrangements for businesses and consumer loans. It also offers a broad variety of deposit accounts including consumer and commercial checking accounts and a variety of time deposits.

1st Constitution Bancorp  
2650 Route 130  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512  
Telephone: (609) 655-4500

1st Constitution is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. 1st Constitution was organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey in February 1999 for the purpose of acquiring all of the issued and outstanding stock of 1st Constitution Bank, a full service commercial bank that began operations in August 1989, thereby enabling 1st Constitution Bank to operate within a bank holding company structure. 1st Constitution became an active bank holding company on July 1, 1999. Other than its ownership interest in 1st Constitution Bank, 1st Constitution currently conducts no other significant business activities. 1st Constitution Bank operates 18 branches and manages an investment portfolio through its subsidiary, 1st Constitution Investment Company of New Jersey, Inc. FCB Assets Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of 1st Constitution Bank, is used by 1st Constitution Bank to manage and dispose of repossessed real estate. 1st Constitution Capital Trust II, a subsidiary of 1st Constitution, was created in May 2006 to issue trust preferred securities to assist 1st Constitution in raising additional regulatory capital.

Terms of the Merger (See page 41)

Pursuant to the merger agreement, NJCB will merge with and into 1st Constitution Bank, with 1st Constitution Bank as the surviving bank in the merger.

A copy of the merger agreement between 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB is attached to this proxy statement-prospectus as Annex A.

Upon completion of the merger, NJCB shareholders will receive, subject to the terms in the merger agreement, for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that they own at the effective time of the merger, a combination of 1st Constitution common stock and cash as follows:

- (i) If the exchange ratio average price (as defined below) is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be 0.1333 of a share of common stock of 1st Constitution, subject to adjustment as described below and subject to the payment of cash in lieu of fractional shares as described below; and
- (ii) \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB.





The term “exchange ratio average price” means 1st Constitution’s average closing common stock share price during the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank or NJCB has notified the others in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received.

Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is greater than \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted downward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is less than \$17.10, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted upward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. However, in no event will the stock exchange ratio be greater than 0.1425 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the exchange ratio average price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution will have the right, in its sole discretion, to increase the exchange ratio for the stock consideration to the extent necessary for the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization.

The exchange ratio will be adjusted proportionately if 1st Constitution makes any stock splits, stock dividends or similar distributions prior to the closing of the merger.

1st Constitution will not issue any fractions of a share of common stock. Rather, 1st Constitution will pay cash (without interest) for any fractional share interest that any NJCB shareholder would otherwise receive in the merger. All shares of NJCB common stock held by a shareholder immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be aggregated before determining the need to pay cash in lieu of fractional shares to such former shareholder.

In addition, each outstanding option, whether vested or unvested, to acquire shares of NJCB common stock will be terminated and converted on the effective date of the merger into the right to receive cash equal to the product of (i) the aggregate number of shares of NJCB common stock underlying such outstanding option multiplied by (ii) the excess, if any, of \$4.00 over the per share exercise price of such outstanding option.

With respect to each outstanding warrant to acquire shares of NJCB common stock, such warrants will expire in accordance with their terms prior to the effective time of the merger. Accordingly, 1st Constitution will not pay any consideration to the holders of the warrants because the warrants will not be outstanding at the effective time of the merger.

See “Terms of the Merger – What NJCB Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger”, beginning at page 41.

#### Escrow Amount

Of the \$1.60 in cash that is part of the consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock, \$0.21 will not be paid at the closing of the merger and will be placed in escrow to cover costs and expenses, including settlement costs, if any, that 1st Constitution may incur after the closing of the merger as a result of the O’Donnell litigation matter. The total amount remaining in escrow, after deducting these costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the O’Donnell litigation matter will be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the O’Donnell litigation matter.

1st Constitution will not be registering any of the rights that former NJCB shareholders have to the total escrow amount under any federal or state securities laws. Accordingly, during the escrow period, former NJCB shareholders will not be able to sell or transfer their rights to the total escrow amount except (i) for transfers to an entity's members upon its liquidation, (ii) to relatives and trusts for estate planning purposes, (iii) by virtue of the laws of descent and distribution upon death or (iv) pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

Tax Consequences (See pages 53 to 56)

The tax consequences of the merger are dependent on whether the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The obligation of 1st Constitution and NJCB to complete the merger is conditioned upon the receipt of a legal opinion from Day Pitney, counsel to 1st Constitution, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization. Provided that the merger qualifies as a reorganization for United States



federal income tax purposes, you may recognize gain, but you will not recognize loss, upon the exchange of your shares of NJCB common stock for shares of 1st Constitution common stock and cash. If the sum of the fair market value of the 1st Constitution common stock and the amount of cash you receive in exchange for your shares of NJCB common stock exceeds the adjusted tax basis of your shares of NJCB common stock, you will recognize taxable gain equal to the lesser of the amount of such excess or the amount of cash you receive in the exchange. Generally, any gain recognized upon the exchange will be capital gain, and any such capital gain will be long-term capital gain if you have established a holding period of more than one year for your shares of NJCB common stock. Depending on certain facts specific to you, any gain could instead be characterized as ordinary dividend income.

NJCB's Reasons for the Merger (See pages 35 to 36)

The NJCB Board of Directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger and believes that the merger is advisable for NJCB and its shareholders. If the merger is consummated, NJCB shareholders will receive cash and 1st Constitution common stock in the merger and will become shareholders of a larger and more diversified NASDAQ listed corporation.

In unanimously approving the merger agreement, NJCB's Board of Directors considered, among other things, the terms of the merger agreement, including the financial terms, the income tax consequences of the transaction, the historical market prices and liquidity of 1st Constitution common stock and NJCB common stock, the competitive environment facing NJCB, the business and prospects of 1st Constitution and such other reasons as set forth on pages 35 to 36.

NJCB Board Recommendation (See page 65)

The NJCB Board of Directors unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger and unanimously recommends that NJCB shareholders vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

1st Constitution's Reasons for the Merger (See page 41)

The 1st Constitution Board of Directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger and believes that the merger is advisable for 1st Constitution and its shareholders. In unanimously approving the merger agreement, the 1st Constitution Board of Directors considered, among other things, the terms of the merger agreement, including the financial terms, the expansion of 1st Constitution Bank's branch network in Monmouth County, New Jersey (an attractive market in central New Jersey), the similar community banking focus of 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB on small and middle-market customers, the potential significant loan and deposit growth opportunities resulting from the merger and anticipated cost savings due to economies of scale.

NJCB's financial advisor has concluded that the consideration that NJCB shareholders will receive in the merger is fair. (See pages 36 to 41)

Boenning & Scattergood, Inc., financial advisor to NJCB, which we refer to as Boenning, has provided a written fairness opinion, dated as of November 6, 2017, to the NJCB Board of Directors to the effect that, as of that date, the aggregate consideration to be paid in the merger is fair to NJCB's shareholders from a financial point of view. A copy of the fairness opinion is attached to this proxy statement-prospectus as Annex B.

You should read the fairness opinion in its entirety.

Pursuant to the Boenning engagement agreement, NJCB agreed to pay Boenning a cash retainer fee of \$25,000 on or about the time the engagement agreement was executed, a cash fee of \$75,000 at the time of the signing of the merger agreement as well as a cash fee of \$100,000 to be paid at the time of the closing of the merger. In addition, NJCB also agreed to reimburse Boenning for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements incurred in connection with its engagement and to indemnify Boenning and related parties against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws. During the two years preceding the date of its opinion to NJCB, Boenning has not received compensation for investment banking services from either NJCB or 1st Constitution.



Special Meeting of NJCB's shareholders to be held on March 22, 2018 (See page 25)

The special meeting of NJCB's shareholders will be held at the American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, at 9:30 a.m. (EST) on March 22, 2018. At the special meeting, NJCB will ask its shareholders to consider and vote upon the following matters:

(1)  
Approval of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 6, 2017, by and among 1st Constitution Bancorp, 1st Constitution Bank and New Jersey Community Bank pursuant to which New Jersey Community Bank will merge with and into 1st Constitution Bank; and

(2)  
Authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn or postpone the special meeting, including, without limitation, on a motion to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

Who can vote (See page 26)

You are entitled to vote at the NJCB special meeting if you owned shares of NJCB common stock at the close of business on the record date of February 5, 2018. You will have one vote for each share of NJCB common stock that you owned on the record date. On the record date, there were 1,908,445 shares of NJCB common stock outstanding.

You may vote either by attending the special meeting of NJCB shareholders and voting your shares, or by completing the enclosed proxy card and mailing it to NJCB in the enclosed white envelope or voting by telephone or via the internet, as described in the enclosed instructions for NJCB shareholders.

The NJCB Board of Directors is seeking your proxy to use at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders. NJCB and 1st Constitution have prepared this proxy statement-prospectus to assist you in deciding how to vote and whether or not to grant your proxy. If you intend to vote by proxy card, please indicate on your proxy card how you want to vote and then sign, date and mail the proxy card as soon as possible so that your shares will be represented at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, or you may vote by telephone or via the internet, as described in the enclosed instructions for NJCB shareholders.

If you are an NJCB shareholder and you sign, date and mail your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. If you fail to return your proxy card or vote by telephone, via the internet or in person, or fail to instruct your broker or other nominee to vote your shares, your shares will not be voted, which will have the same effect as a vote against approval of the merger agreement but will have no effect on the proposal regarding approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

If you sign a proxy, you may revoke it by written notice to the Secretary of NJCB at any time before it is voted at the special meeting.

You cannot vote shares held by your broker in “street name.” Only your broker can vote those shares, with your instructions. If you do not provide your broker with instructions on how to vote your shares, your broker will not be permitted to vote them.

Voting matters (See page 25)

The approval of the merger agreement will require the affirmative vote, in person or by proxy, of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on the record date. The approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting, will require that the number of votes cast in person or by proxy at the special meeting in favor of the proposal exceeds the number of votes cast against the proposal. Each holder of shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining whether





a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote against the merger agreement but will have no effect on the vote to approve authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

Voting Agreements (See page 26)

As of November 6, 2017, the directors and executive officers of NJCB had sole or shared voting power over 550,024 shares of NJCB common stock, or approximately 28.8% of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on November 6, 2017. NJCB's directors and executive officers have entered into agreements with 1st Constitution in which they have agreed to not sell or transfer their shares of NJCB common stock prior to the special meeting of NJCB shareholders and to vote all shares of NJCB common stock that they own on the record date in favor of the merger agreement.

As of November 6, 2017, the 5% shareholders had sole or shared voting power over 289,370 shares of NJCB common stock, or approximately 15.2% of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on November 6, 2017. These 5% shareholders have entered into agreements with 1st Constitution in which they have agreed to vote all shares of NJCB common stock which they own on the record date in favor of the merger agreement.

To the best knowledge of 1st Constitution and NJCB:

As of February 5, 2018, the record date for the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, 1st Constitution did not hold any shares of NJCB common stock other than shares held in a fiduciary capacity for others.

As of February 5, 2018, the record date for the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, NJCB's directors and executive officers and the 5% shareholders, together with their affiliates, did not beneficially own any shares of 1st Constitution common stock.

Interests of NJCB directors and management in the merger (See pages 51 to 52)

The directors and executive officers of NJCB have interests in the merger as directors and employees that are different from the interests of the other NJCB shareholders. These interests include, among others:

Naqi A. Naqvi, NJCB's Chief Financial Officer, is party to a change in control agreement with NJCB under which he will be entitled to receive a severance payment equal to two times his total 2017 compensation in the event his employment is terminated after the merger;

William H. Placke, NJCB's President and Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Naqvi hold options to purchase 15,000 and 7,500 shares of NJCB common stock, respectively, at an exercise price of \$3.55 per share. Upon consummation of the merger, each of these options, whether vested or unvested, will be converted into the right to receive \$0.45 for each share underlying the options, which amount is equal to the difference between \$4.00 and the exercise price of \$3.55 per share set forth in the options;

Under the terms of the merger agreement, 1st Constitution is required to indemnify the officers and directors of NJCB for a period of three years and maintain insurance covering such officers and directors against claims related to their service as directors or officers for a period of four years; and

1st Constitution will assume all of NJCB's obligations under certain indemnification agreements, as amended and restated, between NJCB and each member of the NJCB Board of Directors.

NJCB's Board of Directors and 1st Constitution's Board of Directors were aware of these interests and considered them in approving and recommending the merger. For additional information on the benefits of the merger to NJCB's management, see pages 51 to 52.

Merger expected to occur in April 2018 (See page 43)

The merger of NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank will become final when a merger agreement attaching certifications by 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB as to the requisite shareholder approval having been obtained, is filed with the New Jersey Commissioner of Banking and Insurance. That certificate may not be filed until all bank regulatory approvals have been received, the 15 to 30 day period following FDIC approval during which the Justice Department may file objections to the merger relating to competitive factors has passed, and NJCB's shareholders approve the merger agreement and the merger. The merger agreement provides that the merger will not be completed prior to March 1, 2018. We currently anticipate that the merger will be completed in April 2018, although delays could occur.



We cannot assure you that we can obtain the necessary regulatory or shareholder approvals or that the other conditions precedent to the merger can or will be satisfied.

Regulatory approval must be obtained and other conditions must be satisfied before the merger will be completed (See pages 47 to 49 and page 51)

Our obligation to complete the merger is subject to various conditions that are usual and customary for this kind of transaction, including obtaining approvals from the FDIC and the NJDOBI, and obtaining a waiver from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Applications were filed with the FDIC and the NJDOBI on December 26, 2017. Approvals for the applications to the FDIC and the NJDOBI were granted on February 2, 2018 and February 13, 2018, respectively. Following receipt of the FDIC and NJDOBI approvals, a request for a waiver from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System was submitted on February 14, 2018. In addition to the required regulatory approvals and waiver, the merger will only be completed if certain conditions, including the following, are met or, where permissible, waived:

NJCB shareholders must approve the merger agreement at the NJCB special meeting.

NJCB and 1st Constitution must each receive an opinion of 1st Constitution's counsel with respect to certain tax matters.

NJCB and 1st Constitution must not have breached any of their respective representations or obligations under the merger agreement, subject to certain materiality qualifications.

The merger agreement attached to this proxy statement-prospectus as Annex A describes other conditions that must be met or waived before the merger may be completed.

Amendment or termination of the merger agreement is possible (See pages 49 to 50)

1st Constitution and NJCB may agree to terminate the merger agreement and not complete the merger at any time before the merger is completed. Each entity can unilaterally terminate the merger in certain circumstances. These include a failure to complete the merger by November 6, 2018, unless the terminating party's breach is the reason that the merger is not completed.

NJCB may also terminate the merger agreement if:

during a specified 10 trading day period, the average closing sale price of 1st Constitution common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market is less than \$16.00; and

such average closing sale price of 1st Constitution common stock underperforms the average stock price of the NASDAQ Bank Index by more than 30 basis points, as measured in accordance with the merger agreement.

NJCB has agreed to pay a fee of \$275,000 to 1st Constitution and has agreed to reimburse 1st Constitution for up to \$125,000 in out-of-pocket expenses upon a termination of the merger agreement under certain circumstances

described in the merger agreement.

See “Termination” beginning at page 49 for additional information regarding this and other bases for terminating the merger agreement, including NJCB’s “fiduciary out.”

Rights of 1st Constitution shareholders differ from those of NJCB shareholders (See pages 61 to 64)

When the merger is completed, each NJCB shareholder will automatically become a 1st Constitution shareholder. The rights of 1st Constitution shareholders differ from the rights of NJCB shareholders in certain ways, primarily as a result of certain provisions in 1st Constitution’s Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws that differ from those of NJCB’s Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws. Some of these provisions are intended to make a takeover of 1st Constitution harder if 1st Constitution’s Board of Directors does not approve it.

NJCB’s shareholders have dissenters’ appraisal rights (See pages 56 to 57)

Dissenters’ rights are statutory rights that enable shareholders to dissent from an extraordinary transaction, such as a merger, and to demand that NJCB pay the fair value for their shares instead of receiving the consideration offered to shareholders in connection with the merger.



Shareholders of NJCB are entitled to exercise their rights as dissenting shareholders under § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended, but only if they comply strictly with all of the procedural and other requirements of such statutes. The text of § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended, is attached to this proxy statement-prospectus as Annex C. For a summary of § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146, please see pages 56 to 57.





## MARKET PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION

## NJCB

The shares of NJCB common stock are traded on the OTC Pink marketplace under the trading symbol “NJCB”. The following table sets forth the high and low bid quotations as reported on the OTC Pink marketplace for shares of NJCB common stock for each quarter during 2018 year-to-date, 2017 and 2016. The quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail mark-up, mark-down or commission, and may not represent actual transactions.

	2018		2017		2016	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
First Quarter	\$4.02(1)	\$3.95(1)	\$4.80	\$3.55	\$5.50	\$4.75
Second Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$4.80	\$3.75	\$4.99	\$4.05
Third Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$4.45	\$3.01	\$4.05	\$3.56
Fourth Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$3.90	\$3.01	\$4.00	\$3.45

(1)  
Through February 5, 2018.

As of February 5, 2018, there were approximately 270 record holders of NJCB common stock.

NJCB has never paid a cash dividend on its common stock and there are no plans to pay a cash dividend on its common stock at this time.

## 1st Constitution

The common stock of 1st Constitution trades on the NASDAQ Global Market under the trading symbol “FCCY”. The following are the high and low sales prices per share for each quarter during 2017 year-to-date, 2016 and 2015, as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market.

	2018		2017		2016	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
First Quarter	\$ 20.05(1)	\$ 16.15(1)	\$20.80	\$15.75	\$13.30	\$11.27
Second Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$18.80	\$16.75	\$12.85	\$11.71
Third Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$18.55	\$16.50	\$13.78	\$11.78
Fourth Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$ 18.50	\$ 17.10	\$20.85	\$13.25

(1)  
Through February 5, 2018.

As of February 5, 2018, there were approximately 277 record holders of 1st Constitution's common stock.

1st Constitution declared a 5% common stock dividend on February 20, 2015 that was paid on April 7, 2015 and declared a 5% common stock dividend on December 18, 2015 that was paid on February 1, 2016.

In the past, in lieu of cash dividends to common shareholders, 1st Constitution (and its predecessor, 1st Constitution Bank) paid common stock dividends every year since 1993, except 2014 due to the acquisition of Rumson-Fair Haven Bank and Trust Company, a New Jersey state commercial bank ("Rumson"), in 2014.

On September 15, 2016, the Board of Directors of 1st Constitution declared a cash dividend of \$0.05 per common share. The cash dividend was paid on October 21, 2016 to all shareholders of record as of the close of business on September 28, 2016. This action represented the first cash dividend declared by 1st Constitution on its common shares. 1st Constitution also paid a \$0.05 per common share dividend on January 24, 2017, April 25, 2017 and July 25, 2017. On October 26, 2017, 1st Constitution announced an increase in the quarterly cash dividend to \$0.06 per common share payable on November 24, 2017 to shareholders of record on November 16, 2017. On February 2, 2018, 1st Constitution announced a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.06 per common share payable on February 27, 2018 to shareholders of record on February 16, 2018. The timing and the amount of the payment of future cash dividends, if any, on 1st Constitution's common shares will be at the discretion of



1st Constitution's Board of Directors and will be determined after consideration of various factors, including the level of earnings, cash requirements, regulatory capital and financial condition.

On November 6, 2017, the last full trading day prior to announcement of the execution of the merger agreement, the reported high and low sales prices and the closing sale prices of 1st Constitution common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market and NJCB common stock on the OTC Pink marketplace were as follows:

November 6, 2017

	High	Low	Closing Sale Price
1st Constitution	\$18.06	\$17.85	\$17.85
NJCB	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25

On February 13, 2018, the last practicable full trading day prior to the printing of this proxy statement-prospectus, the reported high and low sales prices and the closing sale prices of 1st Constitution common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market and NJCB common stock on the OTC Pink marketplace were as follows:

February 13, 2018

	High	Low	Closing Sale Price
1st Constitution	\$19.40	\$19.00	\$19.25
NJCB	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00

Shareholders are urged to obtain current market quotations for shares of 1st Constitution common stock and NJCB common stock.

Equivalent value per share

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The following table shows the closing sale price of 1st Constitution common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market on November 6, 2017, the last full trading day prior to announcement of the execution of the merger agreement, and on February 13, 2018, the last practicable full trading day prior to the printing of this proxy statement-prospectus, the closing sale price of NJCB common stock on the OTC Pink marketplace on the same two dates and the equivalent value per share of NJCB common stock on the same two dates. The equivalent value per share is calculated by multiplying the per share price of 1st Constitution common stock by the assumed exchange ratio (0.1333 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock with respect to November 6, 2017 and 0.1309 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock (as adjusted due to 1st Constitution's common stock price being greater than \$18.90 per share) with respect to February 13, 2018) and adding \$1.60 in cash.

	1st Constitution Common Stock	NJCB Common Stock	Equivalent Value Per Share of NJCB Common Stock
November 6, 2017	\$17.85	\$3.25	\$3.98
February 13, 2018	\$19.25	\$4.00	\$4.12



## SUMMARY HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA

## 1st Constitution Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information

The following table sets forth summary consolidated financial data for 1st Constitution for each of the periods and as of the dates indicated. The financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016 are derived from 1st Constitution's audited financial statements included on 1st Constitution's Current Report on Form 8-K that was filed with the SEC on December 27, 2017. The financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012 through 2014 are derived from 1st Constitution's audited consolidated financial statements. The financial data as of September 30, 2017 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 are derived from 1st Constitution's unaudited consolidated financial statements.

(Unaudited)

Nine Months Ended  
September 30,      Years Ended December 31,

2017      2016      2016      2015      2014(1)      2013(1)      2012(1)

(In thousands, except per share data)

## Selected Operating Data:

Total interest income	\$30,472	\$29,180	\$39,178	\$39,445	\$35,888	\$27,979	\$31,854
Total interest expense	4,080	3,798	5,158	4,636	4,658	4,255	5,151
Net interest income	26,392	25,382	34,020	34,809	31,230	23,724	26,703
Provision for loan losses	450	(300)	(300)	1,100	5,750	1,077	2,150
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	25,942	25,682	34,320	33,709	25,480	22,647	24,553
Other income	6,285	4,889	6,886	6,464	6,814	5,827	5,268
Other expenses	22,954	19,725	27,298	27,447	26,865	20,409	22,788
Income before income taxes	9,273	10,846	13,908	12,726	5,429	8,065	7,033
Income tax expense	2,920	3,616	4,623	4,062	1,073	2,285	1,972
Net income	6,353	7,230	9,285	8,664	4,356	5,780	5,061
Basic earnings per share(2)	\$0.79	\$0.91	\$1.17	\$1.10	\$0.56	\$0.88	\$0.83
Diluted earnings per share(2)	\$0.76	\$0.89	\$1.14	\$1.07	\$0.55	\$0.86	\$0.82

## Notes:

(1)  
For 1st Constitution's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2012 through 2014, the amortization of deferred loan origination costs was incorrectly included in other expense when it should have been



included in loan interest income. As such, for the years ended December 31, 2012, December 31, 2013 and December 21, 2014, total interest income and other expenses were reduced by \$983, \$1,013 and \$1,473, respectively. There was no effect on pre-tax income, after-tax income, basic and diluted earnings per share, statements of cash flows, balance sheets, book value, return on assets, return on equity, and regulatory capital ratios in any of these periods. The data in this table reflects the inclusion of the amortization of deferred loan origination costs in loan interest income.

(2)

All per share data has been restated to reflect two 5% stock dividends declared in 2015.



(Unaudited) December 31,  
September 30,

2017                      2016                      2015                      2014                      2013                      2012

## Selected Financial Data:

(Dollars in thousands)

Total Assets	\$1,069,394	\$1,038,213	\$967,991	\$956,779	\$742,325	\$840,968
Total Loans	771,982	724,808	682,121	654,297	373,336	521,814
Total Deposits	869,813	834,516	786,757	817,761	638,552	707,689
Shareholders' Equity	111,610	104,801	95,960	87,110	68,357	65,054

## Selected Financial Ratios:

Return on Average Assets	0.83%	0.93%	0.89%	0.46%	0.72%	0.65%
Return on Average Equity	7.87%	9.21%	9.49%	5.34%	8.73%	8.63%
Tier 1 Capital to Average Assets	11.33%	10.93%	10.80%	9.53%	10.89%	9.29%



## NJCB Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Information

The following table sets forth summary consolidated financial data for NJCB for each of the periods and as of the dates indicated. The financial data as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012 through 2016 are derived from NJCB's audited consolidated financial statements, which are not included or incorporated by reference. The financial data as of September 30, 2017 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 are derived from NJCB's unaudited consolidated financial statements, which are not included or incorporated by reference.

	(Unaudited)						
	September 30,		Years Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total interest income	\$2,887	\$2,858	\$3,795	\$4,635	\$5,296	\$5,488	\$5,921
Total interest expense	661	525	712	829	932	961	1,291
Net interest income	2,226	2,333	3,083	3,806	4,364	4,527	4,630
Provision for loan losses	-	-	-	710	628	855	117
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	2,226	2,333	3,083	3,096	3,736	3,672	4,513
Other income	181	234	295	287	421	448	349
Other expenses	3,294	3,828	4,998	4,623	4,260	6,200	4,218
Income (loss) before income tax expense (benefit)	(887)	(1,261)	(1,620)	(1,240)	(103)	(2,080)	644
Income tax expense (benefit)	-	-	2	1,542	(35)	(833)	283
Net income (loss)	\$(887)	\$(1,261)	\$(1,622)	\$(2,782)	\$(68)	\$(1,247)	\$361
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$(0.46)	\$(0.66)	\$(0.85)	\$(1.46)	\$(0.04)	\$(0.65)	\$0.19
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$(0.46)	\$(0.66)	\$(0.85)	\$(1.46)	\$(0.04)	\$(0.65)	\$0.19

Note: Per share data has been restated to reflect stock dividends declared during the years 2012 and 2013.

(Unaudited)

September 30,    December 31,

2017                      2016                      2015                      2014                      2013                      2012

Selected Financial Data:

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Total Assets	\$103,572	\$105,163	\$111,078	\$122,018	\$144,503	\$138,678
Total Loans	83,380	76,796	72,674	86,111	94,934	92,157
Total Deposits	93,816	94,538	98,819	107,088	127,940	122,536
Shareholders' Equity	9,263	10,115	11,770	14,495	14,193	15,712
Selected Financial Ratios:						
Return on Average Assets	(0.86)%	(1.56)%	(2.21)%	(0.05)%	(0.93)%	0.27%
Return on Average Equity	(9.38)%	(14.67)%	(19.39)%	(0.47)%	(7.88)%	2.32%
Tier 1 Capital to Average Assets	8.99%	10.16%	9.84%	10.54%	9.76%	11.61%



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### 1st Constitution

On February 2, 2018, 1st Constitution issued a press release reporting its results of operations for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2017 and its declaration of a quarterly dividend of \$0.06 per share.

For the three months ended December 31, 2017, 1st Constitution reported net income of \$574,000 and diluted earnings per share of \$0.07, and for the twelve months ended December 31, 2017, 1st Constitution reported net income of \$6.9 million and diluted earnings per share of \$0.83.

Net income for the fourth quarter of 2017 included additional estimated income tax expense of \$1.7 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, due to the revaluation of 1st Constitution's net deferred tax assets. As a result of the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (referred to as the Tax Act) on December 22, 2017, which reduced the maximum federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21% beginning in 2018, 1st Constitution revalued its net deferred tax assets to reflect the lower federal corporate income tax rate that would be in effect in future years.

In addition, merger-related expenses on an after-tax basis of \$188,000, or \$0.02 per diluted share, related to the pending merger of NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank, were incurred during the fourth quarter of 2017.

As a result of the additional income tax expense and the merger-related expenses, net income for the fourth quarter of 2017 decreased \$1.5 million, or 72.1%, compared to the corresponding period of 2016.

Net income excluding the additional income tax expense and merger-related expenses (referred to as Adjusted Net Income) was \$2.5 million, or \$0.30 per diluted share, for the three months ended December 31, 2017. Adjusted Net Income for the three months ended December 31, 2017 increased \$417,000, or 20.3%, compared to net income for the three months ended December 31, 2016 of \$2.1 million, or \$0.25 per diluted share.

For the year ended December 31, 2017, Adjusted Net Income was \$8.8 million, or \$1.06 per diluted share, compared to net income for the year ended December 31, 2016 of \$9.3 million, or \$1.14 per diluted share. If the lower federal corporate income tax rate had been in effect in 2017, the Company's reported 2017 income tax expense of \$5.9 million, excluding the \$1.7 million of tax expense due to the revaluation of the deferred taxes, would have been approximately \$2.9 million, or \$1.3 million lower.

Adjusted Net Income and Adjusted Net Income per Diluted Share are non-GAAP measures. A reconciliation of these non-GAAP measures to the reported net income and net income per diluted share is set forth below.

Selected highlights for the fourth quarter of 2017 includes:

Return on average assets and return on average equity based on reported net income were 0.21% and 2.03%, respectively. Adjusted return on average assets and adjusted return on average equity based on Adjusted Net Income were 0.92% and 8.76%, respectively.

Commercial business, commercial real estate and construction loans totaled \$538.2 million at December 31, 2017, and increased \$100.2 million, or 22.9%, compared to \$438.1 million at December 31, 2016.



Net interest income was \$9.8 million.

1st Constitution Bank recorded a provision for loan losses of \$150,000 and net recoveries were \$62,000.

Non-performing assets were \$7.1 million or 0.66% of assets at December 31, 2017.

1st Constitution Bank sold other real estate owned (referred to as OREO) properties totaling \$356,000 in the fourth quarter of 2017 and owned no OREO properties at December 31, 2017.

Book value per share and tangible book value per share were \$13.81 and \$12.27, respectively, at December 31, 2017.



1st Constitution Bancorp  
 Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures (1)  
 (Dollars in thousands, except per share data)  
 (Unaudited)

	Three months ended		Twelve months ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Adjusted net income				
Net income	\$ 574	\$ 2,056	\$ 6,928	\$ 9,285
Adjustments:				
Revaluation of deferred tax assets	1,712	-	1,712	-
Merger-related expenses	265	-	265	-
Income tax effect of adjustments (2)	(77)	-	(77)	-
Adjusted net income	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,056	\$ 8,828	\$ 9,285
Adjusted net income per diluted share				
Adjusted net income	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,056	\$ 8,828	\$ 9,285
Diluted shares outstanding	8,340,318	8,228,741	8,312,784	8,177,439
Adjusted net income per diluted share	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.25	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.14
Adjusted average return on average assets				
Adjusted net income	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,056		
Average assets	1,062,232	1,028,464		
Adjusted return on average assets	0.92%	0.80%		
Adjusted average return on average equity				
Adjusted net income	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,056		
Average equity	112,054	103,986		
Adjusted return on average equity	8.76%	7.89%		

(1) The Company  
 used the  
 non-GAAP  
 financial

measures, Adjusted Net Income and Adjusted Net Income per Diluted Share, because the Company believes that it is useful for the users of the financial information to understand the effect on net income of the revaluation of its deferred tax assets and of the merger-related expenses incurred in connection with the merger with New Jersey Community Bank. These non-GAAP financial measures improve the comparability of the current period results with the results of prior periods. The Company cautions that the non-GAAP financial measures should be considered in addition to, but not as a substitute for, the Company's GAAP results.

Tax effected at  
an income tax  
rate of 39.94%,  
(2) less the impact  
of  
non-deductible  
merger  
expenses.

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NJCB

On February 9, 2018, NJCB issued a press release reporting its operating results for the fourth quarter of 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2017. Selected highlights of NJCB's operating results are as follows:

For the three months ended December 31, 2017, NJCB reported a net loss of \$320 thousand, or (\$0.17) per share, compared with a net loss of \$361 thousand, or (\$0.19) per share, for the same period in 2016. For the year ended December 31, 2017, NJCB reported a net loss of \$1.2 million, or (\$0.63) per common share, compared with a net loss of \$1.6 million, or (\$0.85) per common share, for the year ended December 31, 2016. The losses for the year ended December 31, 2017 were negatively impacted largely due to one-time expenses associated with the anticipated merger with 1st Constitution Bank, legal fees and certain other expenses.

The losses for the fourth quarter of 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2017 were, in part, further impacted by the increased cost of deposits as a result of increases in both average volume and interest rates when compared to the same periods in 2016. Total interest income for the fourth quarter of 2017 increased primarily as a result of an increase in interest income on loans due to increased loans outstanding year over year, complemented by additional yield related fee income on loans. Net interest margin for the fourth quarter of 2017 increased 37 basis points year over year primarily due to the improved net interest income during such quarter.

At December 31, 2017, total assets were \$103.1 million, a decrease of \$2.0 million from December 31, 2016. Due from banks-time deposits decreased \$3.2 million, and total investment securities decreased \$1.0 million. These decreases were offset in part by an increase in loans. Loans totaled \$79.0 million, increasing \$2.2 million compared to year end 2016. The growth in loans was funded utilizing the available liquidity in due from banks-time deposits.

Total deposits decreased \$842 thousand compared to the levels at year end 2016. Non-interest bearing deposits decreased \$2.1 million and savings, NOW and money market accounts decreased \$3.5 million. These decreases were substantially offset by a \$4.8 million increase in total time deposits. Time deposits increased as a result of deposit promotions during the second half of 2017.

Shareholders' equity totaled \$8.9 million at December 31, 2017, decreasing primarily due to the net losses reported during the year 2017. At December 31, 2017, NJCB reported a leverage ratio of 8.67%; both common equity tier 1 risk based capital and tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 11.19%; and a total risk based capital ratio of 12.45%. These ratios exceed those needed to be deemed a well-capitalized financial institution.





## FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Information set forth in this proxy statement-prospectus, including financial estimates and statements as to the expected timing, completion and effects of the proposed merger between 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and the rules, regulations and releases of the Securities and Exchange Commission (referred to as the SEC). Such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the merger, including future financial and operating results, and the combined company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions. Any statements that are not statements of historical fact, including statements containing such words as "will," "could," "plans," "intends," "expect," "believe," "view," "opportunity," "allow," "continues," "reflects," "typically," "a," "estimated," or similar expressions, should also be considered forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. Readers should not place undue influence on these forward-looking statements, which are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the management of 1st Constitution and NJCB. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, and actual results might differ materially from those discussed in, or implied by, the forward-looking statements.

Among the risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ from those described in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the merger agreement; (2) the risk that NJCB's shareholders may not adopt the merger agreement; (3) the risk that the necessary regulatory approvals or waivers may not be obtained or may be obtained subject to conditions that are not anticipated; (4) delays in closing the merger or other risks that any of the closing conditions to the merger may not be satisfied in a timely manner; (5) the inability to realize expected cost savings and synergies from the merger in the amounts or in the timeframe anticipated; (6) the diversion of management's time from ongoing business operations due to issues relating to the merger; (7) costs or difficulties relating to integration matters might be greater than expected; (8) material adverse changes in 1st Constitution's or NJCB's operations or earnings; (9) potential litigation in connection with the merger; (10) an increase or decrease in the common stock price of 1st Constitution during the 10 day pricing period prior to the closing of the merger, which could cause an adjustment to the exchange ratio or give NJCB the right to terminate the merger agreement under certain circumstances; (11) the inability to retain NJCB's customers and employees; and (12) the recent change in Federal tax law may have a negative impact on 1st Constitution's tax benefits from the merger. Although 1st Constitution's management has taken certain steps to mitigate any negative effect of the aforementioned items, significant unfavorable changes could severely impact the assumptions used and could have an adverse effect on profitability.

Additional factors that could cause 1st Constitution's results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in 1st Constitution's filings with the SEC, including their Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC.

1st Constitution undertakes no obligation to update, alter, or otherwise revise any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this proxy statement-prospectus. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the proposed merger or other matters addressed in this proxy statement-prospectus and attributable to 1st Constitution or NJCB or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. Except to the extent required by applicable law or regulation, 1st Constitution and NJCB undertake no obligation to update, alter, or otherwise revise any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this proxy statement-prospectus

or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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## RISK FACTORS

By approving the merger, NJCB shareholders will receive 1st Constitution common stock and thus will be investing in 1st Constitution common stock. An investment in 1st Constitution common stock involves a degree of risk. In addition to the other information included in this document, including the matters addressed in “FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION” immediately preceding this section, you should carefully consider the matters described below in determining whether to approve the merger agreement.

Risks pertaining to the proposed merger:

NJCB shareholders cannot be certain of the market value of the merger consideration they will receive because the market price of 1st Constitution common stock may fluctuate and the exchange ratio may be adjusted.

Upon completion of the merger, NJCB common shareholders will be entitled to receive, subject to the terms in the merger agreement, for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that they own at the effective time of the merger, a combination of 1st Constitution common stock and cash as follows:

- (i) If the exchange ratio average price (as defined below) is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be 0.1333 of a share of common stock of 1st Constitution, subject to adjustment as described below and subject to the payment of cash in lieu of fractional shares as described below; and
- (ii) \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB.

The term “exchange ratio average price” means 1st Constitution’s average closing common stock share price during the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank or NJCB has notified the others in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received.

Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is greater than \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted downward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is less than \$17.10, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted upward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. However, in no event will the stock exchange ratio be greater than 0.1425 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the exchange ratio average price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution will have the right, in its sole discretion, to increase the exchange ratio for the stock exchange ratio to the extent necessary for the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization. The intent of the foregoing is that NJCB’s shareholders will receive at the closing of the merger \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow, and 1st Constitution common stock with a value (based on the exchange ratio average price) of between \$2.28 (unless the exchange ratio average price is \$16.00 or less, in which case the value of 1st Constitution common stock received will be less than \$2.28 since the stock exchange ratio will not exceed 0.1425) and \$2.52 for each share of NJCB common stock they own.

The market value of the stock consideration in the merger may vary from the closing price of 1st Constitution common stock on the date we announced the merger, on the date that this document is being mailed to NJCB shareholders, on the date of the special meeting of NJCB shareholders and on the date we complete the merger and thereafter. Any change in the market price of 1st Constitution common stock prior to completion of the merger will affect the market value of the stock consideration in the merger that NJCB shareholders will receive upon completion of the merger. Accordingly, at the time of the NJCB special meeting, NJCB shareholders will not know or be able to calculate the market value of the merger consideration they would receive upon completion of the merger except that they will receive \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow, and 1st Constitution common stock with a value (based on the exchange ratio average price) of between \$2.28 (unless the exchange ratio average price is \$16.00 or less, in which case the value of 1st Constitution common stock received will be less than \$2.28 since the stock exchange ratio will not exceed 0.1425) and \$2.52 for each share of NJCB common stock they own if the merger is completed.



Other than the adjustment in the event the exchange ratio average price falls below \$17.10 or rises above \$18.90 prior to the date when the exchange ratio average price is determined, there will be no adjustment to the merger consideration for changes in the market price of either shares of 1st Constitution common stock or shares of NJCB common stock. Stock price changes may result from a variety of factors, including general market and economic conditions, changes in 1st Constitution's or NJCB's respective businesses, operations and prospects, and regulatory considerations. Many of these factors are beyond 1st Constitution's or NJCB's control. NJCB shareholders should obtain current market quotations for shares of 1st Constitution common stock and for shares of NJCB common stock before they vote on the merger.

NJCB shareholders may not receive all of the cash consideration of \$1.60 in the merger for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that they own.

Of the \$1.60 in cash that is part of the merger consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock, \$0.21 will not be paid at the closing of the merger and will be placed in escrow to cover costs and expenses, including settlement costs, if any, that 1st Constitution may incur after the closing of the merger as a result of the O'Donnell litigation matter. The total amount remaining in escrow, after deducting these costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the O'Donnell litigation matter will be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the O'Donnell litigation matter. If 1st Constitution incurs any costs and expenses, including any amounts paid to settle the matter, in connection with the O'Donnell litigation matter, these costs and expenses will be deducted from the amounts held in escrow and former NJCB shareholders will receive less than \$1.60 in cash as part of the merger consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that they own. The amount in cash that NJCB shareholders will eventually receive in the merger will be unknown at the time that they vote on the merger agreement except that they will know that the amount in cash will be between \$1.39 (if all of the escrowed amount is used to cover 1st Constitution's costs and expenses related to the O'Donnell litigation matter) and \$1.60 (if 1st Constitution incurs no costs and expenses related to the O'Donnell litigation matter).

1st Constitution will not be registering any of the rights that former NJCB shareholders have to the total escrow amount under any federal or state securities laws. Accordingly, during the escrow period, former NJCB shareholders will not be able to sell or transfer their rights to the total escrow amount except (i) for transfers to an entity's members upon its liquidation, (ii) to relatives and trusts for estate planning purposes, (iii) by virtue of the laws of descent and distribution upon death or (iv) pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

The Internal Revenue Service could challenge the treatment of the merger as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, which could result in adverse tax consequences.

1st Constitution and NJCB have structured the merger to qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. In particular, 1st Constitution and NJCB believe the terms of the cash and stock mix of merger consideration to be received by NJCB common shareholders qualifies as "fixed consideration" for purposes of the required "continuity of interest" rule under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, no ruling is being sought from the Internal Revenue Service (referred to as the IRS) on this issue, and it is possible that the IRS may challenge this position. If the IRS were to challenge successfully the treatment of the merger as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, there may be adverse tax consequences to holders of NJCB common stock. In addition, NJCB may be subject to additional tax, for which 1st Constitution will become liable as a result of the merger. These tax consequences are described more fully under "Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences – Tax Consequences if the Merger Fails to Qualify as a Reorganization."

NJCB's shareholders will have less influence as a shareholder of 1st Constitution than as a shareholder of NJCB.

The shareholders of NJCB currently have the right to control NJCB through their ability to elect the Board of Directors of NJCB and to vote on other matters affecting NJCB. The merger will transfer control of NJCB to 1st Constitution. Assuming none of the NJCB stock options and NJCB warrants are exercised prior to completion of the merger and no adjustment is made in the stock exchange ratio of 0.1333 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock for each share of NJCB common stock, former NJCB shareholders will own less than 3.1% of 1st Constitution's outstanding common stock (excluding stock options) after completion of the merger. Consequently, the former NJCB shareholders will exercise much less influence over the management and policies of 1st Constitution than they currently exercise over the management and policies of NJCB.





If 1st Constitution Bank does not successfully integrate NJCB and any other banks that 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank may acquire in the future, the combined bank may be adversely affected.

If the merger of NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank is completed, and if 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank makes additional acquisitions in the future, 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank will need to integrate the acquired entities into its existing business and systems. 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank may experience difficulties in accomplishing this integration or in effectively managing the combined bank after the merger with NJCB, and after any future acquisition. Any actual cost savings or revenue enhancements that 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank may anticipate from a future acquisition will depend on future expense levels and operating results, the timing of certain events and general industry and regulatory and business conditions. Many of these events will be beyond 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank's control, and 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank cannot assure you that if the merger is consummated or if 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank makes any additional acquisitions in the future, it will be successful in integrating those businesses into its own.

1st Constitution may issue additional shares of common stock as a result of the merger or otherwise, which may dilute the ownership and voting power of its shareholders and the book value of its common stock.

1st Constitution is currently authorized to issue up to 30,000,000 shares of common stock, of which 8,082,903 shares were outstanding on December 31, 2017 and an additional 254,396 shares are estimated to be issued in the merger (assuming an exchange ratio of 0.1333 for the stock consideration in the merger and no NJCB options or warrants are exercised prior to closing). Since approximately 40% of the merger consideration will be paid in cash, 1st Constitution may decide to issue additional shares of common stock to replenish its cash position. In addition, 1st Constitution may decide to issue additional shares of common stock for any other corporate purposes. The Board of Directors of 1st Constitution has authority, without action or vote of 1st Constitution shareholders, to issue all or part of the authorized but unissued shares of common stock in public offerings or up to 20% of its outstanding common stock in non-public offerings. Any issuance of shares of 1st Constitution common stock will dilute the percentage ownership interest of 1st Constitution common shareholders, including NJCB common shareholders who become 1st Constitution common shareholders, and may dilute the book value of 1st Constitution common stock.

1st Constitution's future acquisitions could also dilute your ownership of 1st Constitution and may cause 1st Constitution to become more susceptible to adverse economic events.

1st Constitution may acquire or make investments in banks and other complementary businesses with its common stock in the future. 1st Constitution may issue additional shares of common stock to pay for those acquisitions, which would dilute your ownership interest in 1st Constitution. Future business acquisitions could be material to 1st Constitution, and the degree of success achieved in acquiring and integrating these businesses into 1st Constitution could have a material effect on the value of 1st Constitution common stock. In addition, any such acquisition could require 1st Constitution to use substantial cash or other liquid assets or to incur debt. In those events, 1st Constitution could become more susceptible to economic downturns and competitive pressures.

If the merger does not occur by November 6, 2018, each of 1st Constitution and NJCB is generally free to choose not to proceed with the merger.

Either 1st Constitution or NJCB may terminate the merger agreement if the merger has not been completed by November 6, 2018, unless such failure has resulted from the failure to perform by the party seeking to terminate the merger agreement. Although 1st Constitution and NJCB expect to close the merger in April 2018, there can be no assurance that all conditions to the merger will be satisfied or waived by November 6, 2018.

The expected benefits of the merger may not be realized if the combined bank does not achieve certain cost savings and other benefits.

1st Constitution's belief that cost savings and revenue enhancements are achievable is a forward-looking statement that is inherently uncertain. The combined bank's actual cost savings and revenue enhancements, if any, cannot be quantified at this time. Any actual cost savings or revenue enhancements will depend on future expense levels and operating results, the timing of certain events and general industry, regulatory and business conditions. Many of these events will be beyond the control of the combined bank.



NJCB's officers and directors may have conflicts of interest and will receive benefits in the merger that other NJCB shareholders will not receive.

NJCB's directors and executive officers may have conflicts of interest with respect to the merger because they will receive benefits from the merger that other NJCB shareholders will not receive. See "Interests of Management and Others in the Merger" beginning on page 51. Both Boards of Directors considered these interests, together with other relevant factors, in deciding whether to approve the merger.

Risks pertaining to 1st Constitution's business:

We could be adversely affected by the recent adoption of U.S. federal income tax reform

On December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was enacted, effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017. Among other things, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowers the corporate tax rate to 21 percent, eliminating current brackets that have a maximum tax rate of 35 percent. As a result of the reduction of the corporate tax rate to 21% for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, companies will have to re-measure their deferred tax assets and liabilities as of the date of enactment, and any resulting tax effects will need to be accounted for in the reporting period of enactment. 1st Constitution has undertaken an initial re-measurement of its deferred tax assets and liabilities, and its preliminary estimate is that its deferred tax assets will be written down by approximately \$1.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2017. This estimate is based upon management's review and analysis of 1st Constitution's deferred tax assets as of the date of enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The actual write-down may be different because of a number of factors, including the completion of 1st Constitution's consolidated federal income tax return for the year ended December 31, 2017. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, 1st Constitution should benefit from the lower corporate tax rate of 21 percent promulgated by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

For a discussion of other risk factors pertaining to 1st Constitution's business, please refer to 1st Constitution's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A, which was filed with the SEC on March 20, 2017 and is incorporated by reference in this proxy statement-prospectus.

## THE SPECIAL MEETING

When and Where the Special Meeting will be Held

NJCB will hold its special meeting of shareholders at the American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, commencing at 9:30 a.m., EST, on March 22, 2018.

What will be Voted on at the Shareholders' Meeting

At the NJCB special meeting, NJCB shareholders will consider and vote upon the following matters:

(1)

Approval of the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 6, 2017, by and among 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB pursuant to which NJCB will merge with and into 1st Constitution Bank; and

(2)

Authorization of the NJCB Board of Directors (i) to adjourn or postpone the special meeting, including, without limitation, on a motion to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

If a quorum is not present, or if fewer shares of NJCB common stock are voted in favor of the merger agreement than the number required for approval, it is expected that the special meeting will be adjourned to allow additional time for obtaining additional proxies. In that event, proxies will be voted to approve an adjournment, except for proxies as to which instructions have been given to vote against the merger agreement. Assuming a quorum is present, the holders of a majority of the shares present at the special meeting would be required to approve any adjournment of the special meeting.



#### Shareholders Entitled to Vote

NJCB has set February 5, 2018 as the record date to determine which NJCB shareholders will be entitled to vote at the special meeting. Only NJCB shareholders at the close of business on this record date will be entitled to vote at the special meeting. As of the record date, there were 1,908,445 shares of NJCB common stock outstanding and entitled to be voted at the special meeting, held by approximately 270 shareholders of record. Each holder of shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record.

#### Number of Shares that Must be Represented for a Vote to be Taken

In order to have a quorum at the special meeting, a majority of the total outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting must be represented at the special meeting in person or by proxy.

NJCB will count as present at the special meeting, for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum:

shares of common stock held by persons attending the special meeting, whether or not they are voting, and

shares of common stock for which NJCB has received proxies, including proxies with respect to which holders of those shares have abstained from voting.

#### Vote Required; Voting Agreements

The approval of the merger agreement will require the affirmative vote, in person or by proxy, of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of NJCB's common stock outstanding on the record date. The authorization of the NJCB Board (i) to adjourn or postpone the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting will require that the number of votes cast in person or by proxy at the special meeting in favor of the proposal exceeds the number of votes cast against the proposal. Each holder of shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present and will have the same effect as a vote against the merger and merger agreement. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the authorization of the Board (i) to adjourn or postpone the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

The directors, executive officers and 5% shareholders of NJCB have agreed with 1st Constitution to vote all shares of NJCB common stock for which they have voting power on the record date in favor of the approval of the merger agreement. As of the record date of February 5, 2018, such directors, executive officers and 5% shareholders had sole or shared voting power over 839,394 shares of NJCB common stock, or approximately 44.0% of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on February 5, 2018.

#### Voting your Shares

The NJCB Board is soliciting proxies from the NJCB shareholders. This will give you an opportunity to vote at the special meeting. When you deliver a valid proxy, the shares represented by that proxy will be voted by a named agent in accordance with your instructions.



If you are an NJCB shareholder and you sign, date and mail your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of authorization of the Board (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. If you fail to return your proxy card or vote by telephone, via the internet or in person or fail to instruct your broker or other nominee to vote your shares, your shares will not be voted and this will have the same effect as a vote against approval of the merger agreement but will have no effect on the proposal regarding approval of authorization of the Board (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

If you sign a proxy, you may revoke it by written notice to the Secretary of NJCB at any time before it is voted at the applicable special meeting.



You cannot vote shares held by your broker or other nominee in “street name.” Only your broker can vote those shares, with your instructions. If you do not provide your broker or other nominee with instructions on how to vote your shares, your broker or other nominee will not be permitted to vote those shares.

NJCB shareholders will have four alternative ways to vote:

by traditional paper proxy card;

by telephone;

via the internet; or

in person at the special meeting.

Please take a moment to read the instructions for voting at the NJCB special meeting of shareholders, choose the way to vote that you find most convenient and cast your vote as soon as possible.

**Voting by Proxy Card.** If proxy cards in the accompanying form are properly executed and returned, the shares represented thereby will be voted in the manner specified therein. As stated above, if you are an NJCB shareholder and you sign, date and mail your proxy card without indicating how you wish to vote, your proxy will be counted as a vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and the merger and FOR approval of authorization of the Board of Directors (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

**Voting by Telephone.** If you wish to vote by telephone and you are a shareholder of record of NJCB, use a touch-tone telephone to call toll-free 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) and follow the instructions. If you vote by telephone, you must have your control number and the proxy card available when you call.

**Voting via the Internet.** If you wish to vote via the internet and you are a shareholder of record of NJCB, you can access the web page at [www.investorvote.com/NJCB](http://www.investorvote.com/NJCB) and follow the on-screen instructions. If you vote via the internet, you must have your control number and the proxy card available when you access the web page.

If your shares are registered in the name of a broker or other nominee, the voting form your broker or other nominee sent you will provide telephone and internet voting instructions.

The deadline for voting by telephone or via the internet as a shareholder of record of NJCB is 1:00 a.m., EST, on March 22, 2018. For shareholders whose shares are registered in the name of a broker or other nominee, please consult the voting instructions provided by your broker or other nominee for information about the deadline for voting by telephone or via the internet.

**Voting in Person.** If you attend the NJCB special meeting, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the special meeting.

If you fail to return your proxy card or vote by telephone, via the internet or in person or fail to instruct your broker or other nominee to vote your shares, your shares will not be voted and this will have the same effect as a vote against

approval of the merger agreement but will have no effect on the proposal regarding approval of authorization of the Board (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

#### Revoking or Changing your Vote

As an NJCB shareholder, you will be able to revoke or change your vote as many times as you wish, and the last vote received chronologically by any means will supersede your prior vote(s) or revocations(s).

Any NJCB shareholder may revoke a proxy at any time before or at the NJCB special meeting in one or more of the following ways:

Delivering a written notice of revocation, bearing a later date than the proxy, at any time prior to the vote at the special meeting to Shelly I. LoCascio, Corporate Secretary; or

Submitting a later-dated proxy card; or

Submitting a new proxy by telephone or via the internet.



An NJCB shareholder should send any written notice of revocation or subsequent proxy to New Jersey Community Bank, Attention: Shelly I. LoCascio, Corporate Secretary, 3441 U.S. Highway 9, Freehold, New Jersey 07728, or hand deliver the notice of revocation or subsequent proxy to Shelly I. LoCascio before the taking of the vote at the NJCB special meeting. Attendance at the NJCB special meeting will not by itself constitute a revocation of a proxy.

#### Solicitation of Proxies and Costs

The solicitation of proxies for the NJCB special meeting of shareholders is made on behalf of the NJCB Board. NJCB will pay the costs of soliciting proxies with respect to its special meeting. In addition to solicitation by mail, directors, officers and employees acting on behalf of NJCB may solicit proxies for the special meeting in person or by telephone, telegraph, facsimile or other means of communication. NJCB will not pay any additional compensation to these directors, officers or employees for these activities, but may reimburse them for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

NJCB will each make arrangements with brokerage houses, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for the forwarding of proxy solicitation materials to beneficial owners of shares held of record by these brokerage houses, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries, and NJCB will reimburse these brokerage houses, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the solicitation.

NJCB has retained Laurel Hill Advisory Group, LLC, at an estimated cost of \$6,000 plus reimbursement of out of pocket expenses, including per call fees for each call made, to assist in the solicitation of proxies. NJCB also has agreed to indemnify Laurel Hill Advisory Group, LLC against certain liabilities in connection with this proxy solicitation.

#### Principal Shareholders of NJCB

The tables below provide certain information about beneficial ownership of NJCB common stock as of February 5, 2018. The tables show information for:

Each of NJCB's directors;

Each of NJCB's executive officers;

All of NJCB's directors and executive officers as a group; and

Each person, or group of affiliated persons, who is known to NJCB to beneficially own more than 5% of NJCB's common stock.

Except as otherwise noted, the persons or entities in the below tables have sole voting and investing power with respect to all shares of common stock beneficially owned by them, subject to community property laws, where applicable. In addition, except as otherwise noted, the address of each person or entity in the below tables is c/o New Jersey Community Bank, 3441 U.S. Highway 9, Freehold, New Jersey 07728.

Beneficial Owner

Total

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	Common Stock (1)	Common Stock Subject to Options and Warrants (2)		Percentage Ownership
William H. Placke (3) (4)	100	3,000	3,100	0.2%
Andrew C. Harris (3) (5)	35,033	11,411	46,444	2.4%
Shelly I. LoCascio (3) (6)	16,275	7,996	24,271	1.3%
Edward M. Brock (3) (7)	20,556	14,293	34,849	1.8%
Kenneth W. Faistl, M.D. (3) (8)	11,563	8,690	20,253	1.1%
Neeraj Gupta, Esq. (3)	4,563	1,050	5,613	0.3%
Steven A. Kaye (3)	12,553	7,996	20,549	1.1%
Steven T. Meyer (3)	446,955	–	446,955	23.4%
James M. Burns, Esq. (3)	125	–	125	0.0%
Naqi A. Naqvi (9) (10)	2,301	12,525	14,826	0.8%
All Directors and Executive Officers (10 persons)	550,024	66,961	616,985	31.2%





Beneficial Owner of more than 5% of the Common Stock	Common Stock (1)	Common Stock Subject to Options and Warrants		Total	Percentage Ownership
Christopher Stanziale, Jr. (11)	184,370	–		184,370	9.7%
Antonio Romeo DiSantillo (12)	105,000	–		105,000	5.5%
Steven T. Myer (3)	446,955	–		446,955	23.4%

(1)

In accordance with Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner, for purposes of this table, of any shares of common stock if he or she has voting or investment power with respect to such security. This includes shares owned by spouses, other immediate family members in trust, shares held in retirement accounts or funds for the benefit of the named individuals, and other forms of ownership, over which shares the person named in the table may possess voting and/or investment power. Except as otherwise noted, all shares are owned of record or beneficially by the named person. The information provided in the above tables and in the footnotes below were provided by the individuals and entities referred to in the tables, and while such information is believed to be correct by 1st Constitution, it cannot independently verify such information.

(2)

Includes, for purposes of this table, the number of shares of common stock subject to currently exercisable options, options exercisable within sixty (60) days of February 5, 2018 and currently exercisable warrants.

(3)

As of February 5, 2018, such individual was serving as a member of NJCB's Board of Directors.

(4)

Mr. Placke currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of NJCB.

(5)

Includes 29,131 shares held by Liberty Holding Company, a company owned by Mr. Harris, and 5,787 shares that Mr. Harris holds jointly with his spouse.

(6)

Includes 8,913 shares that Ms. LoCascio holds jointly with her spouse and 5,787 shares held by Irwin Family, LLC, a company in which Ms. LoCascio serves as a partner.

(7)

Includes 20,325 shares that Mr. Brock holds jointly with his spouse.

(8)

Includes 11,063 shares that Dr. Faistl holds jointly with his spouse.

(9)

Mr. Naqvi currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of NJCB.

(10)

Includes 1,451 shares that Mr. Naqvi holds jointly with his spouse and 850 shares held in a 401(k) Plan for the benefit of Mr. Naqvi.

(11)

Mr. Stanziale, Jr. maintains a mailing address at 3 Fiore Court, Oceanport, NJ 07757.

(12)

Mr. DiSantillo maintains a mailing address at 1 Sandy Lane, Howell, NJ 07731.

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**PROPOSAL 1:  
APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT**

The following information describes the material terms and provisions of the merger. This description is not complete. We qualify this discussion in its entirety by reference to the merger agreement which we incorporate by reference in this proxy statement-prospectus. A copy of the merger agreement is attached hereto as Annex A. We urge you to read the full text of the merger agreement carefully.

The merger agreement provides that NJCB will merge with and into 1st Constitution Bank, with 1st Constitution Bank as the surviving bank in the merger. Upon completion of the merger, NJCB shareholders will receive, subject to the terms in the merger agreement, for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that they own at the effective time of the merger, a combination of 1st Constitution common stock and cash as follows:

- (i) If the exchange ratio average price (as defined below) is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be 0.1333 of a share of common stock of 1st Constitution, subject to adjustment as described below and subject to the payment of cash in lieu of fractional shares; and
- (ii) \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB.

The term “exchange ratio average price” means 1st Constitution’s average closing common stock share price during the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank or NJCB has notified the others in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received.

Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is greater than \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted downward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is less than \$17.10, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted upward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. However, in no event will the stock exchange ratio be greater than 0.1425 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the exchange ratio average price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution will have the right, in its sole discretion, to increase the exchange ratio for the stock consideration to the extent necessary for the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization.

The following table illustrates the effect of changes in the exchange ratio average price on the exchange ratio:

Exchange Ratio Average Price	Stock Exchange Ratio (i.e., percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock to be received for each share of NJCB common stock)
\$16.00 and below	0.1425
\$17.00	0.1341
\$17.10 – \$18.90	0.1333
\$19.00	0.1326
\$20.00	0.1260
\$21.00	0.1200

Of the \$1.60 in cash that is part of the consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock, \$0.21 will not be paid at the closing of the merger and will be placed in escrow to cover costs and expenses, including settlement costs, if any, that 1st Constitution may incur after the closing of the merger as a result of the O'Donnell litigation matter. The total amount remaining in escrow, after deducting these costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the O'Donnell litigation matter will be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the O'Donnell litigation matter.



1st Constitution will not be registering any of the rights that former NJCB shareholders have to the total escrow amount under any federal or state securities laws. Accordingly, during the escrow period, former NJCB shareholders will not be able to sell or transfer their rights to the total escrow amount except (i) for transfers to an entity's members upon its liquidation, (ii) to relatives and trusts for estate planning purposes, (iii) by virtue of the laws of descent and distribution upon death or (iv) pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

See "Terms of the Merger –What NJCB Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger," beginning at page 41.

The exchange ratio will be adjusted proportionately if 1st Constitution makes any stock splits, stock dividends or similar distributions prior to the closing of the merger.

1st Constitution will not issue any fractions of a share of common stock. Rather, 1st Constitution will pay cash (without interest) for any fractional share interest any NJCB shareholder would otherwise receive in the merger. All shares of NJCB common stock held by a shareholder immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be aggregated before determining the need to pay cash in lieu of fractional shares to such former NJCB shareholder.

The Boards of Directors of NJCB, 1st Constitution, and 1st Constitution Bank have unanimously approved and adopted the merger agreement and believe that the merger is advisable for their respective shareholders. The NJCB Board unanimously recommends that NJCB shareholders vote FOR approval of the merger agreement and FOR approval of authorization of the Board (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.

Each outstanding NJCB stock option, whether vested or unvested, to acquire shares of common stock of NJCB will be terminated at the effective time of the merger and converted on the effective date of the merger into the right to receive cash equal to the product of (i) the aggregate number of shares of NJCB common stock underlying such outstanding option multiplied by (ii) the excess, if any, of \$4.00 over the per share exercise price of such outstanding option.

With respect to each outstanding warrant to acquire shares of NJCB common stock, such warrants will expire in accordance with their terms prior to the effective time of the merger. Accordingly, 1st Constitution will not pay any consideration to the holders of the warrants because the warrants will not be outstanding at the effective time of the merger.

The directors and executive officers of NJCB have interests in the merger as directors or executive officers that are different from the interests of NJCB's shareholders in general. See "Interests of Management and Others in the Merger" beginning on page 51. These interests were considered by NJCB's Board and 1st Constitution's Board before approving the merger agreement and in the case of NJCB's Board, recommending approval of the merger agreement to NJCB's shareholders.

#### Background of the Merger

NJCB was formed and opened for business in 2008 to serve as a strong, independent community bank servicing Monmouth County. However, beginning in 2013, due to, among other issues, certain asset quality issues requiring additional write-downs and provisions, NJCB began incurring substantial losses and has reported a loss for each year from 2013 through 2016 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2017. In addition, as a result of regulatory concerns which arose during NJCB's 2013 regulatory examination, effective March 24, 2014, NJCB entered into a Consent Order (referred to as the 2014 Order) with the FDIC and NJDOBI. Further, as a result of concerns which arose during a compliance exam, on July 29, 2015, NJCB entered into a second Consent Order (referred to as the 2015

Order) focused primarily on compliance, Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering issues. During the first half of 2015, several financial institutions had informally expressed a potential interest in holding discussions with NJCB regarding strategic transactions. As a result of NJCB's losses and regulatory constraints imposed by both the 2014 Order and the 2015 Order, in July of 2015, the NJCB Board of Directors began a strategic planning process designed to determine whether NJCB should remain as an independent financial institution or seek a strategic partner. The NJCB Board of Directors met in July and August of 2015 with representatives of Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P. (referred to as Sandler) who advised the NJCB Board of Directors with regard to the general banking environment, strategic alternatives available to NJCB, including recapitalization considerations, the current state of the merger and acquisition market and potential transaction partners. This strategic planning process continued into the Fall of 2015, at which time the NJCB Board of Directors determined that it was unlikely that NJCB could continue in its current form as an independent, stand-alone community financial institution without a significant influx of new capital, and that the shareholders of NJCB would be best served by finding a strategic partner. In November, 2015, Sandler was formally engaged by NJCB to serve as NJCB's financial advisor and to solicit indications of interests from parties potentially interested in undertaking a strategic transaction with NJCB.





In late December of 2015 and early January of 2016, Sandler contacted 14 parties to gauge their interest in a potential strategic transaction with NJCB. Eleven of the parties executed non-disclosure agreements and were given access to preliminary diligence material. Indications of interest were due on January 11, 2016. NJCB received five indications of interest with initial indicated pricing ranging from a low of \$3.95 per share of common stock to a high of \$7.00 per share of common stock, with the highest indicated price for a proposed recapitalization transaction in which NJCB shareholders would not be bought out, but would retain their minority interest in NJCB. In late January and early February of 2016, NJCB invited the three parties that had submitted the indications of interest with the highest prices, two financial institutions and the investor proposing the recapitalization, to undertake onsite diligence and provide updated pricing indications. In mid-February of 2016, all three parties provided updated pricing indications, ranging from a low of \$5.50 per share of common stock to a high of \$6.50 per share of common stock. Again, the investor proposing the recapitalization transaction provided the highest indicated price.

Ultimately, the investor proposing the recapitalization transaction determined that it was unlikely the transaction would gain regulatory approval and withdrew his indication. After considering the indications of interest, the NJCB Board of Directors picked the indication which it believed produced the best transaction for shareholders of NJCB, and from March through May of 2016, NJCB and its counsel and financial advisor negotiated with this party in an attempt to reach final agreement on a definitive merger agreement. Under the proposed terms of this agreement, each NJCB shareholder would receive \$5.45 in cash for each share of NJCB common stock, subject to downward adjustment based upon the closing equity of NJCB.

However, prior to execution of this merger agreement by NJCB and the proposed buyer, a dispute arose between NJCB and its landlord (an entity controlled by two individuals who were then directors of NJCB) regarding NJCB's main office location in Freehold, New Jersey and the landlord's right and obligation to consent to an assignment of the lease as part of the merger. When agreement with the landlord could not be reached, the proposed buyer terminated the negotiations for the definitive merger agreement and the proposed transaction collapsed. This also led to litigation by NJCB against the landlord, which was ultimately settled in September of 2017.

Despite the collapse of the proposed sale of NJCB and management terminating its engagement with Sandler in June 2016, management of NJCB continued to work on strengthening NJCB and addressing the concerns noted in the 2014 Order and the 2015 Order. In August of 2016, both the 2014 Order and the 2015 Order were lifted by the FDIC and the NJDOBI.

During the Fall of 2016 and early 2017, the NJCB Board of Directors resumed its strategic planning process. The NJCB Board of Directors believed that until the litigation with NJCB's landlord was resolved, any potential sale of NJCB would be very difficult. The NJCB Board of Directors therefore began planning a potential capital raise to be undertaken in the first quarter of 2017. An existing shareholder of NJCB had indicated a willingness to make a substantial investment in NJCB and based on that investment, members of the NJCB Board of Directors had agreed to invest an additional approximately \$525,000. The offering would then be opened to all existing shareholders of NJCB, allowing NJCB shareholders to invest at the same price as the lead investor and members of the NJCB Board of Directors. However, the lead investor was notified that due to concerns over concentration of ownership, the NJDOBI would not approve the proposed investment by the lead investor. Without the lead investor's substantial investment, the NJCB Board of Directors did not believe that the capital offering was likely to be successful, and the NJCB Board of Directors cancelled the proposed capital offering in the Spring of 2017.

At about the same time, NJCB was approached by the financial advisor for a group of third party investors expressing potential interest in recapitalizing NJCB (referred to as the Recapitalization Group). This transaction would involve an investment by the Recapitalization Group in NJCB, with current NJCB shareholders retaining a minority interest and not being bought out. The Recapitalization Group was in a very preliminary state and had not sourced all of the capital which would be required for a recapitalization of NJCB, nor had they approached any regulatory agencies to judge the

approvability of any effort that they might make to acquire control of an insured depository institution.

In late May of 2017, Robert Mangano, President and Chief Executive Officer of 1st Constitution, informally approached William H. Placke, President and Chief Executive Officer of NJCB, to judge NJCB's receptiveness to a potential strategic transaction. Mr. Mangano made it clear that 1st Constitution was interested in negotiating a transaction with NJCB and not in participating in a bidding process. Messrs. Mangano and Placke were known to each other, as both had previously worked at Midlantic National Bank prior to its sale to PNC Bank. The NJCB Board of Directors determined that NJCB should engage in discussions with both the Recapitalization Group and 1st Constitution. In May and June of 2017, NJCB entered into non-disclosure agreements with each of the Recapitalization Group and 1st Constitution and began providing preliminary diligence materials to both of them. As part of the diligence, Messrs. Placke and Naqi Naqvi, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of NJCB, met with members of the Recapitalization Group and its financial advisor and with members of management of 1st Constitution to provide further information and answer questions.



As a result of the continued interest of the Recapitalization Group and 1st Constitution, the NJCB Board of Directors determined that it was appropriate to retain a financial advisor to assist the NJCB Board of Directors in evaluating any proposals which might be presented by the Recapitalization Group and/or 1st Constitution. NJCB obtained proposals from two financial advisors and after reviewing and evaluating both, in July of 2017, elected to retain Boenning. In early July of 2017, 1st Constitution provided an initial indication of interest letter to NJCB providing for a stock for stock exchange, valuing NJCB at \$4.00 per share of common stock. In early July of 2017, the Recapitalization Group verbally discussed a transaction in which they would invest \$15 million in new capital in NJCB at a price of \$3.50 per share of common stock. On July 19, 2017, the NJCB Board of Directors met with the representatives of Boenning and representatives of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, NJCB's counsel (referred to as Windels), to consider the pricing indications supplied by both 1st Constitution and the Recapitalization Group. The NJCB Board of Directors discussed the proposed terms of each proposed transaction, including the regulatory risks to approval of each transaction. The NJCB Board of Directors noted that in the recapitalization transaction, NJCB shareholders would not be bought out. The NJCB Board of Directors also discussed the preference by 1st Constitution for engaging in a negotiated transaction, and the indication by 1st Constitution that it would not participate in a bidding process. After discussing the issues further, the NJCB Board of Directors directed management and representatives of Boenning and Windels to continue discussion with both 1st Constitution and the Recapitalization Group in an effort to enhance their proposals, but determined that NJCB should not solicit other indications of interest because (i) NJCB had gone through a broad based bid process less than eighteen months before and (ii) 1st Constitution had expressed an intent not to engage in a bidding process, and the NJCB Board of Directors did not want to lose 1st Constitution as a potentially interested party.

Over the next several weeks of July 2017, representatives of Boenning and management of NJCB held discussions with both 1st Constitution and the Recapitalization Group. On July 21, 2017, the financial advisor for the Recapitalization Group met with Mr. Placke to discuss their financial plan for NJCB and a proposed transaction term sheet. On August 4, certain members of the NJCB Board of Directors, Messrs. Burns, Harris, Kaye, Meyer and Placke and Ms. LoCascio, met with the Recapitalization Group to discuss the background of members of the Recapitalization Group and their plan for NJCB. On August 9, 2017, members of NJCB management, with representatives of Boenning and Windels, met with management of 1st Constitution to discuss diligence matters and a potential timetable for a transaction.

On August 14, 2017, 1st Constitution and its counsel, Day Pitney, were provided with access to an electronic data room with NJCB diligence materials. Thereafter, 1st Constitution and Day Pitney commenced their due diligence review of NJCB.

On August 16, 2017, the Recapitalization Group provided NJCB with an indication of interest letter providing for an investment in NJCB of approximately \$15,000,000 at a price of \$3.50 per share of common stock. All new capital would go directly to NJCB, and NJCB shareholders would not be bought out.

The NJCB Board of Directors considered the indication of interest from the Recapitalization Group at a Board meeting on August 16, 2017. Representatives of Boenning and Windels participated in this Board meeting by phone. Representatives of Boenning reviewed the steps taken with each interested party since the last NJCB Board meeting and the indication with the NJCB Board of Directors and answered questions. Representatives of Windels discussed with the NJCB Board of Directors the regulatory approval process for each of the proposed transactions. After further discussion, the NJCB Board of Directors authorized management, working with Boenning, to continue discussions with both the Recapitalization Group and 1st Constitution.

On August 18, 2017, 1st Constitution provided NJCB with an updated indication of interest letter providing for a transaction value of \$4.29 per share of NJCB common stock to be paid in a mix of cash and 1st Constitution common stock. At this point, 1st Constitution also requested, as a condition to its willingness to undertake detailed onsite due

diligence, that NJCB enter into an exclusivity agreement with 1st Constitution requiring NJCB to cease any other negotiations and to refrain from soliciting indications from any third party or beginning negotiations with any third party for a period of 30 days, subject to extension.

At a telephonic meeting of the NJCB Board of Directors on August 21, 2017, representatives of Boenning reviewed the updated 1st Constitution indication of interest letter with members of the NJCB Board of Directors, and the NJCB Board of Directors discussed 1st Constitution's requirement that NJCB enter into an exclusivity agreement before 1st Constitution would agree to undertake onsite diligence. The NJCB Board of Directors authorized Mr. Placke to execute the exclusivity agreement and to continue negotiations, and to permit 1st Constitution to undertake detailed onsite diligence, on the basis of the terms in the updated 1st Constitution indication of interest letter.



On August 22, 2017, 1st Constitution conducted onsite diligence on NJCB, and on August 23, 2017, 1st Constitution and Day Pitney conducted further onsite diligence on NJCB. During these onsite diligence sessions, Mr. Mangano and other officers of 1st Constitution and representatives of Day Pitney held discussions with Messrs. Placke and Naqvi regarding the diligence materials and other matters related to the proposed transaction.

On September 19, 2017, management of NJCB, along with representatives of Boenning and Windels, met with representatives of 1st Constitution and Day Pitney to discuss the results of 1st Constitution's onsite diligence. As a result of certain concerns which had arisen through diligence, 1st Constitution proposed revising certain of the terms of the transaction, including a reduction of the per share price to \$4.00 per share of NJCB common stock to be paid in a mix of 1st Constitution common stock and cash, and requiring a portion of the merger consideration to be held in escrow pending resolution of certain litigation brought against NJCB by its former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, to be used to offset any cost or losses incurred by 1st Constitution in the litigation. In addition, 1st Constitution requested that NJCB agree to an extension of the exclusivity agreement.

The NJCB Board of Directors met on September 20, 2017 to review the results of the previous day's meeting between management of NJCB and 1st Constitution. Representatives of Boenning and Windels participated in the NJCB Board meeting. After discussing 1st Constitution's position with representatives of Boenning and Windels and reviewing NJCB's alternatives, the NJCB Board of Directors agreed to accept the proposed revised price from 1st Constitution and directed management, Boenning and Windels to begin negotiating a definitive merger agreement providing for the merger of NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank, as well as other final terms of the transaction.

On September 29, 2017, senior management of NJCB, along with representatives of Boenning and Windels, met with representatives of 1st Constitution and Day Pitney to discuss certain additional concerns regarding the outstanding litigation against NJCB. The parties discussed the amount of the escrow holdback, but did not agree on the amount.

Between early October and early November of 2017, management of NJCB and 1st Constitution and counsel for both entities negotiated the final terms of the merger agreement, including the final amount of the escrow holdback.

At an NJCB Board meeting on October 18, 2017, representatives of Windels and Boenning updated the NJCB Board of Directors on the current status of negotiations with 1st Constitution.

On October 24, 2017, 1st Constitution engaged Sandler for the purpose of providing financial and market information to 1st Constitution in connection with the merger. At the time Sandler was engaged by 1st Constitution, Sandler was not providing any financial advisory services to NJCB.

On the afternoon of November 6, 2017, the NJCB Board of Directors met to review the proposed definitive merger agreement and other ancillary documents, including the form of escrow agreement. Representatives of Boenning and Windels participated in the NJCB Board meeting. Counsel discussed with the members of the NJCB Board of Directors their fiduciary duties in considering the proposed merger agreement. The NJCB Board of Directors received an oral update from Boenning with regard to reverse diligence on 1st Constitution, and representatives of Boenning provided an analysis of the proposed transaction and rendered its oral opinion (which was subsequently confirmed in writing) that the merger consideration was fair to holders of NJCB common stock from a financial point of view. A copy of Boenning's fairness opinion is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex B. Representatives of Windels reviewed the terms of the merger agreement and related documents with the NJCB Board of Directors and answered questions. The NJCB Board of Directors then discussed the proposed transaction and its effect on NJCB shareholders. After further discussion, the NJCB Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the transaction with 1st Constitution and the merger agreement.



Later in the afternoon of November 6, 2017, the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank met to review the proposed merger agreement and related documents. Representatives of Sandler and Day Pitney attended the joint meeting of the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank. Representatives of Sandler made a presentation to the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank on the financial aspects of the transaction and advised on the financial implications of the transaction on both 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank. Representatives of Day Pitney reviewed the terms of the merger agreement and the related documents with the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank. Following a discussion by the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank on the proposed transaction, each of the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank unanimously approved the merger agreement and all related documents.



At the conclusion of the joint meeting of the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank, and after the trading markets had closed, the parties executed the merger agreement, each NJCB director executed a voting agreement, and the parties issued a joint press release announcing the proposed transaction.

#### NJCB's Reasons for the Merger

In determining that the merger and the merger agreement were fair to and advisable for NJCB and its shareholders, in authorizing and approving the merger, in adopting the merger agreement and in recommending that NJCB shareholders vote for approval of the merger agreement, the NJCB Board of Directors consulted with members of NJCB's management and with Boenning, and also considered a number of factors that the NJCB Board of Directors viewed as relevant to its decisions. The following discussion of the information and factors considered by the NJCB Board of Directors is not intended to be exhaustive; however, it does include all material factors considered by the NJCB Board of Directors.

In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, the NJCB Board of Directors considered the following:

the understanding of the NJCB Board of Directors of the strategic options available to NJCB and the NJCB Board of Directors' assessment of those options, including the difficulty of raising capital to remain as an independent institution and the determination that none of those options were more likely to create greater present value for NJCB's shareholders than the value to be paid by 1st Constitution;

1st Constitution's strong capital base;

the ability to become part of a larger institution with a higher lending limit and the infrastructure for growth in small and middle-market lending, helping to further service NJCB's customer base;

the geographic fit and increased customer convenience of the expanded branch network of 1st Constitution Bank;

the enhanced liquidity of the 1st Constitution common stock since NJCB shareholders will receive 1st Constitution common stock;

1st Constitution's recent history of paying cash dividends and NJCB's inability to pay cash dividends while it is losing money;

the significant cash component in the offer by 1st Constitution to the NJCB shareholders, allowing those shareholders needing liquidity to receive cash;

the terms of the merger agreement;

the compatibility of the business cultures of the two organizations and their shared focus on small and middle-market customers;

the financial condition, results of operations, prospects and stock performance of the two entities;

the ability of 1st Constitution to execute a merger transaction from a financial and regulatory perspective and its ability to successfully integrate NJCB into its existing franchise;

the opinion of Boenning, based upon various analysis described below, including a review of comparable transactions, that the consideration to be received by the NJCB shareholders is fair to the shareholders of NJCB from a financial point of view; and

the NJCB Board of Directors' view, based on, among other things, the opinion of Boenning, that the merger consideration is fair to the shareholders of NJCB from a financial point of view.

All business combinations, including the merger, also include certain risks and disadvantages. The material potential risks and disadvantages to NJCB's shareholders identified by the NJCB Board of Directors and management include the following material matters, the order of which does not necessarily reflect their relative significance:

the risks of attaining the type of revenue enhancements and cost savings necessary to cause the trading markets to consider the transaction a success;

the fact that the termination fee provided for in the merger agreement and certain other provisions of the merger agreement might discourage third parties from seeking to acquire NJCB, in light of the fact that 1st Constitution was unwilling to enter into the merger agreement absent such provisions; and



the risk of potential employee attrition and/or adverse effects on business and customer relationships as a result of the pending merger.

This discussion of the information and factors considered by the NJCB Board of Directors in reaching its conclusions and recommendation includes the factors identified above, but is not intended to be exhaustive and may not include all of the factors considered by the NJCB Board of Directors. In view of the wide variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and the complexity of these matters, the NJCB Board of Directors did not find it useful and did not attempt to quantify, rank or assign any relative or specific weights to the various factors that it considered in reaching its determination to approve the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and to make its recommendation to NJCB shareholders. Rather, the NJCB Board of Directors viewed its decisions as being based on the totality of the information presented to it and the factors it considered, including its discussions with and questioning of members of NJCB's management and outside legal and financial advisors. In addition, individual members of the NJCB Board of Directors may have assigned different weights to different factors.

Certain of NJCB's directors and executive officers have financial interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of NJCB's shareholders generally. The NJCB Board of Directors was aware of and considered these potential interests, among other matters, in evaluating the merger and in making its recommendation to NJCB shareholders. For a discussion of these interests, see "Interests of Management and Others in the Merger" beginning on page 51.

#### Recommendation of the NJCB Board of Directors

The NJCB Board has unanimously approved the merger agreement, and believes that the proposed merger is advisable for NJCB and its shareholders. Accordingly, the NJCB Board unanimously recommends that NJCB shareholders vote FOR approval of the merger agreement.

#### Opinion of NJCB's Financial Advisor

Boenning is acting as financial advisor to NJCB in connection with the merger. Boenning is a registered broker-dealer providing investment banking services and has substantial expertise in transactions similar to the merger. As part of its investment banking activities, Boenning is regularly engaged in the independent valuation of businesses and securities in connection with mergers, acquisitions, underwritings, private placements and valuations for corporate and other purposes.

On November 6, 2017, Boenning rendered its oral opinion, which was subsequently confirmed in writing, to the NJCB Board of Directors that, as of such date, the merger consideration to be payable to the holders of NJCB's common stock pursuant to the merger agreement was fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders.

The full text of Boenning's written opinion dated November 6, 2017, which sets forth the assumptions made, matters considered and limitations of the review undertaken, is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement and is incorporated herein by reference. You are urged to, and should, read this opinion carefully and in its entirety in connection with this proxy statement-prospectus. The summary of Boenning's opinion set forth in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion. Boenning's opinion does not reflect any developments that may occur or may have occurred after the date of its opinion and prior to the completion of the merger.

No limitations were imposed by NJCB on the scope of Boenning's investigation or the procedures to be followed by Boenning in rendering its opinion. Boenning was not asked to, and did not, solicit indications of interest in connection with the proposed merger. Boenning was not requested to, and did not, make any recommendation to the NJCB Board of Directors as to the form or amount of the consideration to be paid to the NJCB shareholders, which was determined through arm's length negotiations between the parties. In arriving at its opinion, Boenning did not ascribe a specific range of values to NJCB. Its opinion is based on the financial and comparative analyses described below.

In connection with its opinion, Boenning, among other things:

- (i) reviewed the historical financial performances, current financial positions and general prospects of 1st Constitution and NJCB and reviewed certain internal financial analyses and forecasts prepared by the management of NJCB;
- (ii) reviewed the merger agreement, dated November 6, 2017;





- (iii) reviewed and analyzed the stock market performance of 1st Constitution and NJCB;
- (iv) studied and analyzed the consolidated financial and operating data of 1st Constitution and NJCB;
- (v) reviewed the pro forma financial impact of the merger on 1st Constitution, based on assumptions relating to transaction expenses, purchase accounting adjustments, cost savings and other synergies determined by senior management of 1st Constitution and NJCB;
- (vi) considered the financial terms of the merger between 1st Constitution and NJCB as compared with the financial terms of comparable bank and bank holding company mergers and acquisitions;
- (vii) met and/or communicated with certain members of 1st Constitution and NJCB's senior management to discuss their respective operations, historical financial statements and future prospects; and
- (viii) conducted such other financial analyses, studies and investigations as Boenning deemed appropriate.

Boenning's opinion was given in reliance on information and representations made or given by 1st Constitution and NJCB, and their respective officers, directors, auditors, counsel and other agents, and on filings, releases and other information issued by 1st Constitution and NJCB including financial statements, financial projections, and stock price data as well as certain information from recognized independent sources. Boenning did not independently verify the information concerning 1st Constitution and NJCB nor other data which Boenning considered in its review and, for purposes of its opinion, Boenning assumed and relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all such information and data. Boenning assumed that all forecasts and projections provided to it had been reasonably prepared and reflected the best currently available estimates and good faith judgments of the management of 1st Constitution and NJCB as to their most likely future financial performance. Boenning expressed no opinion as to any financial projections or the assumptions on which they were based. Boenning did not conduct any valuation or appraisal of any assets or liabilities of 1st Constitution or NJCB, nor have any such valuations or appraisals been provided to Boenning. Additionally, Boenning assumed that the merger is, in all respects, lawful under applicable law.

With respect to anticipated transaction costs, purchase accounting adjustments, expected cost savings and other synergies and financial and other information relating to the general prospects of 1st Constitution and NJCB, Boenning assumed that such information had been reasonably prepared and reflected the best currently available estimates and good faith judgment of the management of 1st Constitution and NJCB as to their most likely future performance. Boenning further relied on the assurances of management of 1st Constitution and NJCB that they were not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make any of such information inaccurate or misleading. Boenning was not asked to and did not undertake an independent verification of any of such information and Boenning did not assume any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness thereof. Boenning assumed that the allowance for loan losses indicated on the balance sheets of 1st Constitution and NJCB was adequate to cover such losses; Boenning did not review individual loans or credit files of 1st Constitution and NJCB. Boenning assumed that all of the representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement and all related agreements were true and correct, that each party under the agreements will perform all of the covenants required to be performed by such party under the agreements, and that the conditions precedent in the agreements were not waived. Boenning assumed that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. Also, in rendering its opinion,

Boenning assumed that in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals for the consummation of the merger no conditions will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on the combined entity or contemplated benefits of the merger, including the cost savings and related expenses expected to result from the merger.

Boenning's opinion is based upon information provided to it by the management of 1st Constitution and NJCB, as well as market, economic, financial and other conditions as they existed and could be evaluated only as of the date of its opinion and accordingly, it speaks to no other period. Boenning did not undertake to reaffirm or revise its opinion or otherwise comment on events occurring after the date of its opinion and did not have an obligation to update, revise or reaffirm its opinion. Boenning's opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger and the other business strategies that NJCB's Board of Directors has considered or may be considering, nor does it address the underlying business decision of NJCB's Board of Directors to proceed with the merger. Boenning expressed no opinion as to the value of the shares of 1st Constitution common stock when issued to holders of outstanding NJCB common stock pursuant to the merger agreement or the prices at which the shares may trade at any time. Boenning's opinion is for the information of NJCB's Board of Directors in connection with its evaluation of the merger and does not constitute a recommendation to the Board of Directors of NJCB in connection with the merger or a recommendation to any shareholder of NJCB as to how such shareholder should vote or act with respect to the merger.



In connection with rendering its opinion, Boenning performed a variety of financial analyses that are summarized below. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of such analyses. Boenning believes that its analyses and the summary set forth herein must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of such analyses and the factors considered therein, without considering all factors and analyses, could create an incomplete view of the analyses and processes underlying its opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process involving subjective judgments and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In arriving at its opinion, Boenning considered the results of all of its analyses as a whole and did not attribute any particular weight to any analyses or factors considered by it. The range of valuations resulting from any particular analysis described below should not be taken to be Boenning's view of the actual value of NJCB.

In its analyses, Boenning made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, business and economic conditions, and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of NJCB or 1st Constitution. Any estimates contained in Boenning's analyses are not necessarily indicative of actual future values or results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such estimates. Estimates of values of companies do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the actual prices at which companies or their securities actually may be sold. No company or transaction utilized in Boenning's analyses was identical to NJCB or 1st Constitution or the merger. Accordingly, an analysis of the results described below is not mathematical; rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies and other facts that could affect the public trading value of the companies to which they are being compared. None of the analyses performed by Boenning was necessarily assigned a greater significance by Boenning than any other, nor does the order of analyses described represent relative importance or weight given to those analyses by Boenning. The analyses described below do not purport to be indicative of actual future results, or to reflect the prices at which NJCB's common stock or 1st Constitution's common stock may trade in the public markets, which may vary depending upon various factors, including changes in interest rates, dividend rates, market conditions, economic conditions and other factors that influence the price of securities.

In accordance with customary investment banking practice, Boenning employed generally accepted valuation methods in reaching its opinion. The following is a summary of the material financial analyses that Boenning used in providing its opinion on November 6, 2017. Some of the summaries of financial analyses are presented in tabular format. In order to understand the financial analyses used by Boenning more fully, you should read the tables together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of Boenning's financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, and if viewed in isolation could create a misleading or incomplete view of the financial analyses performed by Boenning. The summary data set forth below do not represent and should not be viewed by anyone as constituting conclusions reached by Boenning with respect to any of the analyses performed by it in connection with its opinion. Rather, Boenning made its determination as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of shares of issued and outstanding common stock, \$2.00 par value, of NJCB, of the merger consideration on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after considering the results of all of the analyses performed. Accordingly, the data included in the summary tables and the corresponding imputed ranges of value for NJCB should be considered as a whole and in the context of the full narrative description of all of the financial analyses set forth in the following pages, including the assumptions underlying these analyses. Considering the data included in the summary tables without considering the full narrative description of all of the financial analyses, including the assumptions underlying these analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the financial analyses performed by Boenning.

In connection with rendering its opinion and based upon the terms of the merger agreement, Boenning assumed the effective per share merger consideration to be \$4.01 based on (i) the fixed exchange ratio of 0.1333 shares of 1st Constitution common stock for each share of NJCB common stock, (ii) 1st Constitution's 10-day average common stock price of \$18.09 as of November 3, 2017, (iii) the cash consideration price of \$1.39 per share, and (iv) the contingent cash consideration of up to \$0.21 per share. Based on an effective per share price of \$4.01, the aggregate

indicated merger consideration including \$0.21 per share of contingent cash consideration, was \$7.7 million. The effective merger consideration of \$4.01 per NJCB share amounted to 82.6% NJCB's tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2017. Based on the fixed exchange ratio of 0.1333 shares of 1st Constitution common stock for each share of NJCB common stock, the annual cash dividend to NJCB shareholders on a relative basis would have been \$0.03 per share for the twelve months ended September 30, 2017. These per share annual cash dividends compare to NJCB's current annualized cash dividend that it expects to pay over the next twelve months of \$0.00 per share.

Comparison of Selected Companies to NJCB. Boenning reviewed and compared the multiples and ratios of the current trading price of NJCB's common stock to NJCB's book value and tangible book value, such multiples referred to



herein as the pricing multiples, with the median pricing multiples for the current trading prices of the common stock of a peer group of 7 selected publicly traded U.S. banks and thrifts with assets under \$300 million, Negative LTM ROAA and NPAs/ assets greater than .75%, excluding merger targets. Boenning applied the resulting range of pricing multiples for the peer group specified above to the appropriate financial results without the application of any control premium, referred to as the unadjusted trading price.

Table 1

Pricing Multiple	NJCB	Median	Merger Consideration (2)
		Statistics for Peer Group (1)	
Price/Book Value	70.0%	71.4%	82.6%
Price/Tangible Book Value	70.0%	71.4%	82.6%

(1) Peer metrics are based on prices as of market close on November 3, 2017.

(2) Based on the effective merger consideration of \$4.01, as a result of 1st Constitution's 10-day average closing stock price of \$18.09 on November 3, 2017, including the contingent cash consideration of up to \$0.21 per share.

Comparison of Selected Companies to 1st Constitution. Boenning reviewed and compared the multiples and ratios of the current trading price of 1st Constitution's common stock to 1st Constitution's book value, tangible book value, latest twelve months earnings per share, and price to estimated 2017 EPS, such multiples referred to herein as the pricing multiples, with the median pricing multiples for the current trading prices of the common stock of a peer group. The peer group consisted of 19 selected publicly traded Mid Atlantic banks and thrifts with assets between \$1.0 billion and \$1.2 billion, excluding merger targets and mutual holding companies.

Table 2

Pricing Multiple	1st Constitution (1)	Median Statistics for Peer Group (1)
Price/Book Value	130.1%	140.1%
Price/Tangible Book Value	146.7%	142.0%
Price/Latest Twelve Months Earnings Per Share	17.8x	14.6x
Dividend Yield	1.17%	1.75%
Price / 2017 Estimated EPS	17.2x	18.6x

(1) Metrics are based on prices as of market close on November 3, 2017.

Analysis of Bank Merger Transactions. Boenning analyzed certain information relating to recent transactions in the banking industry (excluding recapitalizations and those involving mutual holding companies), consisting of (i) 10 selected nationwide bank and thrift transactions announced since January 1, 2016 with targets having assets under \$300 million, negative ROAA for LTM and 2 years prior, and NPAs/ assets greater than 1%, referred to below as

Group A; (ii) 6 selected nationwide bank and thrift transactions announced since January 1, 2016 with targets having assets under \$500 million, negative LTM ROAA, TCE/ TA greater than 3% and having faced recent regulatory action, referred to below as Group B; (iii) 7 selected nationwide publicly traded bank and thrifts with assets under \$300 million, Negative LTM ROAA and NPAs/ assets greater than .75%, excluding merger targets, with an added implied deal premium of 28.7%, referred to below as Group C. Boenning then reviewed and compared the pricing multiples of the merger consideration and the pricing multiples of the median transaction values for Group A, Group B, and Group C.





Table 3

## Median Transaction Multiples

Pricing Multiple	The Merger (1)	Group A	Group B	Group C
Price/Book Value	82.6%	100.2%	61.0%	91.9%
Price/Tangible Book Value	82.6%	100.2%	61.0%	91.9%
Core Deposit Premium	(1.9)%	0.0%	(2.8)%	0.4%

- (1) Based on the effective merger consideration of \$4.01, as a result of 1st Constitution's 10-day average closing stock price of \$18.09 on November 3, 2017, including the contingent cash consideration of up to \$0.21 per share.

Present Value Analysis. Applying present value analysis to NJCB's theoretical future losses and tangible book value, Boenning compared the merger consideration for one share of NJCB's common stock to the present value of one share of NJCB's common stock on a stand-alone basis. The analysis was based upon management's projected losses, a range of assumed price/tangible book value ratios and a 12.0% discount rate. Boenning derived the terminal price/tangible book value multiple of 70.0% from the approximate median in the NJCB peer group analysis. Sensitivity analyses for terminal price/tangible book ranged from 50.0% to 90.0%, respectively. The present value of NJCB's common stock calculated on a stand-alone basis ranged from \$0.76 to \$1.56 per share with a midpoint of \$1.14 based on price/tangible book value multiples, compared to the effective merger consideration price of \$4.01 per share. This analysis does not purport to be indicative of actual future results and does not purport to reflect the prices at which shares of NJCB's common stock may trade in the public markets. A present value analysis was included because it is a widely used valuation methodology, but the results of such methodology are highly dependent upon the numerous assumptions that must be made, including future losses, dividend payout rates and discount rates.

Pro Forma Merger Analysis. Boenning analyzed certain potential pro forma effects of the merger, assuming the following: (i) the merger is completed in the first quarter of 2018; (ii) each share of NJCB's common stock will be eligible to receive consideration of \$4.01 in cash or 0.1333 shares of 1st Constitution common stock, including the cash consideration price of \$1.39 per share and the contingent cash consideration of \$0.21 per share, or an effective \$4.01 per NJCB share as of November 3, 2017; (iii) estimated pre-tax cost savings equal to \$2.7 million of NJCB's last twelve months non-interest expense ended September 30, 2017; (iv) estimated one-time transaction related costs of \$1.9 million pre-tax are expensed prior to closing; (v) NJCB performance was calculated in accordance with NJCB management's earnings forecasts; (vi) 1st Constitution performance was calculated in accordance with 1st Constitution management's earnings forecasts; and (vii) certain other assumptions pertaining to costs and expenses associated with the transaction, intangible amortization, opportunity cost of cash and other items. The analyses indicated that, for the full years 2019 and 2020, the merger would be accretive to the combined company's projected TBV and earnings per share and accretive to NJCB's equivalent earnings per share and cash dividends per share. The actual results achieved by the combined company may vary from projected results and the variations may be material.

As described above, Boenning's opinion was just one of the many factors taken into consideration by the NJCB Board of Directors in making its determination to approve the merger.

Boenning, as part of its investment banking business, regularly is engaged in the valuation of assets, securities and companies in connection with various types of asset and security transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, private placements, public offerings and valuations for various other purposes, and in the determination of adequate consideration in such transactions. In the ordinary course of Boenning's business as a broker-dealer, it may, from time

to time, purchase securities from, and sell securities to, 1st Constitution and NJCB or their respective affiliates. In the ordinary course of business, Boenning may also actively trade the securities of 1st Constitution and NJCB for its own account and for the accounts of customers and accordingly may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities.

Upon completion of the merger with 1st Constitution, Boenning will receive a fee from NJCB equal to \$100,000, in addition to \$75,000 payable upon the rendering of its Fairness Opinion and the execution of the definitive merger agreement. Boenning's fee for rendering the fairness opinion was not contingent upon any conclusion that Boenning reached or upon completion of the merger. The Company also paid Boenning an initial engagement fee of \$25,000 and has also agreed to reimburse Boenning for any customary reimbursable expenses it incurs during its engagement and to indemnify Boenning against certain liabilities that may arise out of Boenning's engagement.



Boenning has not had any material relationship with 1st Constitution during the past two years in which compensation was received or was intended to be received. Although Boenning provided investment banking services during 2016 to a third party that had expressed interest in potentially acquiring NJCB, Boenning has provided no investment banking services to NJCB during the past two years (other than in regards to the proposed merger) in which compensation was received or was intended to be received. Boenning may provide services to 1st Constitution in the future (and/or to NCJB if the proposed merger is not consummated), although as of the date of this opinion, there is no agreement to do so nor any mutual understanding that such services are contemplated.

The opinion was approved by Boenning's Fairness Opinion Committee. Boenning did not express any opinion as to the fairness of the amount or nature of the compensation to be received in the merger by any of the officers, directors, or employees of any party to the merger agreement or any related agreements, or any class of such persons, relative to the compensation to be received by the holders of NJCB common stock in the merger.

#### 1st Constitution's Reasons for the Merger

The 1st Constitution Board of Directors determined that the merger agreement and the merger are advisable to 1st Constitution and its shareholders and unanimously approved the merger agreement. In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, the 1st Constitution Board of Directors considered a number of factors that the 1st Constitution Board of Directors viewed as relevant to its decisions. The following discussion of the information and factors considered by the 1st Constitution Board of Directors is not intended to be exhaustive; however, it does include all material factors considered by the NJCB Board of Directors.

Material factors considered by the 1st Constitution Board of Directors include the following:

the terms of the merger agreement, including the financial terms;

the expansion of 1st Constitution Bank's branch network in Monmouth County, New Jersey, which is an attractive market in central New Jersey because of its demographics and growth characteristics;

the similar focus of 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB as community banks serving the financial needs of small and middle-market customers;

the potential significant loan and deposit growth opportunities resulting from the addition of a highly attractive branch location in a commercial and business area in Freehold, New Jersey and a branch location in Neptune City, New Jersey that complements 1st Constitution Bank's existing franchise in Monmouth County, New Jersey; and

the anticipated cost savings resulting from economies of scale following consummation of the merger.

#### Terms of the Merger

#### Effect of the Merger

Upon completion of the merger, the separate legal existence of NJCB will cease. All property, rights, powers, duties, obligations, debts and liabilities of NJCB will automatically be deemed transferred to 1st Constitution Bank, as the

surviving bank in the merger. The directors and officers of 1st Constitution Bank immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be the directors and officers of 1st Constitution Bank, as the surviving bank in the merger. No directors or officers of NJCB immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will become directors or officers of 1st Constitution Bank, as the surviving bank in the merger.

#### What NJCB Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger

Upon completion of the merger, NJCB shareholders will receive, subject to the terms in the merger agreement, for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock that they own at the effective time of the merger, a combination of 1st Constitution common stock and cash as follows:

- (i) If the exchange ratio average price (as defined below) is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be 0.1333 of a share of common stock of 1st Constitution, subject to adjustment as described below and subject to the payment of cash in lieu of fractional shares; and



(ii) \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB.

The term “exchange ratio average price” means 1st Constitution’s average closing common stock share price during the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank or NJCB has notified the others in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received.

Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is greater than \$18.90, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted downward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. Subject to the termination rights set forth in the merger agreement, in the event the exchange ratio average price is less than \$17.10, then the stock exchange ratio will be adjusted upward to that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock determined by taking the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by the exchange ratio average price, rounded to four decimal places. However, in no event will the stock exchange ratio be greater than 0.1425 of a share of 1st Constitution common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the exchange ratio average price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution will have the right, in its sole discretion, to increase the exchange ratio for the stock consideration to the extent necessary for the merger to qualify as a tax-free reorganization.

The following table illustrates the effect of changes in the exchange ratio average price on the exchange ratio:

Exchange Ratio Average Price	Stock Exchange Ratio (i.e., percentage of a share of 1st Constitution common stock to be received for each share of NJCB common stock)
\$16.00 and below	0.1425
\$17.00	0.1341
\$17.10 – \$18.90	0.1333
\$19.00	0.1326
\$20.00	0.1260
\$21.00	0.1200

Of the \$1.60 in cash that is part of the consideration for each outstanding share of NJCB common stock, \$0.21 will not be paid at the closing of the merger and will be placed in escrow to cover costs and expenses, including settlement costs, if any, that 1st Constitution may incur after the closing of the merger as a result of the O’Donnell litigation matter. The total amount remaining in escrow, after deducting these costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the O’Donnell litigation matter will be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the O’Donnell litigation matter.

1st Constitution will not be registering any of the rights that former NJCB shareholders have to the total escrow amount under any federal or state securities laws. Accordingly, during the escrow period, former NJCB shareholders will not be able to sell or transfer their rights to the total escrow amount except (i) for transfers to an entity’s members upon its liquidation, (ii) to relatives and trusts for estate planning purposes, (iii) by virtue of the laws of descent and distribution upon death or (iv) pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

The exchange ratio will be adjusted proportionately if 1st Constitution makes any stock splits, stock dividends or similar distributions prior to the closing of the merger.



Certain shares of NJCB common stock, if any, held by NJCB or by 1st Constitution or its subsidiaries will be canceled in the merger and will not be converted into 1st Constitution common stock.



For your shares of NJCB common stock, you will not receive any fractional shares of 1st Constitution common stock. Instead, you will receive, without interest, cash equal to the fractional share interest you otherwise would have received, multiplied by the average (rounded to four decimal places) of the daily closing sales prices of 1st Constitution common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market for the 10 consecutive trading days ending on the date that all regulatory approvals are received. All shares of NJCB common stock held by an NJCB shareholder immediately prior to the effective time will be aggregated before determining the need to pay cash in lieu of fractional shares to such holder.

The price of 1st Constitution common stock at the time the merger takes effect may be higher or lower than the price: (1) when the merger agreement was signed; (2) when this proxy statement-prospectus was mailed; (3) when the NJCB shareholders meet to vote on the merger; or (4) when NJCB shareholders receive 1st Constitution stock certificates from the Exchange Agent following the merger. We urge you to obtain current market quotations for the 1st Constitution common stock and the NJCB common stock.

After NJCB shareholders surrender their NJCB stock certificates to the Exchange Agent following the effective time of the merger, former NJCB shareholders will receive cash and a certificate representing their shares of 1st Constitution common stock. At the time any new stock certificate is issued, former NJCB shareholders will also receive a check for any fractional shares. All shares of NJCB common stock held by a shareholder immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be aggregated before determining the need to pay cash in lieu of fractional shares to such former shareholder. No interest will be paid with respect to any cash payable in the merger.

#### Stock Options and Warrants

As of the record date for the NJCB special meeting of shareholders, various directors, officers and employees of NJCB held options to purchase a total of 47,525 shares of NJCB common stock, all granted under NJCB's equity compensation plans. At the effective time of the merger, all such options, whether vested or unvested, will be terminated and converted, without any action on the part of 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank, NJCB or the holders of the options, into the right to receive cash equal to the product of (i) the aggregate number of shares of common stock of NJCB underlying such outstanding option multiplied by (ii) the excess, if any, of \$4.00 over the per share exercise price of such outstanding option. Holders of stock options with an exercise price of \$4.00 or above will receive no consideration in the merger and these options will terminate as of the effective date of the merger. Of the outstanding options, options to purchase 30,200 shares had exercise prices of less than \$4.00 per share.

As of the record date for the NJCB special meeting of shareholders, there were outstanding warrants to purchase a total of 265,698 shares of NJCB common stock that will expire in accordance with their terms on February 28, 2018, which will be prior to the effective time of the merger. Accordingly, 1st Constitution will not pay any consideration to the holders of the warrants because the warrants will not be outstanding at the effective time of the merger.

#### 1st Constitution Common Stock

Each share of 1st Constitution common stock outstanding immediately prior to completion of the merger will remain outstanding and unchanged by the merger.

#### Effective Date

The merger will take effect when all conditions to the merger, including obtaining shareholder and regulatory approval, have been fulfilled or waived or as soon as practicable thereafter as 1st Constitution and NJCB mutually select. Neither regulatory approval nor the required approvals of NJCB's shareholders can be waived. The merger agreement provides that the merger will not be consummated prior to March 1, 2018. 1st Constitution and NJCB

presently expect to close the merger in April 2018. See “Conditions to the Merger” beginning on page 47 and “Regulatory Approvals” at page 51.

#### Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains customary representations and warranties relating to, among other things:



NJCB

Organization of NJCB and its subsidiaries.

Capital structure of NJCB.

Due authorization, execution, delivery, performance and enforceability of the merger agreement and interrelationship with other agreements.

Consents or approvals of regulatory authorities or third parties necessary to complete the merger.

Accuracy of reports filed with regulatory authorities.

Consistency of financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and existence of suitable internal controls.

Liabilities incurred since December 31, 2016.

Brokers' and other fees.

NJCB's receipt of an opinion from Boenning that the consideration paid to NJCB's shareholders is fair.

Absence of material adverse changes, since December 31, 2016, in NJCB's consolidated business, results of operations or financial condition.

Absence of undisclosed material pending or threatened legal proceedings.

Filing of tax returns and payment of taxes.

Retirement and other employee plans and matters relating to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Accuracy of information supplied by NJCB for inclusion in the registration statement filed under the Securities Act of 1933 in connection with the issuance of 1st Constitution common stock in the merger, this proxy statement and prospectus, and all applications filed with regulatory authorities for approval of the merger.

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Disclosure of material contracts.

Disclosure of transactions with management.

Absence of undisclosed regulatory orders.

Quality of title to assets and properties.

Maintenance of adequate insurance.

Absence of material environmental violations, actions or liabilities.

Indemnification obligations of NJCB and its subsidiaries.

Validity and binding nature of loans reflected as assets in NJCB's financial statements.

Investment securities, deposits and other borrowings on NJCB's statement of condition.

Approval by two-thirds of the holders of NJCB's common stock is sufficient to approve the merger.

Intellectual property matters.

Absence of prior regulatory applications.

Conduct of the mortgage banking business.

1st Constitution

Organization of 1st Constitution and its subsidiaries.

Capital structure of 1st Constitution.

Due authorization, execution, delivery, performance and enforceability of the merger agreement and interrelationship with other agreements.

Consents or approvals of regulatory authorities or third parties necessary to complete the merger.





Accuracy of reports filed with regulatory authorities.

Consistency of financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and existence of suitable internal controls.

Accuracy of reports filed by 1st Constitution with the SEC.

Absence of material adverse changes, since December 31, 2016, in 1st Constitution's consolidated business, results of operations or financial condition.

Accuracy of information supplied by 1st Constitution for inclusion in the registration statement filed under the Securities Act of 1933 in connection with the issuance of 1st Constitution common stock in the merger, this proxy statement and prospectus, and all applications filed with regulatory authorities for approval of the merger.

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

No ownership of NJCB capital stock.

Absence of regulatory orders.

Regulatory capital.

Adequacy of loan loss provision and reserve for OREO properties.

Subsidiaries having a Community Reinvestment Act rating of at least "satisfactory."

Absence of prior regulatory applications.

1st Constitution Bank having access to funds to pay cash portion of the merger consideration.

#### Conduct of Business Pending the Merger

In the merger agreement, 1st Constitution and NJCB each agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain and preserve intact its respective business organizations, properties, leases, employees and advantageous business relationships. 1st Constitution and NJCB each also agreed to not take any action that would adversely affect or delay their respective ability to perform their covenants and agreements set forth in the merger agreement on a timely basis

or that would adversely affect or delay their respective ability to obtain any necessary approvals, waivers or consents of any governmental entity or third party to consummate the merger.

In addition, NJCB agreed to conduct its business and to engage in transactions only in the ordinary and usual course consistent with past practices and prudent banking practice, except as otherwise required by the merger agreement or consented to by 1st Constitution. Subject to certain exceptions referred to in the merger agreement, NJCB also agreed in the merger agreement that NJCB will not, without the written consent of 1st Constitution except as otherwise specifically provided in the merger agreement:

repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any of its capital stock;

issue any shares of its capital stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable for, or any rights, warrants or options to acquire, any such shares, except for the issuance of up to a total of 47,525 shares of NJCB common stock upon the exercise of stock options outstanding on the date of the merger agreement and the issuance of up to a total of 265,698 shares of NJCB common stock upon the exercise of warrants outstanding on the date of the merger agreement;

amend its Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws;

make any capital expenditures in excess of \$25,000 in the aggregate;

enter into any new line of business or offer any new products or services;

acquire any business or any assets outside of the ordinary course of business;

take any action that is intended or may reasonably be expected to result in any of the conditions to closing the merger set forth in the merger agreement not being satisfied or not being satisfied prior to November 6, 2018;

change its methods of accounting, except as required by changes in generally accepted accounting principles or regulatory accounting principles as concurred with in writing by NJCB's independent auditors;

adopt, amend, or terminate any employee benefit plan;

increase the compensation or fringe benefits of any director, officer or employee, pay any benefit not required by any plan or agreement, pay any bonus or grant any stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units or performance units or shares;



other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, dispose of its material assets, properties or other rights or agreements;

other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, incur any indebtedness for borrowed money;

file any application to relocate or terminate the operations of any of its banking offices;

create, renew, amend or terminate any material contract;

except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices and in amounts less than \$200,000, and other than investments for NJCB's portfolio that are permissible under the merger agreement, make any investment in any other individual, corporation or other entity;

except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices, make any investment in any debt security other than U.S. government and U.S. government agency securities with final maturities of five years or less or mortgage-backed or mortgage related securities that would not be considered "high risk" securities;

settle any claim in excess of \$10,000 or involving any material restrictions on NJCB's operations;

except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices and in amounts less than \$100,000, waive or release any material right;

make loans that fall outside of parameters set forth in the merger agreement;

make any investment or commitment to invest in real estate or in any real estate development project, other than real estate acquired in satisfaction of defaulted mortgage loans;

except pursuant to commitments existing on the date of the merger agreement and disclosed to 1st Constitution, make any construction loans outside the ordinary course of business consistent with past practices, make any real estate loans secured by undeveloped land or make any real estate loans secured by land located outside the State of New Jersey;

establish any new branch or other office facilities;

elect to the Board any person who is not a current member of NJCB's Board;

change any method of tax accounting, make and change any tax election, file any amended tax return, settle any tax liability or surrender any right to claim a tax refund;

after an acquisition proposal (other than the proposed merger) has been (i) directly made to NJCB's shareholders, (ii) publicly disclosed or (iii) made known to senior management or the NJCB's Board, except to the extent permitted under the merger agreement, take any intentional act, or intentionally omit to take any act, that causes NJCB's representations in the merger agreement to be inaccurate in any material respect;

take any other action outside of the ordinary course of business; or

agree to do any of the foregoing.

NJCB also agreed in the merger agreement, among other things:

to submit the proposed merger to its shareholders for approval at a shareholders' meeting to be held as soon as is reasonably practicable after the date on which the registration statement, of which this proxy statement and prospectus is a part, is declared effective by the SEC;

through NJCB's Board, subject to applicable fiduciary obligations, to recommend that NJCB's shareholders approve the merger agreement, and such other matters as are submitted to NJCB's shareholders in connection with the merger agreement;

to provide 1st Constitution with certain financial statements as reasonably requested by 1st Constitution in order to enable 1st Constitution to comply with its reporting obligations under the Exchange Act;

to cooperate with 1st Constitution to conform certain policies and procedures to the policies and procedures followed by 1st Constitution; and

to provide 1st Constitution with any information about NJCB reasonably requested by 1st Constitution for use in any subsequent filings that 1st Constitution may be required to make in transactions unrelated to the merger.



NJCB has also agreed not to solicit any proposal from a third party with respect to a merger, consolidation or similar transaction involving, or any purchase of, all or more than 25% of the assets or voting power of NJCB or any of its subsidiaries. The parties refer to any such proposal as an acquisition proposal.

Similarly, NJCB has agreed not to participate in any negotiations concerning, or to provide any confidential information with respect to, an acquisition proposal. These obligations are subject to certain exceptions in the merger agreement designed to assure that NJCB's Board may exercise its fiduciary responsibilities in the event that a third party, acting on an unsolicited basis, makes an acquisition proposal prior to the consummation of the merger. In the event that NJCB receives any such proposal, NJCB is required to promptly (and in any event within 48 hours of receipt) disclose to 1st Constitution the identity of the person making the proposal and the substance of such proposal.

1st Constitution and NJCB jointly agreed, among other things:

to cooperate in preparing all regulatory and other filings to be made in connection with the merger;

to provide access to each other and to each other's representatives;

subject to applicable provisions of the merger agreement, to use our reasonable best efforts to consummate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and to obtain any consent of any governmental entity or other third party that is required in connection with the merger;

to deliver to each other monthly, quarterly and, if applicable, annual financial statements; and

to agree upon the form and substance of any press release or public disclosure related to the proposed merger.

1st Constitution has agreed:

to use its reasonable best efforts to cause the 1st Constitution common stock to be issued in the merger to be approved for listing on the NASDAQ Global Market;

to permit the NJCB employees who remain in 1st Constitution's employ after the merger is consummated to participate in 1st Constitution's employee benefit plans to the same extent as similarly situated employees of 1st Constitution and generally to credit such employees with the years of service earned as employees of NJCB;

to indemnify any current or former director or officer of NJCB against any claim, including any claim which relates in any way to the merger, this proxy statement and prospectus, the merger agreement, any of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, such person's service as a member of the NJCB's Board, the events leading up to the execution of the merger agreement, any statement, recommendation or solicitation made in connection with the merger and any breach of any duty in connection with any of the foregoing, in each case to the extent that indemnification would have been permitted under any applicable law and NJCB's Certificate of Incorporation and



By-laws had the merger not occurred;

to cause the persons serving as officers and directors of NJCB immediately prior to the consummation of the merger to be covered by directors and officers liability insurance for a period of four years after the closing, subject to a limitation on the amount that 1st Constitution must spend for such insurance;

to assume NJCB's obligations under certain indemnification agreements, as amended and restated, in place between NJCB and each member of the NJCB Board of Directors; and

to provide severance to any NJCB employee who is terminated by 1st Constitution Bank without cause following the effective time of the merger in accordance with the severance policy agreed upon between 1st Constitution and NJCB.

#### Conditions to the Merger

Our obligations to effect the merger are subject to various conditions, including the following:

#### Conditions Applicable to NJCB and to 1st Constitution

NJCB's shareholders shall have approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by that agreement;

the registration statement of which this proxy statement and prospectus is a part shall not be subject to an order – typically referred to as a stop order – demanding that we cease using these documents;



the parties shall have received all necessary approvals of governmental entities, such approvals shall not be subject to any material conditions, any conditions relating to such approvals shall have been satisfied and all statutory waiting periods shall have expired;

no order, judgment or decree shall be outstanding that would have the effect of preventing completion of the merger;

no suit, action or other proceeding shall be pending or threatened by any governmental entity seeking to restrain or prohibit the merger;

no suit, action or other proceeding shall be pending before any court or governmental entity seeking to restrain or prohibit the merger or obtain other substantial monetary or other relief against one or more of the parties which 1st Constitution or NJCB determines in good faith, based upon the advice of their respective counsel, makes it inadvisable to proceed;

NJCB and 1st Constitution shall have received from 1st Constitution's counsel the tax opinion described under "Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences"; and

the shares of 1st Constitution common stock issuable in the merger shall have been authorized for listing on the NASDAQ Global Market, subject to official notice of issuance.

#### Additional Conditions Applicable to 1st Constitution

In addition to the foregoing, 1st Constitution's obligations to close the merger are also conditioned, among other things, on the following:

except for representations made as of a particular date, NJCB's representations shall be true and correct in all material respects (or in all respects for representations which are qualified as to materiality) at closing;

NJCB's representations made as of a particular date shall be true and correct in all material respects (or in all respects for representations which are qualified as to materiality) as of such date;

NJCB shall have performed in all material respects the covenants that it is required to perform under the merger agreement;

all consents of third parties, other than governmental entities, which are necessary to permit the consummation of the merger, except for those that would not materially adversely affect NJCB or 1st Constitution if not obtained, shall have been obtained;

none of such consents shall contain any term or condition which would materially adversely affect 1st Constitution;

no governmental entity has imposed a condition or requirement on 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank (either before or after the effective time of the merger) that the Board of 1st Constitution reasonably determines (i) is onerous, (ii) reasonably likely to have a material imposition on their operations, business or prospects or (iii) will require 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank to raise capital within one year of the effective time of the merger;

NJCB shall have satisfied, or be in the process of satisfying in a manner and under a timetable reasonably satisfactory to 1st Constitution, the regulatory matters previously disclosed to 1st Constitution; and

the indemnification agreements with existing directors of NJCB shall have been amended and restated in substantially the form attached as Exhibit F to the merger agreement.

#### Additional Conditions Applicable to NJCB

In addition to the foregoing, NJCB's obligations to close the merger are also conditioned, among other things, on the following:

except for representations made as of a particular date, 1st Constitution's representations shall be true and correct in all material respects (or in all respects for representations which are qualified as to materiality) at closing;

1st Constitution's representations made as of a particular date shall be true and correct in all material respects (or in all respects for representations which are qualified as to materiality) as of such date;



1st Constitution shall have performed in all material respects the covenants which it is required to perform under the merger agreement;

1st Constitution Bank shall have acknowledged and assumed the amended and restated indemnification agreements with existing directors of NJCB.

Except for the requirements of NJCB shareholder approval, regulatory approvals and the absence of any order, decree, or injunction preventing the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, either party may waive each of the conditions described above in the manner and to the extent described in "Amendment; Waiver" below. However, neither of the parties anticipates waiving the condition that a tax opinion be delivered by 1st Constitution's counsel.

Amendment; Waiver

Subject to applicable law, at any time prior to completion of the merger, the parties may:

amend the merger agreement.

extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other party required in the merger agreement.

waive any inaccuracies in the representations and warranties of the other party contained in the merger agreement.

waive compliance by the other party with any of the agreements or conditions contained in the merger agreement, except for the requirements of NJCB shareholder approval, regulatory approvals and the absence of any order, decree, or injunction preventing the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Termination

Subject to certain qualifications described in the merger agreement, the merger agreement may be terminated under the following circumstances:

by agreement of 1st Constitution and NJCB;

by either 1st Constitution or NJCB:

if a required regulatory approval shall have been denied by final, non-appealable action, provided that the right to terminate will not be available to any party whose failure to comply with the merger agreement has been the cause of, or materially contributed to, such action;

if the merger is not consummated on or before November 6, 2018;

if NJCB's shareholders fail to approve the merger;

if there is a breach of the other party's representations in the merger agreement, and such breach is not cured within thirty days following written notice to the party committing such breach; provided, however, that neither party can terminate the merger agreement unless the breach, together with all other such breaches, would constitute a failure to satisfy a condition of closing;

if the other party materially breaches any covenant in the merger agreement; or

if the conditions to such party's obligations to close are not capable of being satisfied on or before November 6, 2018.

by NJCB, if it approves an acquisition proposal, but only if:

at least four business days prior to entering into a definitive agreement relating to the acquisition proposal, NJCB provides 1st Constitution with a copy of that agreement;

NJCB's Board determines in good faith that approving that definitive agreement is legally necessary for the proper discharge of its fiduciary duties; and

after considering any response that 1st Constitution may have after reviewing that definitive agreement, the NJCB Board determines in good faith that the transactions contemplated by that definitive agreement are reasonably likely to be consummated and would, if consummated, be more favorable to NJCB's shareholders than the merger agreement and any transaction then being proposed by 1st Constitution.

We refer to this termination right as NJCB's "fiduciary out."





In addition, NJCB will have the right to terminate the merger agreement in the event that both of the following events occur at any time during the five day period commencing on the date (referred to as the determination date) on which all bank regulatory approvals for the merger have been received:

the average closing sales price of 1st Constitution common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market – an average price which we refer to as the “1st Constitution average closing price” – is less than \$16.00; and

the number obtained by dividing the 1st Constitution average closing price on the determination date by \$18.00 shall be less than the number obtained by dividing the average of the daily closing prices of the NASDAQ Bank Index for the 10 consecutive trading days immediately preceding the determination date by \$3,935.30 and subtracting 0.30 (this number is referred to as the index ratio”).

The effect of this provision is to enable NJCB to terminate the merger agreement if the market price of 1st Constitution common stock falls substantially, both in absolute terms (that is, below \$16.00) and by comparison to the list of banking institutions that comprise the NASDAQ Bank Index.

#### Termination Fees

NJCB has agreed to pay a fee of \$275,000 to 1st Constitution and has agreed to reimburse 1st Constitution for up to \$125,000 in out-of-pocket expenses if:

- (i) NJCB exercises its fiduciary out;
- (ii) 1st Constitution terminates the merger agreement under circumstances where, prior to NJCB shareholder approval, NJCB refuses to recommend that its shareholders approve the merger or adopts an alternative acquisition proposal, breaches its non-solicitation obligations with respect to alternative acquisition proposals in any material respect adverse to 1st Constitution or recommends that NJCB shareholders tender their shares (or fail to reject) a tender offer or exchange offer for 25% or more of the NJCB common stock; or
- (iii) NJCB or any of its subsidiaries enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates a transaction contemplated by a tender or exchange offer to acquire 50% or more of the voting power in NJCB or any of its subsidiaries, a proposal for a merger, consolidation or other business combination involving NJCB or any of its subsidiaries or any other proposal or offer to acquire in any manner 50% or more of the voting power in, or 50% or more of the business, assets or deposits of, NJCB or any of its subsidiaries (referred to as a termination fee acquisition proposal) within 12 months after any of the terminations referred to in subclause (B)(x), (y) or (z) of the paragraph immediately following this clause (iii).

In addition, in the event that (A) a termination fee acquisition proposal shall have been made directly to NJCB shareholders or otherwise publicly disclosed or communicated or made known to any member of NJCB’s senior management or Board of Directors and (B) the merger agreement is thereafter terminated (x) by 1st Constitution or NJCB if the merger has not been consummated by November 6, 2018, unless the failure to consummate the merger is due to the failure of the terminating party to perform its covenants and agreements under the merger agreement, or if the approval of NJCB shareholders has not been obtained by reason of the failure to obtain the required vote at a duly held meeting following the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this proxy statement-prospectus is a part, (y) by 1st Constitution as a result of its termination right in connection with a breach of any of the representations or warranties on the part of NJCB, which breach, if curable prior to November 6, 2018, is not cured within 30 days following written notice, or (z) by 1st Constitution as a result of its termination right in connection

with a material breach of any of the covenants or agreements on the part of NJCB, which breach, if curable prior to November 6, 2018, is not cured within 30 days following written notice, and NJCB or any of its subsidiaries enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates a transaction contemplated by, any termination fee acquisition proposal within 18 months after such termination, then NJCB has agreed to pay 1st Constitution a fee of \$400,000.

#### NASDAQ Listing

NJCB's obligation to complete the merger is subject to the condition that the 1st Constitution common stock issuable in the merger be authorized for listing on the NASDAQ Global Market.



## Expenses

Subject to expense reimbursement in connection with certain types of termination, 1st Constitution and NJCB will each pay their own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including fees and expenses of financial consultants, accountants and legal counsel.

## Exchange of NJCB Stock Certificates and Payment of Consideration

The conversion of NJCB common stock into the right to receive 1st Constitution common stock and cash will occur automatically on the merger's effective date. As soon as possible after the effective date of the merger, the Exchange Agent designated by 1st Constitution will send a transmittal form to NJCB shareholders, along with instructions, to use in exchanging NJCB stock certificates for 1st Constitution stock certificates and the cash portion of the merger consideration, as well as for cash in lieu of fractional shares. The Exchange Agent will mail certificates representing shares of 1st Constitution common stock, checks for the cash consideration and checks for cash in lieu of fractional share interests to former shareholders of NJCB as soon as reasonably possible following the closing and its receipt of certificates representing former shares of NJCB common stock and other related documentation required by the Exchange Agent.

NJCB shareholders should not return their NJCB stock certificates with the enclosed proxy card. They should not send their NJCB stock certificates to the Exchange Agent until they receive the transmittal form after the closing.

Until the merger has been consummated and the certificates representing shares of NJCB common stock are surrendered for exchange, holders of such certificates will not receive the merger consideration or dividends or distributions on the 1st Constitution common stock into which such shares have been converted. When such certificates are surrendered, any unpaid dividends or other distributions will be paid without interest. For all other purposes, however, each certificate representing shares of NJCB common stock outstanding at the merger's effective date will be deemed to evidence ownership of and the right to receive the shares of 1st Constitution common stock (and cash in lieu of fractional shares) and cash into which such shares have been converted.

None of the parties will be liable to any NJCB shareholder for any amount paid in good faith to a public official pursuant to any applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar law.

No fractional shares of 1st Constitution common stock will be issued to any shareholder of NJCB upon completion of the merger. For each fractional share that would otherwise be issued, 1st Constitution will pay by check an amount equal to the fractional share interest to which such holder would otherwise be entitled multiplied by the average (rounded to four decimal places) of the daily closing sales prices of 1st Constitution common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market for the 10 consecutive trading days ending on the date that all regulatory approvals are received. All shares of NJCB common stock held by an NJCB shareholder immediately prior to the effective time will be aggregated before determining the need to pay cash in lieu of fractional shares to such holder.

## Regulatory Approvals

Completion of the merger and the bank merger requires approval by the FDIC and the NJDOBI and may be subject to review and approval by the Federal Reserve Board. Approval by any of these bank regulators does not constitute an endorsement of the merger or a determination that the terms of the merger are fair to NJCB's shareholders. Applications were filed with the FDIC and the NJDOBI on December 26, 2017. Approvals for the applications to the FDIC and the NJDOBI were granted on February 2, 2018 and February 13, 2018, respectively. Following receipt of the FDIC and NJDOBI approvals, a request for a waiver from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System was submitted on February 14, 2018. We cannot assure you that the necessary Federal Reserve Board waiver will be

granted, or that it will be granted on a timely basis without conditions unacceptable to 1st Constitution.

#### Interests of Management and Others in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of the NJCB Board regarding the merger, NJCB shareholders should know that certain directors and officers of NJCB have interests in the merger in addition to their interests as shareholders of NJCB. All those additional interests are described below, to the extent they are material and are known to NJCB. The NJCB Board and the 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution Bank Boards were aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in approving the merger agreement.



The directors and officers of NJCB have interests in the merger as directors and employees that are different from the interests of the other NJCB shareholders. These interests include, among others:

Naqi A. Naqvi, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of NJCB, has an existing change in control agreement with NJCB dated November 16, 2011. The merger constitutes a change in control and if as a result of the merger or within twelve months of the merger, (i) Mr. Naqvi is terminated without just cause (as defined in the change in control agreement) or (ii) Mr. Naqvi voluntarily terminates his employment upon the occurrence, or within six months of such occurrence, of any one of the following events: (a) he is required to perform his duties more than 35 miles from his primary office location at the time the change in control agreement was executed, (b) 1st Constitution Bank fails to maintain his base compensation and retirement plans in effect when the merger occurs, (c) he is assigned duties and responsibilities other than those normally associated with his current position or (d) his responsibilities or authority are materially diminished or reduced, Mr. Naqvi will then be entitled to receive a severance payment equal to two times his aggregate annual compensation and be eligible to continue coverage for himself and his dependents under 1st Constitution Bank's medical and dental insurance plans at his election and expense for a period of twelve months. The estimated severance payment to Mr. Naqvi is \$375,000.

In addition to Mr. Naqvi's change in control, three other NJCB officers have change in control agreements with NJCB that are dated between May 26, 2017 and June 6, 2017. The merger constitutes a change in control and (i) if as a result of the merger or within twelve months of the merger, these officers are terminated without just cause (as defined in the change in control agreements), including as a result of death, or (ii) if within 6 months of the merger, they voluntarily terminate their employment upon the occurrence of any one of the following events: (a) they are required to perform their duties more than 35 miles from their primary office location at the time the change in control agreements were executed, (b) 1st Constitution Bank reduces their base compensation in effect when the merger occurs or (c) their responsibilities or authority are materially diminished or reduced, these NJCB officers will then be entitled to receive a severance payment equal to one times their respective aggregate annual compensation. The aggregate estimated severance payments to these three NJCB officers is \$315,250.

Three NJCB officers, who do not have employment agreements or change in control agreements, will enter into retention bonus agreements with 1st Constitution, 1st Constitution Bank and NJCB. If any of these NJCB officers remains an employee of NJCB through the date after the effective time of the merger when his or her job function has been converted or transitioned and does not accept employment with 1st Constitution or 1st Constitution Bank for any period subsequent to the effective time of the merger, he or she will be entitled to receive a retention bonus payment. The aggregate estimated retention bonus payments to these three NJCB officers is \$45,000.

William H. Placke, President and Chief Executive Officer of NJCB, and Mr. Naqvi hold options to purchase 15,000 and 7,500 shares of NJCB common stock, respectively, at an exercise price of \$3.55 per share. In addition, other NJCB employees hold options to purchase an aggregate of 7,700 shares of NJCB common stock at an exercise price of \$3.55 per share. Upon consummation of the merger, each of these options, whether vested or unvested, will be converted into the right to receive \$0.45 for each share underlying the options, which amount is equal to the difference between \$4.00 and the exercise price of \$3.55 per share set forth in the options.

The merger agreement provides that 1st Constitution will indemnify the directors and officers of NJCB against certain liabilities for a three-year period following completion of the merger. In addition, 1st Constitution has agreed to cause the persons serving as officers and directors of NJCB immediately prior to the merger to be covered by directors and

officers liability insurance for a period of four years after the closing, subject to a limitation on the amount which 1st Constitution must spend for this insurance. Finally, 1st Constitution has agreed to assume the obligations of NJCB under indemnification agreements, as amended and restated, between NJCB and each member of the NJCB Board of Directors.

#### Accounting Treatment

The assets and liabilities of NJCB as of the effective date of the merger will be recorded at their respective estimated fair values and added to those of 1st Constitution. Any excess of purchase price over the net estimated fair values of the acquired assets and liabilities of NJCB will be allocated to all identifiable intangible assets. Any remaining excess will then be allocated to goodwill, the goodwill resulting from the merger will not be amortized to expense, but instead will be reviewed for impairment at least annually. To the extent goodwill is impaired, its carrying value would be written down to its implied fair value and a charge would be made to earnings. Core deposit intangibles and other intangibles with definite useful lives will be amortized to expense over their estimated useful lives. 1st Constitution will include in its results of operations the results of NJCB's operations after completion of the merger.





## Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences

This section describes the anticipated material United States federal income tax consequences of the merger to U.S. holders of NJCB common stock, who will exchange their shares of NJCB common stock for a combination of shares of 1st Constitution common stock and cash pursuant to the merger.

For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of NJCB common stock who for United States federal income tax purposes is:

An individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof;

a trust that (1) is subject to (A) the primary supervision of a court within the United States and (B) the authority of one or more United States persons to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person; or

an estate that is subject to United States federal income tax on its income regardless of its source.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds NJCB common stock, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partner and the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding NJCB common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

This discussion addresses only those NJCB shareholders that hold their NJCB common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”; any section of the Code, a “Section”), and does not address all the United States federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to particular NJCB shareholders in light of their individual circumstances or to NJCB shareholders that are subject to special rules, such as:

financial institutions;

investors in pass-through entities;

insurance companies;

tax-exempt organizations;

dealers in securities;

traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting;

persons that hold NJCB common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, constructive sale or conversion transaction;

certain expatriates or persons that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar;

persons who are not U.S. holders; and

shareholders who acquired their shares of NJCB common stock through the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation or through a tax-qualified retirement plan.

In addition, the discussion does not address any alternative minimum tax or any state, local or foreign tax consequences of the merger, nor does it address any tax consequences arising under the unearned income Medicare contribution tax enacted pursuant to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

The following discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations thereunder and published rulings and decisions, all as currently in effect as of the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Any such change could affect the continuing validity of this discussion.

To the extent this section consists of statements as to matters of U.S. tax law, this section is the opinion of Day Pitney.



1st Constitution and NJCB have structured the merger to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Assuming that the merger is completed according to the terms of the merger agreement and based upon facts, factual representations and assumptions contained in representation letters provided by 1st Constitution and NJCB, all of which must continue to be true and accurate in all material respects through the effective time of the merger, and subject to the assumptions and qualifications to be contained in the opinion of Day Pitney to be delivered at closing and the assumptions and qualifications contained in this “Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences” section of this proxy statement and prospectus, it is the opinion of Day Pitney, counsel to 1st Constitution, that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The obligation of 1st Constitution and NJCB to complete the merger is conditioned upon the receipt at closing of an opinion from Day Pitney, counsel to 1st Constitution, to the effect that the merger will for federal income tax purposes qualify as a reorganization based upon customary representations made by 1st Constitution and NJCB. This opinion will not be binding on the Internal Revenue Service or the courts. 1st Constitution and NJCB have not requested and do not intend to request any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service as to the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger. Accordingly, each NJCB shareholder should consult its tax advisor with respect to the particular tax consequences of the merger to such holder.

Tax Consequences of the Merger Generally to Holders of NJCB Common Stock if the Merger Qualifies as a Reorganization Under Section 368(a) of the Code. If the merger is treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, the tax consequences to holders of NJCB common stock will be as follows (holders of NJCB common stock also should consult the “Treatment of Cash Placed in Escrow” section below):

gain (but not loss) will be recognized in an amount equal to the lesser of (1) the amount by which the sum of the fair market value of the 1st Constitution common stock and cash received by a holder of NJCB common stock exceeds such holder’s adjusted tax basis in its NJCB common stock, and (2) the amount of cash received by such holder of NJCB common stock (except with respect to any cash received instead of fractional share interests in 1st Constitution common stock, as discussed in the section entitled “Cash Received Instead of a Fractional Share of 1st Constitution Common Stock” below);

the aggregate basis of the 1st Constitution common stock received in the merger will be the same as the aggregate basis of the NJCB common stock for which it is exchanged, decreased by the amount of cash received in the merger (except with respect to any cash received instead of fractional share interests in 1st Constitution common stock), decreased by any basis attributable to fractional share interests in 1st Constitution common stock for which cash is received, and increased by the amount of gain recognized on the exchange (regardless of whether such gain is classified as capital gain, or as ordinary dividend income, as discussed below, but excluding any gain or loss recognized with respect to fractional share interests in 1st Constitution common stock for which cash is received); and

the holding period of 1st Constitution common stock received in exchange for shares of NJCB common stock will include the holding period of the NJCB common stock for which it is exchanged.

If holders of NJCB common stock have acquired different blocks of NJCB common stock at different times or at different prices, any gain or loss will be determined separately with respect to each block of NJCB common stock and such holders’ basis and holding period in their shares of 1st Constitution common stock may be determined with reference to each block of NJCB common stock. Any such holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the manner in which cash and 1st Constitution common stock received in the exchange should be allocated among

different blocks of NJCB common stock and with respect to identifying the bases or holding periods of the particular shares of 1st Constitution common stock received in the merger.

Gain that holders of NJCB common stock recognize in connection with the merger generally will constitute capital gain and will constitute long-term capital gain if such holders have held (or are treated as having held) their NJCB common stock for more than one year as of the date of the merger. Long-term capital gain of non-corporate holders of NJCB common stock is generally taxed at preferential rates. In some cases, if a holder actually or constructively owns 1st Constitution stock other than 1st Constitution stock received pursuant to the merger, the recognized gain could be treated as having the effect of a distribution of a dividend under the tests set forth in Section 302, in which case such gain would be treated as dividend income. Because the possibility of dividend treatment depends primarily upon each holder's particular circumstances, including the application of the constructive ownership rules, holders of NJCB common stock should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the foregoing rules to their particular circumstances.

**Cash Received Instead of a Fractional Share of 1st Constitution Common Stock.** A holder of NJCB common stock who receives cash instead of a fractional share of 1st Constitution common stock will generally be treated as having received



the fractional share pursuant to the merger and then as having sold that fractional share of 1st Constitution common stock for cash. As a result, a holder of NJCB common stock will generally recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the basis in his or her fractional share interest as set forth above. Except as described above, this gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if, as of the effective date of the merger, the holding period for such shares is greater than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

**Backup Withholding and Information Reporting.** Payments of cash to a holder of NJCB common stock may, under certain circumstances, be subject to information reporting and backup withholding, unless the holder provides proof of an applicable exemption satisfactory to 1st Constitution and the exchange agent or furnishes its taxpayer identification number, and otherwise complies with all applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Any amounts withheld from payments to a holder under the backup withholding rules are not additional tax and will be allowed as a refund or credit against the holder's United States federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

**Tax Treatment of the Entities.** No gain or loss will be recognized by 1st Constitution or NJCB as a result of the merger. The tax basis of the assets of NJCB in the hands of 1st Constitution will be the same as the tax basis of the assets in the hands of NJCB immediately prior to the merger.

**Tax Consequences if the Merger Fails to Qualify as a Reorganization.** If the merger does not qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, then each U.S. holder of NJCB common stock will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between (a) the sum of the fair market value of the shares of 1st Constitution common stock, as of the effective date of the merger, received by such U.S. holder pursuant to the merger and the amount of any cash received by such U.S. holder pursuant to the merger and (b) its adjusted tax basis in the shares of NJCB common stock surrendered in exchange therefor. Gain or loss will be computed separately with respect to each identified block of NJCB common stock exchanged in the merger.

Further, if the merger is not treated as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, NJCB will be subject to tax on the deemed sale of its assets to 1st Constitution, with gain or loss for this purpose measured by the difference between NJCB's tax basis in its assets and the fair market value of the consideration deemed to be received therefor or, in other words, the cash and shares of 1st Constitution common stock plus liabilities assumed in the merger, and 1st Constitution will become liable for any tax liability of NJCB resulting from the merger.

**Reporting Requirements.** An NJCB shareholder who receives 1st Constitution common stock as a result of the merger will be required to retain records pertaining to the merger. Certain NJCB shareholders are subject to certain reporting requirements with respect to the merger. In particular, such shareholders will be required to attach a statement to their tax returns for the year of the merger that contains the information listed in Treasury Regulation Section 1.368-3(b). The statement must include the shareholder's adjusted tax basis in its NJCB common stock and other information regarding the reorganization. NJCB's shareholders are urged to consult with their tax advisers with respect to these and other reporting requirements applicable to the merger.

#### Treatment of Cash Placed in Escrow

If the merger is completed, a current holder of NJCB stock will receive, in addition to an amount of 1st Constitution stock determined as explained above, \$1.60 in cash, subject to \$0.21 being placed in escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger agreement to cover costs and expenses that may be incurred by 1st Constitution after the effective time of the merger as a result of specific pending litigation against NJCB. An NJCB shareholder who receives a pro rata interest in the escrow fund should not report the merger as an installment sale because the 1st



Constitution common stock received is considered to be traded on an “established securities market” under Section 453(k)(2)(A) of the Code and is thus not eligible for the installment method.

Instead, the shareholder may report the receipt of its share of the escrow fund, for the taxable year encompassing the Effective Time, either by using (1) the Fair Market Value Method or (2) the Open Transaction Method, each as described below. If the shareholder uses the “Fair Market Value Method,” it will determine the fair market value of its pro rata share of the expected escrow fund distributions and report this amount along with the cash consideration actually received (i.e., the fair market value of such pro rata share will be treated as cash consideration that is received). If the shareholder uses the “Open Transaction Method,” it will determine that the escrow fund distributions are so contingent and speculative so as to make it impossible to value them and report its pro rata share of the escrow fund accordingly. The ability to use the Open Transaction Method is generally limited to rare and extraordinary cases.



If a shareholder reports its pro rata share of the escrow fund under the Fair Market Value Method, then to the extent that actual distributions from the escrow fund differ from their estimated value, the shareholder (1) will be required report a gain in future years if the actual amounts received are in excess of the original estimated value and (2) may be able either (A) to report a capital loss or (B) to increase the basis in its 1st Constitution common stock received in the merger if the actual amounts received are less than the original estimated value. If a U.S. holder reports its pro rata shares of the Escrow Fund under the Open Transaction Method, then subsequent distributions from the Escrow Fund are reportable when received. It is possible that the IRS may not agree that the Open Transaction Method is available and assess penalties and interest plus additional taxes for the year that includes the Effective Time.

Shareholders should be considered the owners of their pro rata share of the escrowed funds and should be taxed on their pro rata share of the periodic earnings (including, but not limited to, interest income) on the escrowed funds on an annual basis. A portion of any escrowed cash and/or earnings thereon may be characterized as ordinary interest income for United States federal income tax purposes under the imputed interest rules of the Code. As a result, a portion of any payments made to the U.S. holders from the escrow at a date later than the merger may be re-characterized as interest income; applicable tax law may allocate payments between interest and sales proceeds, whether or not the parties have done so. Generally, the amount of imputed interest income, if any, on the escrowed cash should be determined by comparing the actual interest earned by the U.S. holders with respect to the escrowed cash to the applicable federal rate in effect for the month in which the Effective Time of the merger occurs.

The taxation of cash escrow arrangements and the interest thereon (both actual and imputed) is complex and uncertain. Each holder of NJCB common stock is urged to consult its tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the escrow fund.

#### Tax legislation

On December 22, 2017, President Trump signed legislation that makes significant changes to the Code. These changes to the tax law, many of which will be effective on January 1, 2018, should not impact the tax consequences of the merger described above. However, it is possible that further legislation affecting the tax laws will be enacted, and that such legislation may have an effective date before the merger has taken place. You should consult with your own tax advisor regarding the impact of any new tax legislation.

The preceding discussion is intended only as a summary of material United States federal income tax consequences of the merger to holders of NJCB common stock. It is not a complete analysis or discussion of all potential tax effects that may be important to you. Thus, you are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the specific tax consequences resulting from the merger, including tax return reporting requirements, the applicability and effect of federal, state, local, and other tax laws and the effect of any proposed changes in the tax laws.

#### Rights of Dissenting Shareholders

The rights of dissenting shareholders are governed by § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended.

Under these statutes, shareholders of NJCB (i) who are entitled to vote at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, (ii) who serve a written notice of dissent from the merger agreement to NJCB at its principal office, which may be made by registered mail or personally by the dissenting shareholder or his, her or its agent, no later than the third day prior to the date of the special meeting of NJCB shareholders and (iii) who do not vote to approve the merger agreement at the special meeting of NJCB shareholders, may, within 30 days after the filing of the merger agreement with the NJDOBI, serve a demand notice upon the surviving bank at its principal office, which may be made by registered mail or personally by the dissenting shareholder or its agent, for payment to the dissenting shareholder of

the value of its shares of stock. The surviving bank may, within ten days after receipt of such demand notice, offer to pay the dissenting shareholder an amount which, in the opinion of the Board of the surviving bank, does not exceed the amount which would be paid for the shares of stock if the business and assets of NJCB were liquidated on the day of the filing of the merger agreement with the NJDOBI.

If the dissenting shareholder does not accept the amount offered by the surviving bank or if no offer is made by the surviving bank, it may institute an action in the Superior Court of New Jersey for the appointment of a board of three appraisers to determine the value of its stock as of the date of the filing of the merger agreement with the NJDOBI. The action must be instituted in the Superior Court of New Jersey within three weeks of the date on which the shareholder received the



surviving bank's offer or, if no offer was made, within three weeks of the date on which the shareholder served a demand notice upon the surviving bank. Any other shareholder who has the right to institute a similar action may intervene and the Superior Court of New Jersey will appoint a single board of three appraisers to determine the value of the shares of all shareholders who are parties to the action. Compensation of the three appraisers will be determined by the Superior Court and paid by the surviving bank.

The board of three appraisers will give notice of their meetings and the surviving bank and shareholders who are party to the action may be represented by attorneys at the meetings and present evidence to the appraisers. The determination of any two of the appraisers will control and upon conclusion of the appraisers' deliberations, they will file a report and appraisal of the value of the shares of stock in the Superior Court and mail copies of the report and appraisal to the surviving bank and each shareholder who is party to the action. The surviving bank and the shareholders party to the action will have ten days after the filing of the report and appraisal in the Superior Court to object to the findings of the appraisers. If there are no objections, the report and appraisal will be binding upon the bank and the shareholders party to the action and the surviving bank will pay such shareholders the value of their shares as reported by the appraisers with interest from the date of the filing of the merger agreement with the NJDOBI calculated at an interest rate to be determined by the appraisers, which will not be in excess of the legal rate. If objections are made, the Superior Court will make a ruling on the objections.

An offer by the surviving bank and acceptance of such offer by a dissenting shareholder or a determination of the value of the shares of stock pursuant to the institution of an action will constitute a debt of the surviving bank for which an action can be brought for the recovery of such amount.

In addition to the above described process, a shareholder may institute an action in the Superior Court of New Jersey not later than five days prior to the date of the special meeting of NJCB shareholders to enjoin the merger on the grounds that the merger agreement is unfair, inequitable or contrary to law. The Superior Court may proceed in the action in a summary manner or otherwise.

The text of § 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended, is attached to this proxy statement-prospectus as Annex C.

A shareholder who fails to act pursuant to § 17:9A-140, § 17:9A-141 and § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended, will be forever barred from bringing any action (i) to enforce its right to be paid the value of its shares or (ii) to enjoin, set aside or otherwise affect the merger under these statutory provisions. Consequently, if you wish to exercise your dissenters' rights, you are strongly urged to consult with your legal advisor before attempting to do so.

#### Voting Agreements

As a condition to 1st Constitution's execution of the merger agreement, the directors, executive officers and 5% shareholders of NJCB have entered into voting agreements with 1st Constitution. Under the voting agreements, the directors, executive officers and 5% shareholders who are parties to such agreements have agreed to vote in favor of the merger and against any competing proposal. The commitment of directors and executive officers, however, is subject to the "fiduciary out" provision of the merger agreement described above. As of the record date of February 5, 2018, such directors and executive officers had sole or shared voting power over 550,024 shares of NJCB common stock, or approximately 28.8% of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on the record date. In addition, as of the record date of February 5, 2018, the 5% shareholders had sole or shared voting power over 289,370 shares of NJCB common stock, or approximately 15.2% of the shares of NJCB common stock outstanding on the record date.







## INFORMATION ABOUT 1ST CONSTITUTION

### General

1st Constitution is a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. 1st Constitution was organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey in February 1999 for the purpose of acquiring all of the issued and outstanding stock of 1st Constitution Bank, a full service commercial bank that began operations in August 1989, thereby enabling 1st Constitution Bank to operate within a bank holding company structure. 1st Constitution became an active bank holding company on July 1, 1999. Other than its ownership interest in 1st Constitution Bank, 1st Constitution currently conducts no other significant business activities. 1st Constitution Bank operates 18 branches and manages an investment portfolio through its subsidiary, 1st Constitution Investment Company of New Jersey, Inc. FCB Assets Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of 1st Constitution Bank, is used by 1st Constitution Bank to manage and dispose of repossessed real estate. 1st Constitution Capital Trust II, a subsidiary of 1st Constitution, was created in May 2006 to issue trust preferred securities to assist 1st Constitution in raising additional regulatory capital.

As of September 30, 2017, 1st Constitution had:

consolidated total assets of \$1.069 billion;

total deposits of \$870 million;

total loans of \$772 million; and

total shareholders' equity of \$112 million.

1st Constitution's principal executive offices and telephone number are:

2650 Route 130  
P.O. Box 634  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512  
(609) 655-4500

## INFORMATION ABOUT NJCB

### General

NJCB is an independent New Jersey state chartered full service community bank that opened for business in 2008. The Bank conducts a general commercial and retail banking business encompassing a wide range of lending products including commercial and commercial real estate loans, term loans and revolving credit arrangements for businesses and consumer loans. It also offers a broad variety of deposit accounts including consumer and commercial checking accounts and a variety of time deposits.

As of September 30, 2017, NJCB had:

consolidated total assets of \$104 million;

total deposits of \$94 million;

total loans of \$83 million; and

total shareholders' equity of \$9 million.

NJCB's principal executive offices and telephone number are:

3441 U.S. Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728  
(732) 431-2265

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## DESCRIPTION OF 1ST CONSTITUTION CAPITAL STOCK

The authorized capital stock of 1st Constitution presently consists of 30,000,000 shares of common stock and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, 40,000 of which have been designated Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock and 12,000 of which have been designated Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B. As of February 5, 2018, 8,085,761 shares of 1st Constitution's common stock and no shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

The following is merely a summary of the terms of 1st Constitution's capital stock. The full terms of 1st Constitution's capital stock are set forth in 1st Constitution's Certificate of Incorporation. A conformed copy of 1st Constitution's Certificate of Incorporation is attached as Exhibit 3(i)(A) to 1st Constitution's Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 27, 2009.

### General

1st Constitution is a New Jersey general business corporation governed by the New Jersey Business Corporation Act and a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

## COMMON STOCK

The following description contains certain general terms of the 1st Constitution's common stock.

### Dividend Rights

The holders of 1st Constitution's common stock are entitled to dividends when, as, and if declared by the 1st Constitution Board out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. Generally, New Jersey law prohibits corporations from paying dividends if, after giving effect to the distribution, the corporation would be unable to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of its business or the corporation's total assets would be less than its total liabilities.

The primary source of dividends paid to the 1st Constitution's shareholders is dividends paid to 1st Constitution by 1st Constitution Bank. Thus, as a practical matter, any restrictions on the ability of 1st Constitution Bank to pay dividends will act as restrictions on the amount of funds available for payment of dividends by 1st Constitution. Dividend payments by 1st Constitution Bank to 1st Constitution are subject to the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948 and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, under which 1st Constitution Bank may not pay any dividends if, after paying the dividend, it would be undercapitalized under applicable capital requirements. In addition to these explicit limitations, the federal regulatory agencies are authorized to prohibit a banking subsidiary or bank holding company from engaging in an unsafe or unsound banking practice. Depending upon the circumstances, the agencies could take the position that paying a dividend would constitute an unsafe or unsound banking practice.

The dividend rights of holders of 1st Constitution's common stock are qualified and subject to the dividend rights of holders of 1st Constitution's preferred stock that may be issued in the future as described below in the section titled "BLANK CHECK PREFERRED STOCK".

### Voting Rights

Each holder of 1st Constitution's common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters voted upon by the shareholders, including the election of directors. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors.

### Preemptive Rights

Holders of shares of 1st Constitution's common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights with respect to any shares of the common stock that may be issued.

### Liquidation Rights

In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of 1st Constitution, or upon any distribution of its capital assets, after the payment of debts and liabilities and subject to the prior rights of the holders of preferred stock, holders of 1st Constitution's common stock are entitled to receive, on a pro rata per share basis, all remaining assets of 1st Constitution.



#### Assessment and Redemption

All outstanding shares of 1st Constitution's common stock are fully paid and non-assessable. 1st Constitution's common stock is not redeemable at the option of the issuer or the holders thereof.

#### Transfer Agent

American Stock Transfer and Trust Company is presently the transfer agent for 1st Constitution's common stock.

#### Listing

1st Constitution's common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "FCCY".

#### Anti-Takeover Provisions

##### Certificate of Incorporation

Provisions of 1st Constitution's Certificate of Incorporation may have anti-takeover effects. These provisions may discourage attempts by others to acquire control of 1st Constitution without negotiation with 1st Constitution's Board. The effect of these provisions is discussed briefly below.

1.

##### Authorized Stock

The shares of 1st Constitution's common stock authorized by its Certificate of Incorporation but not issued provide 1st Constitution's Board with the flexibility to effect financings, acquisitions, stock dividends, stock splits and stock-based grants without the need for a shareholder vote. 1st Constitution's Board, consistent with its fiduciary duties, could also authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock, and could establish voting conversion, liquidation and other rights for 1st Constitution's preferred stock being issued, in an effort to deter attempts to gain control of 1st Constitution. For a further discussion, see "Anti-Takeover Provisions – Blank Check Preferred Stock" below.

2.

##### Classification of Board

1st Constitution's Certificate of Incorporation currently provides that its Board is divided into three classes of as nearly equal size as possible, with one class elected annually to serve for a term of three years. This classification of 1st Constitution's Board has the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to change the composition of the Board, whether or not a change in the Board would be beneficial to 1st Constitution. It may discourage a takeover of 1st Constitution because a shareholder with a majority interest in 1st Constitution would have to wait for at least two consecutive annual meetings of shareholders to elect a majority of the members of 1st Constitution's Board.

#### SERIES A JUNIOR PARTICIPATING PREFERRED STOCK

1st Constitution previously authorized forty thousand shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock in connection with 1st Constitution's dividend distribution of one right for each outstanding share of its common stock to 1st Constitution shareholders of record as of the close of business on March 29, 2004. Each right entitled the registered holder to purchase from 1st Constitution one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a price of \$142.00 per one one-hundredth of a share, subject to adjustment, under certain

circumstances if the rights become exercisable. The rights expired on March 29, 2014 without ever becoming exercisable and no shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock were ever issued. Accordingly, there are no shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock presently outstanding, and 1st Constitution does not intend to issue any shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock in the future.

#### FIXED RATE CUMULATIVE PERPETUAL PREFERRED STOCK, SERIES B

1st Constitution previously authorized twelve thousand shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, in connection with its participation in the United States Department of the Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program Capital Purchase Program under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The twelve thousand shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, were issued to the United States Department of the Treasury on December 23, 2008 and subsequently repurchased by 1st Constitution on October 27, 2010. Accordingly, there are no shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, presently outstanding, and 1st Constitution does not intend to not re-issue any shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series B, in the future.





## BLANK CHECK PREFERRED STOCK

The remaining 4,948,000 undesignated shares of preferred stock are typically referred to as “blank check” preferred stock. This term refers to stock for which the rights and restrictions are determined by the board of directors of a corporation. 1st Constitution’s Certificate of Incorporation authorizes 1st Constitution’s Board to issue new shares of 1st Constitution’s preferred stock without further shareholder action.

1st Constitution’s Certificate of Incorporation gives the Board authority at any time to:

divide any or all of the remaining authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock into classes and to divide such classes into series;

determine the designation, number of shares, relative rights, preferences and limitations of any class or series of preferred stock;

increase the number of shares of any class or series of preferred stock;

decrease the number of shares in a class or series, but not to a number less than the number of shares of such class or series then outstanding;

change the designation, number of shares, relative rights, preferences and limitations of any class or series; and

determine the relative rights and preferences which are subordinate to, or equal with, the shares of any other class or series.

With respect to any class or series of preferred stock, 1st Constitution’s Certificate of Incorporation further gives the Board at any time to determine:

the dividend rate on shares of such class or series and any restrictions, limitations or conditions upon the payment of such dividends, and whether dividends are cumulative, and the dates on which dividends, if declared, would be payable;

whether the shares of such class or series would be redeemable and, if so, the terms of redemption;

the rights of holders of shares of such class or series in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of 1st Constitution, whether voluntary or involuntary, or any other distribution of its assets;

whether the shares of such class or series would be subject to the operation of a purchase, retirement or sinking fund and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

whether the shares of such class or series would be convertible into shares of any other class or series of the same or any other class, and if so, the terms of such conversion; and

the extent of voting powers, if any, of the shares of such class or series.

The issuance of additional common or preferred stock may be viewed as having adverse effects upon the holders of common stock. Holders of 1st Constitution's common stock will not have preemptive rights with respect to any newly issued stock. 1st Constitution's Board could adversely affect the voting power of holders of 1st Constitution's common stock by issuing shares of preferred stock with certain voting, conversion and/or redemption rights. In the event of a proposed merger, tender offer or other attempt to gain control of 1st Constitution that the Board does not believe to be in the best interests of its shareholders, the Board could issue additional preferred stock which could make any such takeover attempt more difficult to complete. Blank check preferred stock may also be used in connection with the issuance of a shareholder rights plan, sometimes called a poison pill.

#### COMPARISON OF SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS

The rights of 1st Constitution shareholders are governed by New Jersey corporate law and 1st Constitution's Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws. The rights of NJCB shareholders are governed by New Jersey banking law and its Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws. There are differences between 1st Constitution and NJCB that will affect the relative rights of 1st Constitution shareholders and NJCB shareholders.

The following discussion describes and summarizes the material differences between the rights of 1st Constitution common shareholders and NJCB common shareholders. With respect to each issue described below, the information set forth



in the left column describes the rights NJCB common shareholders currently enjoy, while the information set forth in the right column describes the rights enjoyed by 1st Constitution common shareholders. If the merger is completed, any NJCB common shareholder who becomes a common shareholder of 1st Constitution will be entitled to and become subject to all of the rights described in the right column. The following discussion is not a complete discussion of all of the differences. For a complete understanding of all of the differences, you should review the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of 1st Constitution, the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of NJCB and the New Jersey statutes. Copies of the respective Certificates of Incorporation and By-laws of both 1st Constitution and NJCB may be obtained from the secretary of each entity.

NJCB	1ST CONSTITUTION
<p>Voting Rights</p>	
<p>Holders of shares of NJCB common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held.</p>	<p>Holders of shares of 1st Constitution common stock are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held.</p>
<p>Rights on Liquidation</p>	
<p>In the event of liquidation, after payment of indebtedness, NJCB common shareholders are entitled to receive pro-rata any assets distributable to common shareholders with respect to the shares of NJCB common stock held by them.</p>	<p>In the event of liquidation, after payment of indebtedness and subject to the prior rights of the holders of preferred stock, 1st Constitution common shareholders are entitled to receive pro-rata any assets distributable to common shareholders with respect to the shares of 1st Constitution common stock held by them.</p>
<p>Rights of Preemption</p>	
<p>Holders of shares of NJCB common stock do not have preemptive rights to subscribe to or to acquire additional shares of NJCB common stock that may be issued. NJCB has the right to issue and to sell shares of NJCB common stock or any option, warrant or right to acquire NJCB common stock, or any securities having conversion or option rights, without first offering such shares, rights or securities to any holder of NJCB common stock. An increase in the authorized amount of capital stock would require an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation. The shares of newly authorized stock may be issued without offering them first to existing common shareholders.</p>	<p>Holders of shares of 1st Constitution common stock do not have preemptive rights to subscribe to or to acquire additional shares of 1st Constitution common stock that may be issued. 1st Constitution has the right to issue and to sell shares of 1st Constitution common stock or any option, warrant or right to acquire 1st Constitution common stock, or any securities having conversion or option rights, without first offering such shares, rights or securities to any holder of 1st Constitution common stock. An increase in the authorized amount of capital stock would require an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation. The shares of newly authorized stock may be issued without offering them first to existing common shareholders.</p>
<p>Rights to Call a Special Meeting of the Shareholders</p>	
<p>Special meetings of NJCB's shareholders may be called by the President or the Board upon the written demand to the President by the holder(s) of not less than 10% of all outstanding shares entitled to vote at the meeting.</p>	<p>Special meetings of 1st Constitution's shareholders may be called by the President or Secretary upon the written demand of the holders of not less than 25% of all outstanding shares entitled to vote at the meeting.</p>





### Shareholders' Rights to Amend Corporate Governing Documents

An amendment to NJCB's Certificate of Incorporation may be made if it is adopted by the Board and approved by the holders of at least two-thirds of NJCB's capital stock entitled to vote at any meeting of the shareholders.

The Board has the power to make, alter and repeal the By-laws of NJCB, subject to alteration or repeal by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at any meeting of shareholders.

### Election and Classification of the Board of Directors

The NJCB Board is not classified and all directors stand for election annually. Holders of shares of NJCB common stock do not have the right to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

### Nomination of Directors by Shareholders

In addition to the right of the Board to make nominations for the election of directors, any voting shareholder may nominate a person to stand for election at an annual meeting of the shareholders of NJCB, provided that the shareholder complies with advance notice requirements specified in the By-laws. Notice of nominations must be given not less than 90 days prior to any meeting of the shareholders called for the election of directors.

### Rights to Remove a Director

A director may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote for the election of directors.

An amendment to 1st Constitution's Certificate of Incorporation may be made if it is approved by the holders of a majority of 1st Constitution's capital stock entitled to vote at any meeting of shareholders.

The Board has the power to make, alter and repeal the By-laws of 1st Constitution, subject to alteration or repeal by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at any meeting of shareholders.

The 1st Constitution Board is divided into three classes that serve for terms of three years, with each class consisting as nearly as possible of one-third of the authorized number of directors. At each annual meeting, one class of directors will be elected for a term of three years to succeed those directors in the class whose terms then expire. Holders of shares of 1st Constitution common stock do not have the right to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

In addition to the right of the Board to make nominations for the election of directors, any voting shareholder may nominate a person to stand for election at an annual meeting of the shareholders of 1st Constitution, provided that the shareholder complies with advance notice requirements specified in the By-laws. Notice of nominations must be given not less than 90 days prior to the anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting.

A director may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at any meeting of shareholders and voting separately as a class.





### Shareholders' Rights to Reports

Shares of NJCB common stock are not registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. However, upon the written request of any shareholder, NJCB will mail to such shareholder the balance sheet of NJCB as of the end of the preceding fiscal year, as well as NJCB's statement of income and loss and NJCB's statement of shareholders equity for such fiscal year. Further, any shareholder of record for at least 6 months immediately preceding a demand, or any person holding at least 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock, upon at least 5 days' written demand, has the right for any proper purpose to examine NJCB's minutes of the meetings of its shareholders and list of record shareholders during normal business hours.

Shares of 1st Constitution common stock are registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Accordingly, 1st Constitution is required to provide annual reports containing audited consolidated financial statements to its shareholders. 1st Constitution also files reports on a quarterly basis that contain unaudited financial information and makes copies of such reports available on its website.

### Preferred Stock

NJCB does not currently have any shares of preferred stock outstanding, but the Board is permitted under New Jersey banking law to issue preferred stock if an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation authorizing the issuance of preferred stock is approved by the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of common stock.

1st Constitution does not currently have any shares of preferred stock outstanding, but the Board is authorized to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock and to determine the class and rights to be attached to any share of preferred stock without obtaining common shareholder approval.



**PROPOSAL 2:**

**ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTE ON OTHER MATTERS**

NJCB is also submitting a proposal for consideration at the special meeting to authorize the named proxies (i) to approve one or more adjournments of the special meeting if there are not sufficient votes to approve the merger agreement at the time of the special meeting and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. Even though a quorum may be present at the special meeting, it is possible that NJCB may not have received the favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the shares of NJCB's common stock outstanding on the record date that are necessary to approve the merger agreement by the time of the special meeting. In that event, a majority of the Board may determine to seek one or more adjournments of the special meeting in order to solicit additional proxies. In addition, there may be other matters that may be properly presented at the special meeting for a vote. This proposal relates only to (i) an adjournment of the special meeting for purposes of soliciting additional proxies to obtain the requisite shareholder approval to approve the merger agreement and (ii) the authorization of the Board to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting. Any other adjournment of the special meeting (e.g., an adjournment required because of the absence of a quorum) would be voted upon pursuant to the discretionary authority granted by the proxy card in such manner as determined by a majority of the Board. If the special meeting is adjourned for 30 days or less and the time and place of the adjourned special meeting is announced at the special meeting, NJCB is not required to give notice of the time and place of the adjourned special meeting unless the Board fixes a new record date for the special meeting.

The proposal (i) to approve one or more adjournments of the special meeting and (ii) to grant authority to the Board to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting requires that the votes cast in person or by proxy at the special meeting in favor of the proposal exceeds the votes cast against the proposal. The NJCB Board retains full authority to the extent set forth in NJCB's By-laws and New Jersey banking law to adjourn the special meeting for any other purpose, or to postpone the special meeting before it is convened, without the consent of any NJCB shareholder.

**Recommendation of the NJCB Board**

The NJCB Board unanimously recommends that NJCB shareholders vote FOR approval of authorization of the Board (i) to adjourn the special meeting to a later date, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of approval of the merger agreement and (ii) to vote on other matters properly presented at the special meeting.



## INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

1st Constitution filed a registration statement on Form S-4 to register with the SEC the 1st Constitution common stock to be issued to NJCB shareholders in the merger. This proxy statement-prospectus is a part of that registration statement and constitutes a prospectus of 1st Constitution in addition to being a proxy statement of NJCB for NJCB's special meeting of shareholders. As allowed by SEC rules, this proxy statement-prospectus does not contain all of the information you can find in the registration statement or the exhibits to the registration statement. The rules and regulations of the SEC allow 1st Constitution to omit certain information included in the registration statement from this document.

The following documents filed by 1st Constitution (Commission File No. 000-32891) with the SEC are hereby incorporated in this proxy statement-prospectus:

Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2016;

Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017, June 30, 2017 and September 30, 2017, respectively;

Current Reports filed on Form 8-K on February 2, 2017, February 21, 2017, March 17, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 12, 2017, April 24, 2017, May 26, 2017, June 23, 2017, July 21, 2017, October 26, 2017, November 6, 2017, November 7, 2017, December 27, 2017 and February 5, 2018 (unless stated otherwise in the applicable report, information furnished under Item 2.02 or 7.01 of 1st Constitution's Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated herein by reference);

The definitive proxy statement for the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders;

All documents filed by 1st Constitution pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this document but before the earlier of (1) the date of the NJCB special meeting of shareholders, or (2) the termination of the merger agreement, are hereby incorporated by reference into this document and will be deemed a part of this document from the date they are filed (other than the portions of those documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules).

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this proxy statement-prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this proxy statement-prospectus.

1st Constitution files reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. 1st Constitution's SEC filings are also available over the internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. The SEC website contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. You may also read and copy any document 1st Constitution files by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

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In addition, you can obtain, without charge, any of the documents, excluding any exhibits to those documents, that 1st Constitution files with the SEC by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following addresses:

1st Constitution Bancorp  
2650 Route 130  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512  
(609) 655-4500  
Attention: Stephen J. Gilhooly,  
Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST DOCUMENTS, PLEASE DO SO BY MARCH 8, 2018 TO RECEIVE THEM BEFORE THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NJCB SHAREHOLDERS. If you request any documents, 1st Constitution will mail them to you by first class mail, or another equally prompt means, within two business days after it receives your request.





1ST CONSTITUTION AND NJCB HAVE AUTHORIZED NO ONE TO GIVE YOU ANY INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION ABOUT THE MERGER OR 1ST CONSTITUTION AND NJCB THAT DIFFERS FROM OR ADDS TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT OR IN THE DOCUMENTS 1ST CONSTITUTION HAS PUBLICLY FILED WITH THE SEC. THEREFORE, IF ANYONE SHOULD GIVE YOU ANY DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON IT.

IF YOU LIVE IN A JURISDICTION WHERE IT IS UNLAWFUL TO OFFER TO EXCHANGE OR SELL, OR TO ASK FOR OFFERS TO EXCHANGE OR BUY, THE SECURITIES OFFERED BY THIS DOCUMENT, OR TO ASK FOR PROXIES, OR IF YOU ARE A PERSON TO WHOM IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DIRECT THESE ACTIVITIES, THEN THE OFFER PRESENTED BY THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT EXTEND TO YOU.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT SPEAKS ONLY AS OF THE DATE INDICATED ON THE COVER OF THIS DOCUMENT, UNLESS THE INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY INDICATES THAT ANOTHER DATE APPLIES.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the shares of 1st Constitution common stock to be issued in the merger has been passed upon for 1st Constitution by Day Pitney, counsel to 1st Constitution. Day Pitney will also render the opinion referred to under “Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

#### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and for the years then ended and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016 incorporated by reference in this proxy statement-prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm (the report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting expresses an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016), incorporated by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

As of the date of this proxy statement-prospectus, NJCB does not know of any other matter that will be presented for consideration at its special meeting of shareholders other than as described in this proxy statement-prospectus. However, if any other matter is to be voted upon, the form of proxies submitted to shareholders of NJCB will be deemed to confer authority to the individuals named as proxies to vote the shares represented by such proxies as to any such matters according to their best judgment; provided, however, that no proxy that is voted against the merger will be voted in favor of any adjournment or postponement of the NJCB special meeting.



ANNEX A

Execution Version

AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

THIS AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER (the “Agreement”), dated as of November 6, 2017, is by and among 1st Constitution Bancorp, a New Jersey corporation and registered bank holding company (“1st Constitution”), 1st Constitution Bank, a New Jersey state commercial bank and the wholly- owned banking subsidiary of 1st Constitution (the “Bank”), and New Jersey Community Bank, a New Jersey state commercial bank (“NJCB”). 1st Constitution, the Bank and NJCB are sometimes collectively referred to as the “Parties” or individually referred to as a “Party”. Defined terms are described in Section 9.11 of this Agreement.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, 1st Constitution and the Bank desire to acquire NJCB, and NJCB’s Board of Directors has determined, based upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, that the acquisition is advisable to NJCB and its shareholders. The acquisition will be accomplished by (i) merging NJCB with and into the Bank, with the Bank as the surviving entity (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “Surviving Entity”) (the “Merger”) and (ii) NJCB’s shareholders receiving the Aggregate Merger Consideration hereinafter set forth. The Boards of Directors of each of NJCB, 1st Constitution and the Bank have duly adopted and approved this Agreement and the Board of Directors of NJCB has directed that the Agreement be submitted to the NJCB shareholders for approval;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to make certain representations, warranties and agreements in connection with the Merger and also to prescribe certain conditions to the Merger;

WHEREAS, as an inducement and condition to 1st Constitution’s entering into this Agreement, each of the directors and executive officers of NJCB, in their individual capacity, have entered into a voting agreement in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A with 1st Constitution pursuant to which they have agreed to take certain actions in support and cooperation of the Merger, 1st Constitution and the Surviving Entity and to release any and all claims that they may have against NJCB, 1st Constitution and the Surviving Entity (the “D&O Voting Agreement”);

WHEREAS, as an inducement and condition to 1st Constitution’s entering into this Agreement, each person set forth on Exhibit B (the “Supporting Shareholders”) has entered into a voting agreement in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit C with 1st Constitution pursuant to which they have agreed to take certain actions in support and cooperation of the Merger, 1st Constitution and the Surviving Entity (the “Shareholder Voting Agreement”).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, representations, warranties and agreements contained herein, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

A-1



ARTICLE I  
THE MERGER

1.1 The Merger. Subject to the provisions hereof, in the Merger, NJCB shall be merged with and into the Bank pursuant to the Bank Merger Act, as amended (the “Bank Merger Act”), the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended (the “New Jersey Banking Act”), as well as the applicable regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”), the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance (the “New Jersey Department”) and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve Board”), and the Bank shall be the surviving entity and shall continue to be known as “1st Constitution Bank.”

1.2 Closing, Closing Date, Determination Date and Effective Time. Unless a different date, time and/or place are agreed to by the Parties, the closing of the Merger (the “Closing”) shall take place at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of Day Pitney LLP, 1 Jefferson Road, Parsippany, New Jersey, on a date determined by 1st Constitution and reasonably and promptly agreed by NJCB on at least five Business Days prior notice (the “Closing Notice”) given by 1st Constitution to NJCB, which date (the “Closing Date”) shall be the later to occur of (i) March 1, 2018 or (ii) a Business Day that is not more than twenty (20) Business Days following the receipt of all necessary regulatory, governmental and shareholder approvals and consents and the expiration of all statutory waiting periods in respect thereof and the satisfaction or waiver of all of the conditions to the consummation of the Merger specified in Article VII of this Agreement (other than the delivery of certificates, opinions and other instruments and documents to be delivered at the Closing). In the Closing Notice, 1st Constitution shall specify the “Determination Date”, which date shall be the first date on which all bank regulatory approvals (and waivers, if applicable) necessary for consummation of the Merger have been received (disregarding any waiting period) and either Party has notified the other in writing that all such approvals (and waivers, if applicable) have been received. The Merger shall become effective on the date specified in the certificate to be issued by the FDIC approving the Merger, which date the Parties currently anticipate will be the close of business on the Closing Date (such date is hereinafter referred to as the “Effective Time”).

1.3 Effect of the Merger. At the Effective Time, NJCB shall be merged with and into the Bank and the separate existence of NJCB shall cease. At the Effective Time, the Surviving Entity shall be considered the same business and corporate entity as each of the Bank and NJCB and, thereupon and thereafter, all the property, rights, privileges, powers and franchises of each of the Bank and NJCB shall vest in the Surviving Entity and the Surviving Entity shall be subject to and be deemed to have assumed all of the debts, liabilities, obligations and duties of each of the Bank and NJCB and shall have succeeded to all of each of their relationships, as fully and to the same extent as if such property, rights, privileges, powers, franchises, debts, liabilities, obligations, duties and relationships had been originally acquired, incurred or entered into by the Surviving Entity. In addition, any reference to either of the Bank or NJCB in any contract or document, whether executed or taking effect before or after the Effective Time, shall be considered a reference to the Surviving Entity if not inconsistent with the other provisions of the contract or document; and any pending action or other judicial proceeding to which either of the Bank or NJCB is a party shall not be deemed to have been abated or to have been discontinued by reason of the Merger, but may be prosecuted to final judgment, order or decree in the same manner as if the Merger had not been made; or the Surviving Entity may be substituted as a party to such action or proceeding, and any judgment, order or decree may be rendered for or against it that might have been rendered for or against either of the Bank or NJCB if the Merger had not occurred.



1.4 Conversion of NJCB Common Stock.

(a) At the Effective Time, subject to the other provisions of this Section 1.4 and Sections 1.14, 1.17 and 2.2(e) of this Agreement, each share of NJCB's common stock, \$2.00 par value per share ("NJCB Common Stock"), issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than (i) shares of NJCB Common Stock held in NJCB's treasury and (ii) shares of NJCB Common Stock held directly or indirectly by 1st Constitution or NJCB or any of their respective Subsidiaries (except for Trust Account Shares and DPC Shares)), shall, by virtue of this Agreement and without any action on the part of NJCB, 1st Constitution or the holder thereof, cease to be outstanding and shall be converted into and become the right to receive a combination of common stock, no par value per share, of 1st Constitution ("1st Constitution Common Stock") and cash as follows:

(i) that percentage of a share of 1st Constitution Common Stock equal to the Exchange Ratio (as hereinafter defined) (such percentage of a share of 1st Constitution Common Stock, the "Per Share Stock Consideration"); and

(ii) One and 60/100 Dollars (\$1.60), in cash, subject to Twenty One Cents (\$0.21) being placed in escrow in accordance with Section 1.17 hereof (the "Escrowed Amount") to cover all costs and expenses that 1st Constitution may incur after the Effective Time as a result of that certain litigation matter captioned Robert O'Donnell v. New Jersey Community Bank, Shelly LoCascio, Andrew Harris (Docket No. MON-L-4711-15) or the settlement thereof (the "Litigation Matter"), which Escrowed Amount, after deducting such costs and expenses, if any, incurred by 1st Constitution as a result of the Litigation Matter, shall be released from escrow to the former shareholders of NJCB following final non-appealable resolution of the Litigation Matter (the "Per Share Cash Consideration"). The aggregate Escrowed Amount on all shares of NJCB Common Stock is Four Hundred Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Three and 45/100 Dollars (\$400,773.45) and is referred to herein as the "Aggregate Escrowed Amount".

For purposes of this Section 1.4(a), the following terms shall have the following meanings:

A. "Exchange Ratio" shall mean the following:

(1)  
if the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price is between \$17.10 and \$18.90, the Exchange Ratio shall be equal to 0.1333; or

(2)  
if the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price is greater than \$18.90, the Exchange Ratio shall be adjusted downward to that percentage determined by taking (a) the product of \$18.90 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by (b) the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price, rounded to four decimal places; or

(3)  
if the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price is less than \$17.10, the Exchange Ratio shall be adjusted upward to that percentage determined by taking (a) the product of \$17.10 multiplied by 0.1333 and dividing such product by (b) the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price, rounded to four decimal places; provided, however, that in no event shall the Exchange Ratio be greater than 0.1425.





Notwithstanding the foregoing and subject to Section 8.1(l) hereof, if the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price is less than \$7.00, 1st Constitution shall have the right in its sole discretion to increase the Exchange Ratio to the extent necessary for 1st Constitution to not pay an aggregate amount in cash (including cash in lieu of fractional shares paid pursuant to Section 2.2(e) hereof) that would result in the Merger failing to satisfy the continuity of interest requirement applicable to reorganizations under Treas. Reg. Section 1.368-1(e) (using 40% as the minimum value of the proprietary interest in 1st Constitution that must be preserved in the reorganization).

B. "1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price" means the average (rounded to four decimals) of the daily closing sales prices of 1st Constitution Common Stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market (as reported in an authoritative source chosen by 1st Constitution) for the 10 consecutive full trading days in which such shares are quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market ending at the close of trading on the Determination Date.

If 1st Constitution declares or effects a stock dividend, reclassification, recapitalization, split-up, combination, exchange of shares or similar transaction between the date of this Agreement and the Closing Date, the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price shall be appropriately adjusted for the purposes of applying this Section 1.4(a).

(b) At the Effective Time, (i) all shares of NJCB Common Stock that are owned by NJCB as treasury stock and (ii) all shares of NJCB Common Stock that are owned directly or indirectly by 1st Constitution or NJCB or any of their respective Subsidiaries (other than shares of NJCB Common Stock (x) held directly or indirectly in trust accounts, managed accounts and the like or otherwise held in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of third parties (any such shares, and shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock which are similarly held, whether held directly or indirectly by 1st Constitution or NJCB, as the case may be, being referred to herein as "Trust Account Shares") or (y) held by 1st Constitution or NJCB or any of their respective Subsidiaries in respect of a debt previously contracted (any such shares of NJCB Common Stock, and shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock which are similarly held, being referred to herein as "DPC Shares")), shall be canceled and shall cease to exist and no stock of 1st Constitution, cash or other consideration shall be delivered in exchange therefor. All shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock that are owned by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries (other than Trust Account Shares and DPC Shares) shall become treasury stock of 1st Constitution.

(c) On and after the Effective Time, holders of certificates which immediately prior to the Effective Time represented outstanding shares of NJCB Common Stock (the "Certificates") shall cease to have any rights as shareholders of NJCB, except the right to receive the Per Share Stock Consideration and the Per Share Cash Consideration for each such share held by them, and except as provided in Section 1.14 with respect to Dissenting Shares. The consideration which any holder of NJCB Common Stock is entitled to receive pursuant to this Article I is referred to herein as the "Merger Consideration". The consideration which all of NJCB shareholders are entitled to receive pursuant to this Article I is referred to herein as the "Aggregate Merger Consideration".

(d) Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, if, between the date of this Agreement and the Effective Time, the shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock shall be changed into a different number or class of shares by reason of any reclassification, recapitalization, split-up, combination, exchange of shares or readjustment, or a stock dividend declared thereon with a record date within said period, appropriate adjustments shall be made to the Exchange Ratio.



1.5 Exchange Agent. NJCB and 1st Constitution hereby appoint American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, with offices in Brooklyn, New York (or such other transfer agent as 1st Constitution shall designate in good faith and shall be reasonably acceptable to NJCB) as the exchange agent (the “Exchange Agent”) for purposes of effecting the conversion of NJCB Common Stock hereunder.

1.6 Stock Options.

(a) All outstanding options that may be exercised for shares of NJCB Common Stock (whether or not vested) (each, a “Stock Option” and collectively the “Stock Options”) are described in Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule (as such term is defined in Article III of this Agreement) and are presently governed by NJCB’s stock option plans as set forth in Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule (collectively, the “NJCB Stock Compensation Plans”) and the agreements pursuant to which such Stock Options were granted (each, an “Option Grant Agreement”). NJCB shall take all requisite action so that, at the Effective Time, each Stock Option that is outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time, whether or not then vested or exercisable, shall be, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of 1st Constitution, the Bank, NJCB, the holder of that Stock Option or any other Person, cancelled and converted into the right to receive from 1st Constitution, the Bank and/or NJCB (and 1st Constitution, the Bank and/or NJCB shall pay to such holder), at the Effective Time, an amount in cash, without interest, equal to the product of (x) the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock subject to such Stock Option, multiplied by (y) the excess, if any, of \$4.00 over the per share exercise price under such Stock Option, less any Taxes required to be withheld. Stock Options with a per share exercise price greater than \$4.00 shall be cancelled as of the Closing by NJCB in accordance with the terms of the relevant NJCB Stock Compensation Plan and the holders thereof shall be entitled to no consideration from 1st Constitution, the Bank or NJCB.

(b) At or prior to the Effective Time, NJCB, the NJCB Board and the compensation committee of such board, as applicable, shall adopt any resolutions and take any actions (including obtaining any employee consents) that may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Section 1.6.

1.7 Warrants. All outstanding warrants that may be exercised for shares of NJCB Common Stock (whether or not vested) (each, a “Warrant” and collectively the “Warrants”) are described in Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule (as such term is defined in Article III of this Agreement) and are presently governed by the agreements pursuant to which such Warrants were granted (each, a “Warrant Agreement”). All such unexercised Warrants shall expire in accordance with their terms at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on February 28, 2018, which date is prior to the Closing Date.

1.8 1st Constitution and the Bank Common Stock. Except for shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock owned by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries (other than Trust Account Shares and DPC Shares), which shall be converted into treasury stock of 1st Constitution as contemplated by Section 1.4 of this Agreement, the shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time and the shares of the Bank’s common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be unaffected by the Merger and such shares shall remain issued and outstanding.

1.9 Certificate of Incorporation. At the Effective Time, the certificate of incorporation of the Bank, as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time, shall be the certificate of incorporation of the Surviving Entity until thereafter amended in accordance with applicable Law.



1.10 By-Laws. At the Effective Time, the by-laws of the Bank, as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time, shall be the by-laws of the Surviving Entity until thereafter amended in accordance with applicable Law.

1.11 Directors and Officers of the Surviving Entity. The directors of the Bank immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the directors of the Surviving Entity, each to hold office in accordance with the certificate of incorporation and by-laws of the Surviving Entity until their respective successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified. The officers of the Bank immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the officers of the Surviving Entity, each to hold office in accordance with the certificate of incorporation and by-laws of the Surviving Entity until their respective successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified.

1.12 Capital Stock. As of September 30, 2017, the Bank had capital of \$126,947,000 divided into 1,212,104 issued and outstanding shares of \$5.00 par value common stock (no treasury shares) (“Bank Common Stock”), including \$74,942,480 of surplus, and undivided profits of \$45,944,000 (includes Other Comprehensive Loss of \$230,000 as of September 30, 2017). As of September 30, 2017, NJCB had capital of \$9,263,755, divided into 1,908,445 issued and outstanding shares of \$2.00 par value common stock (no treasury shares), including \$13,875,712 of surplus, and undivided loss of \$8,428,847 (includes Other Comprehensive Income of \$36,798 as of September 30, 2017). At the Effective Time, the amount of capital of the Bank shall be \$131,526,411, divided into 1,212,104 shares of \$5.00 par value common stock, including surplus of approximately \$79,521,891 and undivided profits of \$45,944,000, including capital reserves, adjusted however, for earnings and dividends declared and paid by the Bank between September 30, 2017 and the Effective Time and purchase accounting adjustments.

1.13 Withholding Rights. 1st Constitution shall be entitled to deduct and withhold, or cause the Exchange Agent to deduct and withhold, from funds provided by the holder or from the consideration otherwise payable pursuant to this Agreement to any holder of NJCB Common Stock, the minimum amounts (if any) that 1st Constitution is required to deduct and withhold with respect to the making of such payment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) or any other provision of Tax law. To the extent that amounts are so withheld by 1st Constitution, such withheld amounts shall be treated for all purposes of this Agreement as having been paid to the holder of NJCB Common Stock in respect of which such deduction and withholding was made by 1st Constitution.

1.14 Dissenters’ Rights.

(a) Any holder of NJCB Common Stock who elects to dissent from the Merger shall be entitled to payment for such shares (“Dissenting Shares”) only to the extent permitted by and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 17:9A-140; provided, however, that if, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 17:9A-140, any holder of Dissenting Shares shall forfeit such right to payment of the fair value of such shares, such shares shall thereupon be deemed to have been converted into and to have become exchangeable for, as of the Effective Time, the right to receive the Per Share Cash Consideration without interest from the Bank. Dissenting Shares shall not, after the Effective Time, be entitled to vote for any purpose or receive any dividends or other distributions and shall be entitled only to such rights as are afforded in respect of Dissenting Shares pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:9A-140.

(b) NJCB shall give 1st Constitution and the Bank (i) prompt notice of any written objections to the Merger and any written demands for the payment of the fair value of any shares,



withdrawals of such demands, and any other instruments served pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:9A-140 received by NJCB and (ii) the opportunity to participate in all negotiations and proceedings with respect to such demands under N.J.S.A. 17:9A-140. NJCB shall not voluntarily make any payment with respect to any demands for payment of fair value and shall not, except with the prior written consent of 1st Constitution, settle or offer to settle any such demands.

1.15 Tax Consequences. It is intended that the Merger shall constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code and that this Agreement shall constitute a “plan of reorganization” for purposes of Section 368 of the Code.

1.16 Offices. The (i) principal office and branch office of NJCB, (ii) the principal office and branch offices of the Bank, and (iii) the principal office and branch offices of the Surviving Entity are as set forth on Exhibit D attached hereto. The principal office of the Surviving Entity on and after Effective Date shall be the principal office of the Bank set forth on Exhibit D and the principal office of NJCB and its branch shall become branches of the Surviving Entity on and after the Effective Date.

1.17 Escrow. Immediately prior to the Closing, 1st Constitution, the shareholders of NJCB, acting through a shareholder representative (the “Shareholder Representative”), and an escrow agent, who shall be mutually agreed upon between 1st Constitution and the Shareholder Representative (the “Escrow Agent”), shall execute an escrow agreement, substantially in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit E, with such changes thereto that are mutually agreed upon by among the Escrow Agent, 1st Constitution and the Shareholder Representative (the “Escrow Agreement”), pursuant to which 1st Constitution shall deliver the Aggregate Escrowed Amount to the Escrow Agent to be held in escrow and released from escrow in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Escrow Agreement.

## ARTICLE II EXCHANGE OF SHARES

2.1 1st Constitution to Make Shares and Cash Available. At or prior to the Effective Time, 1st Constitution shall deposit, or shall cause to be deposited, with the Exchange Agent, for the benefit of the holders of Certificates (other than those representing Dissenting Shares), for exchange in accordance with this Article II, certificates representing shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock in an amount sufficient to cover the Per Share Stock Consideration and the Bank shall deposit, or shall cause to be deposited, with the Exchange Agent, for the benefit of the holders of Certificates (other than those representing Dissenting Shares), for exchange in accordance with this Article II, cash in an amount sufficient to cover the Per Share Cash Consideration and the payment of any cash in lieu of fractional shares (such cash and certificates for shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock, together with any dividends or distributions with respect thereto, being hereinafter referred to as the “Exchange Fund”) to be issued pursuant to Section 1.4 of this Agreement and paid pursuant to Section 2.2(a) of this Agreement in exchange for outstanding shares of NJCB Common Stock.

### 2.2 Exchange of Shares.

(a) As soon as practicable after the Effective Time, the Exchange Agent shall mail to each holder of record of a Certificate or Certificates (other than those representing Dissenting Shares) a letter of transmittal (which shall specify that delivery shall be effected, and risk of loss and title to the Certificates shall pass, only upon delivery of the Certificates to the Exchange Agent) and instructions for





use in effecting the surrender of the Certificates in exchange for the Merger Consideration into which the shares of NJCB Common Stock represented by such Certificate or Certificates shall have been converted pursuant to this Agreement. NJCB shall have the right to review both the letter of transmittal and the instructions prior to the Effective Time and provide reasonable comments thereon. After the Effective Time, upon surrender of a Certificate for exchange and cancellation to the Exchange Agent, together with such letter of transmittal, duly executed, the holder of such Certificate shall be entitled to receive in exchange therefor the Merger Consideration to which such holder of NJCB Common Stock shall have become entitled pursuant to the provisions of Article I, and the Certificate so surrendered shall forthwith be canceled. No interest will be paid or accrued on any cash constituting Merger Consideration (including cash to be paid in lieu of fractional shares) or on any unpaid dividends or distributions, if any, payable to holders of Certificates.

(b) No dividends or other distributions declared after the Effective Time with respect to 1st Constitution Common Stock and payable to the holders of record thereof shall be paid to the holder of any unsurrendered Certificate until the holder thereof shall surrender such Certificate in accordance with this Article II. After the surrender of a Certificate in accordance with this Article II, the record holder thereof shall be entitled to receive any such dividends or other distributions, without any interest thereon, which theretofore had become payable with respect to shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock, if any, represented by such Certificate.

(c) If any certificate representing shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock is to be issued in a name other than that in which the Certificate surrendered in exchange therefor is registered, it shall be a condition of the issuance thereof that the Certificate so surrendered shall be properly endorsed (or accompanied by an appropriate instrument of transfer) and otherwise in proper form for transfer, and that the person requesting such exchange shall pay to the Exchange Agent in advance any transfer or other Taxes required by reason of the issuance of a certificate representing shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock in any name other than that of the registered holder of the Certificate surrendered, or required for any other reason, or shall establish to the satisfaction of the Exchange Agent that such Tax has been paid or is not payable.

(d) After the Effective Time, there shall be no transfers on the stock transfer books of NJCB of the shares of NJCB Common Stock which were issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time. If, after the Effective Time, Certificates representing such shares are presented for transfer to the Exchange Agent, they shall be canceled and exchanged for Merger Consideration as determined in accordance with Article I of this Agreement and this Article II.

(e) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, no certificates or scrip representing fractional shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock shall be issued upon the surrender for exchange of Certificates, no dividend or distribution with respect to 1st Constitution Common Stock shall be payable on or with respect to any fractional share, and such fractional share interests shall not entitle the owner thereof to vote or to receive any other rights of a shareholder of 1st Constitution. In lieu of the issuance of any such fractional share, 1st Constitution shall pay to each former shareholder of NJCB who otherwise would be entitled to receive a fractional share of 1st Constitution Common Stock an amount in cash determined by multiplying such fractional interest by the 1st Constitution Common Stock Average Price. All shares of NJCB Common Stock held by any such former shareholder immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be aggregated before determining the need to pay cash in lieu of fractional shares to such former shareholder.



(f) Any portion of the Exchange Fund that remains unclaimed by the shareholders of NJCB for six months after the Effective Time shall be paid to 1st Constitution. Any shareholders of NJCB who have not theretofore complied with this Article II shall thereafter look only to 1st Constitution for payment of the cash, shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock, cash in lieu of fractional shares and unpaid dividends and distributions on the 1st Constitution Common Stock deliverable in respect of each share of NJCB Common Stock such shareholder holds as determined pursuant to this Agreement, in each case, without any interest thereon.

(g) If any of the consideration due or other payments to be paid or delivered to the holders of NJCB Common Stock is not paid or delivered within the time period specified by any applicable laws concerning abandoned property, escheat or similar laws, and if such failure to pay or deliver such consideration occurs or arises out of the fact that such property is not claimed by the proper owner thereof, 1st Constitution or the Exchange Agent shall be entitled to dispose of any such consideration or other payments in accordance with applicable laws concerning abandoned property, escheat or similar laws. Any other provision of this Agreement notwithstanding, none of NJCB, 1st Constitution, the Bank, the Exchange Agent, nor any other Person acting on behalf of any of them shall be liable to a holder of NJCB Common Stock for any amount paid or property delivered in good faith to a public official pursuant to and in accordance with any applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar law.

(h) In the event any Certificate shall have been lost, stolen or destroyed, upon the making of an affidavit of that fact by the person claiming such Certificate to be lost, stolen or destroyed and, if required by 1st Constitution, the posting by such person of a bond in such amount as 1st Constitution may direct as indemnity against any claim that may be made against it with respect to such Certificate, the Exchange Agent will issue, in exchange for such lost, stolen or destroyed Certificate, the cash and/ or shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock and cash in lieu of fractional shares deliverable in respect thereof pursuant to this Agreement.

### ARTICLE III REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF NJCB

References herein to the "NJCB Disclosure Schedule" shall mean all of the disclosure schedules required by this Article III and Articles V and VI, dated as of the date hereof and referenced to the applicable specific sections and subsections of Articles III, V and VI of this Agreement, which have been delivered on the date hereof by NJCB to 1st Constitution. Except as set forth in the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, NJCB hereby represents and warrants to 1st Constitution as follows:

#### 3.1 Corporate Organization.

(a) NJCB is a state-chartered commercial bank duly organized and validly existing under the Laws of the State of New Jersey. The deposit accounts of NJCB are insured by the FDIC through the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund to the fullest extent permitted by Law, and all premiums and assessments required to be paid in connection therewith have been paid when due. Each of NJCB's Subsidiaries is an entity duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the Laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or organization. NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries has the power and authority (corporate or other) to own or lease all of its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted and is duly licensed or qualified to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or the location of the properties and assets owned or



leased by it makes such licensing or qualification necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified would not have a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB. Copies of the certificate of incorporation, by-laws, certificate of formation, operating agreement, as applicable, and any other governing documents of NJCB and each Subsidiary of NJCB have previously been delivered to 1st Constitution's counsel (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.1(a) of this Agreement); such copies are true and complete copies of such documents as in effect as of the date of this Agreement.

(b) The minute books of NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries contain true and complete records of all meetings and other actions held or taken since December 31, 2013 (or since the date of formation with respect to any such entity formed on or after December 31, 2013) by their respective shareholders, members, managers and Boards of Directors (including committees of their respective Boards of Directors or managers). Copies of such minute books have been made available to 1st Constitution's counsel.

(c) Except as set forth in Section 3.1(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, NJCB and its Subsidiaries do not own or control, directly or indirectly, any equity interest in any corporation, company, limited liability company, association, partnership, joint venture or other entity except for shares held by NJCB in a fiduciary or custodial capacity in the Ordinary Course of Business (which, except as disclosed in Section 3.1(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, do not in the aggregate constitute more than 5% of the voting shares or interests in any such corporation, company, limited liability company, association, partnership, joint ventures or other entity) and except that which NJCB holds pursuant to satisfaction of obligations due to NJCB and which are disclosed in Section 3.1(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule.

### 3.2 Capitalization.

(a) The authorized capital stock of NJCB consists, and at Closing will consist, solely of 10,000,000 shares of NJCB Common Stock. As of the date hereof, there were 1,908,445 shares of NJCB Common Stock outstanding and no shares of NJCB Common Stock held by NJCB as treasury stock. As of the date hereof, there were no shares of NJCB Common Stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options, warrants or otherwise except for 47,525 shares of NJCB Common Stock reserved for issuance pursuant to NJCB Stock Compensation Plans and 265,698 shares of NJCB Common Stock reserved for issuance pursuant to Warrants, each as described in Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule. True and complete copies of (i) the NJCB Stock Compensation Plans and all Option Grant Agreements relating to outstanding Stock Options and (ii) the Warrant Agreements relating to outstanding Warrants have been delivered to 1st Constitution's counsel (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.2(a) of this Agreement). Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth with respect to each outstanding Stock Option and Warrant (as appropriate): the name of the holder, the number of shares of NJCB Common Stock covered thereby, the date of grant or issuance, the exercise price, the vesting schedule, the expiration date and whether a Stock Option constitutes an incentive stock option under the Code. All of the issued and outstanding shares of NJCB Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. Except as referred to above or reflected in Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, NJCB does not have and is not bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, rights, calls, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of NJCB Common Stock or any other equity security of NJCB or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of NJCB Common Stock or any other equity security of NJCB.



(b) Section 3.2(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth a true and complete list of all of the Subsidiaries of NJCB. Except as otherwise set forth in Section 3.2(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, NJCB owns, directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding shares of the capital stock or all of the other equity interests of each of such Subsidiaries, free and clear of all Liens, and all of such shares or other equity interests are duly authorized and validly issued, are (if applicable) fully paid and nonassessable and are free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. No Subsidiary of NJCB has or is bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, rights, calls, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of capital stock or any other equity interest of such Subsidiary or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock or any other equity interest of such Subsidiary. Except as otherwise set forth in Section 3.2(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, at the Effective Time, there will not be any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, rights, calls, commitments or agreements of any character by which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries will be bound calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of the capital stock or other equity interests of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries and there will be no agreements or understandings with respect to the voting of any such shares or other equity interests binding on NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

(c) The NJCB Stock Compensation Plans have been duly authorized, approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of NJCB and NJCB's shareholders. With respect to each grant of Stock Options, (i) each such grant was duly authorized no later than the date on which the grant was by its terms to be effective by all necessary action, including, as applicable, approval by the Board of Directors of NJCB (or a duly constituted and authorized committee thereof) or a duly authorized delegate thereof, and any required shareholder approval by the necessary number of votes or written consents, (ii) the award agreement governing such grant (if any) was duly executed and delivered by each party thereto, (iii) each such grant was made in accordance with the terms of the applicable NJCB Stock Compensation Plan and with all applicable Laws, and (iv) each such grant was properly accounted for in all material respects in accordance with GAAP in the NJCB Financial Statements. NJCB has not granted, and there is no and has been no NJCB policy or practice to grant, any Stock Options prior to, or otherwise coordinated the grant of Stock Options with, the release or other public announcement of material information regarding NJCB or its financial results or prospects. There are no outstanding or authorized stock appreciation, phantom stock, profit participation, restricted stock or other similar rights with respect to NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

(d) No bonds, debentures, trust-preferred securities or other similar indebtedness of NJCB are issued or outstanding.

### 3.3 Authority; No Violation.

(a) NJCB has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and, subject to (x) the Parties' obtaining (i) all bank regulatory approvals required to effectuate the Merger and (ii) the other approvals listed in Section 3.4 of this Agreement and (y) the approval of NJCB's shareholders as contemplated herein, to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. On or prior to the date of this Agreement, NJCB's Board of Directors has (i) determined that this Agreement and the Merger are fair to and in the best interests of NJCB and its shareholders and declared the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby to be advisable, (ii) approved this Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, (iii) directed that this Agreement and the transactions





contemplated hereby be submitted to NJCB's shareholders for approval at the NJCB Shareholders' Meeting and (iv) resolved to recommend that NJCB's shareholders approve the Merger and this Agreement at the NJCB Shareholders' Meeting (the "NJCB Board Recommendation"). The execution and delivery of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly and validly approved by the Board of Directors of NJCB. Except for the adoption of this Agreement by the requisite vote of NJCB's shareholders, no other corporate proceedings on the part of NJCB are necessary to approve this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by NJCB and (assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by 1st Constitution and the Bank) this Agreement constitutes a valid and binding obligation of NJCB, enforceable against NJCB in accordance with its terms, except as enforcement may be limited by general principles of equity, whether applied in a court of law or a court of equity, and by bankruptcy, insolvency and similar Laws affecting creditors' rights and remedies generally.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by NJCB nor the consummation by NJCB of the transactions contemplated hereby in accordance with the terms hereof, or compliance by NJCB with any of the terms or provisions hereof, will (i) violate any provision of the certificate of incorporation or by-laws of NJCB or the certificate of incorporation, by-laws or similar governing documents of any of its Subsidiaries, or (ii) assuming that the consents and approvals referred to in Section 3.4 of this Agreement are duly obtained and except as set forth in Section 3.3(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, (x) violate any Law or Order applicable to NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, or any of their respective properties or assets, or (y) violate, conflict with, result in a breach of any provision of or the loss of any benefit under, constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time, or both, would constitute a default) under, result in the termination of or a right of termination or cancellation under, accelerate the performance required by, or result in the creation of any Lien upon any of the respective properties or assets of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries under, any of the terms, conditions or provisions of any note, bond, mortgage, indenture, deed of trust, license, lease, agreement or other instrument or obligation to which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is a party, or by which they or any of their respective properties or assets may be bound or affected, except, with respect to (ii) above, such as individually or in the aggregate will not have a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB.

3.4 Consents and Approvals. Except for (a) the filing of applications and notices, as applicable, with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("FRB") and approval of such applications and notices, (b) the filing of applications and notices, as applicable, with the FDIC and approval of such applications and notices, (c) the filing of applications and notices, as applicable, with the New Jersey Department and approval of such applications and notices, (d) the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and declaration of effectiveness of the registration statement on Form S-4 (the "S-4") in which a proxy statement in definitive form relating to the meeting of NJCB's shareholders to be held in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby (the "Proxy Statement") and a prospectus with respect to the issuance of the 1st Constitution Common Stock will be included, (e) the approval of this Agreement and the Merger by the requisite vote of the shareholders of NJCB, (f) approval of the listing of the 1st Constitution Common Stock to be issued in the Merger on the NASDAQ Global Market, (g) such filings as shall be required to be made with any applicable state securities bureaus or commissions, (h) such consents, authorizations or approvals as shall be required under the Environmental Laws and (i) such other filings, authorizations or approvals as may be set forth in Section 3.4 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, no consents or approvals of or filings or registrations with any court, administrative agency or commission or other governmental authority or instrumentality (each



a “Governmental Entity”) or with any third party are necessary on behalf of NJCB in connection with (1) the execution and delivery by NJCB of this Agreement and (2) the consummation by NJCB of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby.

### 3.5 Reports.

(a) NJCB has timely filed all reports, registrations and statements, together with any amendments required to be made with respect thereto, that they were required to file since December 31, 2013 with (i) the New Jersey Department, and (ii) the FDIC (collectively with the New Jersey Department and the FDIC, the “NJCB Regulatory Agencies”), and have paid all fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith. Except for normal examinations conducted by the NJCB Regulatory Agencies in the regular course of the business of NJCB and its Subsidiaries, and except as set forth in Section 3.5 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, no NJCB Regulatory Agency has initiated any proceeding or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, investigation into the business or operations of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries since December 31, 2013, the effect of which is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB or to delay approval of the Merger by any Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over the Merger, 1st Constitution, NJCB or their respective Subsidiaries or which is reasonably likely to result in such Governmental Entity’s objecting to the Merger. There is no unresolved violation, criticism, or exception by any NJCB Regulatory Agency with respect to any report or statement relating to any examinations of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries the effect of which is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB or to delay approval of the Merger by any Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over the Merger, 1st Constitution, NJCB or their respective Subsidiaries or which is reasonably likely to result in such Governmental Entity’s objecting to the Merger.

(b) The records, systems, controls, data and information of NJCB and its Subsidiaries are recorded, stored, maintained and operated under means (including any electronic, mechanical or photographic process, whether computerized or not) that are under the exclusive ownership and direct control of NJCB or its Subsidiaries or accountants (including all means of access thereto and therefrom), except for any non-exclusive ownership and non-direct control that would not reasonably be expected to have a materially adverse effect on the system of internal accounting controls described in the following sentence. NJCB and its Subsidiaries have devised and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes. NJCB has designed disclosure controls and procedures sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that material information relating to NJCB and its Subsidiaries is made known to the management of NJCB by others within those entities as appropriate. Management of NJCB has disclosed, based on its most recent evaluation prior to the date hereof, to NJCB’s auditors and the audit committee of NJCB’s Board of Directors (1) any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect in any material respect NJCB’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data and have identified for NJCB’s auditors any material weaknesses in internal controls and (2) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in NJCB’s internal controls.

(c) Except as set forth in Section 3.5(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, since January 1, 2014, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries nor, to the Knowledge of NJCB, any member of NJCB’s Board of Directors or executive officer of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, has received any material written complaint, allegation, assertion or claim regarding the accounting or auditing practices, procedures, methodologies or methods of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries or their respective internal accounting controls.



### 3.6 Financial Statements.

(a) NJCB has previously made available to 1st Constitution copies of (a) the consolidated statements of financial condition of NJCB and its Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2015 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows and consolidated statements of comprehensive income for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, in each case accompanied by the audit report of BDO USA, LLP (the "Accounting Firm"), independent public accountants with respect to NJCB, (b) the notes related thereto and (c) the unaudited consolidated statement of financial condition of NJCB and its Subsidiaries as of June 30, 2017 and the related unaudited consolidated statements of income for the six months ended June 30, 2016 and 2017 (collectively, the "NJCB Financial Statements"). The consolidated statements of financial condition of NJCB (including the related notes, where applicable) included within the NJCB Financial Statements fairly present the consolidated financial position of NJCB and its Subsidiaries as of the dates thereof, and the consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows and consolidated statements of comprehensive income of NJCB and its Subsidiaries (including the related notes, where applicable) included within the NJCB Financial Statements fairly present the consolidated results of operations, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows and consolidated statements of comprehensive income of NJCB and its Subsidiaries for the respective fiscal periods therein set forth; and each of the NJCB Financial Statements (including the related notes, where applicable) has been prepared in accordance with GAAP consistently applied during the periods involved, except, in the case of unaudited statements, as permitted by GAAP. The books and records of NJCB and its Subsidiaries have been, and are being, maintained in accordance with GAAP and any other applicable legal and accounting requirements, and reflect only actual transactions.

(b) Except as and to the extent reflected, disclosed or reserved against in the NJCB Financial Statements (including the notes thereto), as of June 30, 2017, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries had any liabilities, whether absolute, accrued, contingent or otherwise, material to the financial condition of NJCB and its Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis which were required to be so disclosed under GAAP. Since December 31, 2016, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries have incurred any material liabilities except in the Ordinary Course of Business, except as specifically contemplated by this Agreement.

(c) Since December 31, 2016, there has not been any material change in the internal controls utilized by NJCB to assure that its consolidated financial statements conform with GAAP. NJCB is not aware of any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the design or operation of such internal controls that are reasonably likely to adversely affect NJCB's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information and is not aware of any fraud, whether or not material, that involves NJCB's management or other employees who have a significant role in such internal controls.

(d) The Accounting Firm is and has been throughout the periods covered by the NJCB Financial Statements (x) a registered public accounting firm and (y) "independent" with respect to NJCB within the meaning of the rules of applicable bank regulatory authorities and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. Section 3.6(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule lists all non-audit services performed by the Accounting Firm (or any other of its then independent public accountants) for NJCB and its Subsidiaries since January 1, 2014.



### 3.7 Broker's and Other Fees.

(a) Neither NJCB nor any Subsidiary of NJCB nor any of their respective officers or directors has employed any broker or finder or incurred any liability for any broker's fees, commissions or finder's fees in connection with any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, except that NJCB has engaged, and will pay a fee or commission to, Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. (the "Advisory Firm") in accordance with the terms of a letter agreement between the Advisory Firm and NJCB, a true and complete copy of which has previously been delivered by NJCB to 1st Constitution's counsel (with a designation that such copy has been delivered pursuant to Section 3.7 of this Agreement). Other than fees payable to its attorneys and accountants (the names and terms of retention of which are set forth in Section 3.7 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule) and the fees payable to the Advisory Firm (as set forth in the above-mentioned letter agreement), there are no fees payable by NJCB or its Subsidiaries to its financial advisors, attorneys or accountants, in connection with this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby or which would be triggered by consummation of the Merger or the termination of the services of such advisors, attorneys or accountants by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

(b) Neither NJCB nor any Subsidiary of NJCB is liable for, or has paid since December 31, 2016 any termination fee, break-up fee, expenses or other similar fees to any Person in connection with the potential acquisition of NJCB or the termination of any acquisition agreement, letter of intent or other agreement regarding the potential acquisition of NJCB.

3.8 Fairness Opinion. Prior to the execution of this Agreement, NJCB has received an opinion from the Advisory Firm to the effect that as of the date thereof and based upon and subject to the matters set forth therein, the Aggregate Merger Consideration is fair to the shareholders of NJCB from a financial point of view. A copy of such opinion has been delivered to 1st Constitution's counsel (with a designation that such copy has been delivered pursuant to Section 3.8 of this Agreement) and the Advisory Firm will consent to the inclusion of such opinion as an exhibit to the S-4.

### 3.9 Absence of Certain Changes or Events.

(a) Except as set forth in Section 3.9(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, since December 31, 2016, NJCB and its Subsidiaries have carried on their respective businesses in the Ordinary Course of Business.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 3.9(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, since December 31, 2016, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has (i) increased the wages, salaries, compensation, pension, or other benefits or perquisites payable to any current or former officer, employee, or director from the amount thereof in effect as of December 31, 2016 (which amounts have been previously disclosed to 1st Constitution), granted any severance or termination pay, entered into any contract to make or grant any severance or termination pay, or paid any bonus, (ii) suffered any strike, work stoppage, slow-down, or other labor disturbance, (iii) been a party to a collective bargaining agreement, contract or other agreement or understanding with a labor union or organization, (iv) been subject to any action, suit, claim, demand, labor dispute or grievance relating to any labor or employment matter involving NJCB or any of the Subsidiaries, including charges of wrongful dismissal or discharge, discrimination, wage and hour violations, or other unlawful labor and/or employment practices or actions, or (v) entered into, or amended, any employment, deferred compensation, change in control, retention, consulting, severance, termination or indemnification agreement with any such current or former officer, employee or director or any NJCB Benefit Plan or other employee benefit plan, program or arrangement.





(c) Except as set forth in Section 3.9(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule or as expressly contemplated by this Agreement, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has taken or permitted any of the actions set forth in Section 5.1 of this Agreement between December 31, 2016 and the date hereof and, during that period, NJCB and its Subsidiaries have conducted their business only in the Ordinary Course of Business.

(d) Except for liabilities incurred in connection with this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby, and except as set forth in Section 3.9(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, since December 31, 2016, there has not been:

(i) any change or development or combination of changes or developments which, individually or in the aggregate, has had a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB,

(ii) any grant, award or issuance of Stock Options or restricted stock (in any event, identifying in Section 3.9(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule the issue date, exercise price and vesting schedule, as applicable, for issuances since December 31, 2016) or amendment or modification to the terms of any Stock Options or NJCB Stock Awards,

(iii) any declaration, setting aside or payment of any dividend or other distribution (whether in cash, stock or property) with respect to any of NJCB's capital stock,

(iv) any split, combination or reclassification of any of NJCB's capital stock,

(v) any issuance or the authorization of any issuance of any shares of NJCB's capital stock, except for issuances of NJCB Common Stock upon the exercise of Stock Options awarded prior to the date hereof in accordance with their original terms,

(vi) except insofar as may have been required by a change in GAAP or regulatory accounting principles, any change in accounting methods, principles or practices by NJCB or its Subsidiaries affecting their assets, liabilities or business, including, without limitation, any reserving, renewal or residual method, or estimate of practice or policy,

(vii) any Tax election or change in any Tax election, amendment to any Tax Return, closing agreement with respect to Taxes, or settlement or compromise of any Tax liability by NJCB or its Subsidiaries,

(viii) any material change in the investment policies or practices of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, or

(ix) any agreement or commitment (contingent or otherwise) to do any of the foregoing.

### 3.10 Legal Proceedings.

(a) Except as set forth in Section 3.10(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries nor any directors or officers of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, in their capacities as such directors or officers, is a party to any, and there are no pending or, to NJCB's Knowledge, threatened, legal, administrative, arbitral or other proceedings, claims, actions or governmental



or regulatory investigations of any material nature against NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries or any directors or officers of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, in their capacities as such directors or officers, challenging the validity or propriety of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 3.10(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, there is no outstanding Order imposed upon NJCB, any of its Subsidiaries or the assets of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

### 3.11 Taxes.

(a) Except where a failure to file Tax Returns, a failure of any such Tax Return to be complete and accurate in any respect or the failure to pay any Tax, individually or in the aggregate, would not be material to the results of operations or financial condition of NJCB and its Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, (i) NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries have timely filed (taking into account all available extensions) (and until the Effective Time will so file) all Tax Returns required to be filed by any of them in all jurisdictions, (ii) all such Tax Returns are (or, in the case of Tax Returns to be filed prior to the Effective Time, will be) true and complete in all respects, and (iii) NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries have duly and timely paid (and until the Effective Time will so pay) all Taxes that are required to be paid by any of them, except with respect to matters contested in good faith in appropriate proceedings and adequately reserved in NJCB Financial Statements. The unpaid Taxes of NJCB and its Subsidiaries (x) did not, as of the date of each consolidated statement of condition included in NJCB Financial Statements, exceed the accruals and reserves for Tax liabilities (rather than any reserve for deferred Taxes established to reflect timing differences between book and Tax income) set forth on the face of NJCB Financial Statements (rather than in any notes thereto), and (y) will not exceed that reserve as adjusted for the passage of time through the Effective Time in accordance with the past custom and practice of NJCB and its Subsidiaries in filing their Tax Returns. Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has waived any statute of limitations with respect to any material Taxes or, to the extent related to such Taxes, agreed to any extension of time with respect to a Tax assessment or deficiency, in each case to the extent such waiver or agreement is currently in effect. Except as set forth in Section 3.11(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, the Tax Returns of NJCB and its Subsidiaries which have been examined by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") or the appropriate state, local or foreign Tax authority have been resolved and either no deficiencies were asserted as a result of such examinations or any asserted deficiencies have been paid in full and reflected in NJCB Financial Statements. Except as set forth in Section 3.11(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, there are no current, pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened actions, audits, or examinations by any Governmental Entity responsible for the collection or imposition of Taxes with respect to NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, or any pending judicial Tax proceedings or any other Tax disputes, assessments or claims. Except as set forth in Section 3.11(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, as of the date of this Agreement, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has received (i) a request for information related to Tax matters, or (ii) a notice of deficiency or proposed adjustment for any amount of Tax proposed, asserted or assessed by any Governmental Entity responsible for the collection or imposition of Taxes with respect to NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries. NJCB has made available to 1st Constitution true and complete copies of the United States federal, state, local and foreign income Tax Returns filed by NJCB or its Subsidiaries and all examination reports and statements of deficiency assessed against or agreed to by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries since December 31, 2013. There are no material Liens with respect to any Taxes upon any of NJCB's or its Subsidiaries' assets, other than Permitted Liens. No claim has ever been made by any Governmental Entity in a jurisdiction where NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries does not file Tax Returns that NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is or may be subject to taxation by that jurisdiction.



(b) Except as set forth in Section 3.11(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries (i) has requested any extension of time within which to file any Tax Return which Tax Return has not since been filed, (ii) is a party to any agreement providing for the allocation or sharing of Taxes or otherwise has any liability for Taxes of any person other than NJCB and its Subsidiaries, (iii) has issued or assumed any obligation under Section 279 of the Code, any high yield discount obligation as described in Section 163(i)(1) of the Code or any registration-required obligation within the meaning of Section 163(f)(2) of the Code that is not in registered form, (iv) is or has been a United States real property holding corporation within the meaning of Section 897(c)(2) of the Code, (v) is or has been a member of an affiliated group (within the meaning of Section 1504(a) of the Code) filing consolidated United States federal income Tax Returns (other than such a group the common parent of which is or was NJCB), (vi) has been a party to any distribution occurring during the last three years in which the parties to such distribution treated the distribution as one to which Section 355 of the Code (or any similar provision of state, local or foreign Law) applied, or (vii) has participated in or otherwise engaged in any “Reportable Transaction” as defined in Section 6707A(c)(1) of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1.6011-4(b).

(c) Except as set forth in Section 3.11(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, no officer, director, employee or contractor (or former officer, director, employee or contractor) of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is entitled to now, or will or may be entitled to as a consequence of this Agreement or the Merger (either alone or in conjunction with any other event), any payment or benefit from NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries or from 1st Constitution or any of its Subsidiaries which if paid or provided would constitute an “excess parachute payment”, as defined in Section 280G of the Code or regulations promulgated thereunder.

(d) Each plan, program, arrangement or contract that constitutes in any part a nonqualified deferred compensation plan within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code is identified as such in Section 3.11(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule. The terms of each of NJCB’s and its Subsidiaries’ “nonqualified deferred compensation plans” subject to Code Section 409A (and associated U.S. Treasury Department guidance) comply with Code Section 409A (and associated U.S. Treasury Department guidance) and each such “nonqualified deferred compensation plan” has been operated in compliance with Code Section 409A (and associated U.S. Treasury Department guidance) and no such nonqualified deferred compensation plan has been materially modified within the meaning of Code Section 409A (and associated U.S. Treasury Department guidance). Each Stock Option has an exercise price that equals or exceeds the fair market value of a share of NJCB Common Stock as of the date of grant of such Stock Option (and as of any later modification thereof within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code).

(e) Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is required to pay, gross up, or otherwise indemnify any officer, director, employee or contractor for any Taxes, including potential Taxes imposed under Section 409A or Section 4999 of the Code. Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries have made any payments to employees that are not deductible under Section 162(m) of the Code and consummation of the Merger will not cause any payments to employees to not be deductible thereunder.

(f) Except as set forth in Section 3.11(f) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries will be required to include any item of income in, or exclude any item of deduction from, taxable income for any taxable period (or portion thereof) ending after the Closing Date as a result of any (i) change in method of accounting for a taxable period ending on or prior to the Closing



Date; (ii) “closing agreement” as described in Section 7121 of the Code (or any corresponding or similar provision of state, local or non-U.S. Tax law) executed on or prior to the Closing Date; (iii) intercompany transaction or any excess loss account described in Treasury Regulations under Section 1502 of the Code (or any corresponding or similar provision of state, local or foreign Tax law); (iv) installment sale or open transaction disposition made on or prior to the Closing Date; (v) prepaid amount received on or prior to the Closing Date; (vi) election under Section 108(i) of the Code; or (vii) income that accrued in a prior taxable period but that was not included in taxable income for that or another prior taxable period.

(g) Except as set forth in Section 3.11(g) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule (i) NJCB and its Subsidiaries have complied with all applicable laws, rules and regulations relating to the payment and withholding of Taxes and has, within the time and in the manner provided by law, withheld and paid over to the proper Governmental Entities all amounts required to be so withheld and paid over under applicable laws; and (ii) NJCB and its Subsidiaries has maintained such records in respect to each transaction, event and item (including as required to support otherwise allowable deductions and losses) as are required under applicable Tax law, except where the failure to comply or maintain records under (i) or (ii) would not be material to the results of operations or financial condition of NJCB and its Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

(h) For the purposes of this Agreement, (i) the term “Taxes” shall mean, with respect to any person, all federal, state, local, foreign and other taxes, customs, tariffs, imposts, levies, duties, government fees or other like assessments or charges of any kind imposed by any jurisdiction, including all income, gross receipts, franchise, profits, withholding, sales, use, ad valorem, goods and services, transfer, registration, license, recording, payroll, social security, employer health, unemployment, disability, employment (including federal and state income tax withholding, backup withholding, employment insurance, workers’ compensation or other payroll taxes, contributions, payments or premiums, as the case may be), environmental (including taxes under Code Section 59A), capital stock, excise, severance, stamp, occupation, premium, windfall profits, prohibited transaction, property, value-added, alternative or add on minimum, net worth, estimated or any other taxes, and any transfer pricing penalties, any amounts payable pursuant to agreements providing for payments in lieu of tax payments, any interest, penalties and additions imposed with respect to such amounts, whether disputed or not, and any liability for tax payments as a result of being a member of an affiliated, consolidated, combined, unitary, or similar group or as a result of transferor or successor liability, and (ii) the term “Tax Return” shall mean any return, declaration, report, claim for refund, information return or statement relating to Taxes, including any schedule or attachment thereto, and including any amendment thereof, to be filed (whether on a mandatory or elective basis) with any Governmental Entity responsible for the collection or imposition of Taxes.

### 3.12 Employee Benefits; Labor and Employment Matters.

(a) Except as disclosed in Section 3.12(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, none of NJCB, its Subsidiaries or any ERISA Affiliate sponsor, maintain, administer, contribute to or has an obligation to contribute to or liability under (i) any “employee pension benefit plan”, within the meaning of Section 3(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”) (the “NJCB Pension Plans”), (ii) any “employee welfare benefit plan”, within the meaning of Section 3(l) of ERISA (the “NJCB Welfare Plans”), or (iii) any other employee benefit plan, program, policy, agreement or arrangement, including any deferred compensation, retirement, profit sharing, incentive, bonus, commission, stock option or other equity based, phantom, change in control, retention, employment,





consulting, severance, dependent care, sick leave, vacation, flex, cafeteria, retiree health or welfare, supplemental income, fringe benefit or other similar plan, program, policy, agreement or arrangement, whether written or unwritten (collectively with the NJCB Pension Plans and the NJCB Welfare Plans, the “NJCB Benefit Plans”). Neither NJCB nor any of its ERISA Affiliates (i) has ever established, maintained, sponsored, participated in or contributed to any plan subject to Section 412 of the Code or Section 302 or Title IV of ERISA or (ii) has ever contributed to or had an obligation to contribute to any “multiemployer plan”, within the meaning of Sections 3(37) and 4001(a)(3) of ERISA. No NJCB Benefit Plan is a multiple employer plan as defined in Section 210 of ERISA. As used herein, “ERISA Affiliate” means any entity required to be aggregated with NJCB under Section 414(b), (c), (m) or (o) of the Code or Section 4001 of ERISA.

(b) NJCB has delivered to 1st Constitution’s counsel true and complete copies of each of the following with respect to each of the NJCB Benefit Plans (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.12(b) of this Agreement): (i) each NJCB Benefit Plan (together with any and all amendments thereto), summary plan description, summary of material modifications, employee handbooks or manuals or, where a NJCB Benefit Plan has not been reduced to writing, a summary of all material terms of such NJCB Benefit Plan; (ii) trust agreement, insurance contract, annuity contract or other funding instruments if any; (iii) the three most recent actuarial reports, if any; (iv) the three most recent financial statements, if any; (v) the three most recent annual reports on Form 5500, including any schedules and attachments thereto to the extent such forms, schedules and attachments are required to be filed under ERISA; (vi) all determination, opinion, notification and advisory letters and rulings, compliance statements, closing agreements, or similar materials specific to each NJCB Benefit Plan from the IRS or any Governmental Entity and copies of all pending applications and correspondence regarding actual or potential audits or investigations to or from the IRS, the Department of Labor (the “DOL”) or any other Governmental Entity with respect to any NJCB Benefit Plan; (vii) all material written contracts relating to each NJCB Benefit Plan, including fidelity or ERISA bonds and administrative service agreements; and (viii) all communications material to any employee or group of employees relating to any NJCB Benefit Plan and any proposed NJCB Benefit Plans.

(c) Except as set forth in Section 3.12(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, at December 31, 2016, the fair value of plan assets of each NJCB Pension Plan equals or exceeds the present value of the projected benefit obligations of each such plan based upon the actuarial assumptions used for purposes of the preparation of NJCB Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2016.

(d) All contributions (including all employer contributions and employee salary reduction contributions) and premium payments required to be made to or with respect to each NJCB Benefit Plan under the terms thereof, ERISA or other applicable Law have been timely made, and all amounts properly accrued to date as liabilities of NJCB and its Subsidiaries which have not been paid have been properly recorded on the books of NJCB and its Subsidiaries.

(e) To the Knowledge of NJCB, no event has occurred and no condition exists with respect to any NJCB Benefit Plan that has subjected or could subject NJCB, any of its Subsidiaries or any ERISA Affiliate to any tax, fine, penalty or other liability under the Code or ERISA.

(f) Except as set forth on Section 3.12(f) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, each of the NJCB Benefit Plans has been operated in all material respects in accordance with its terms and in compliance



with the provisions of ERISA, the Code, all regulations, rulings and announcements promulgated or issued thereunder, and all other applicable governmental laws and regulations. Furthermore, the IRS has issued a favorable determination letter, if applicable, with respect to each NJCB Pension Plan that is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code to the effect that the NJCB Pension Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 401(a) of the Code (taking into account all changes in qualification requirements under Section 401(a) for which the applicable “remedial amendment period” under Section 401(b) of the Code has expired) and no condition or circumstance exists which could disqualify any such plan. Each NJCB Pension Plan subject to the provisions of Section 401(k) or 401(m) of the Code, or both, has been tested for and has satisfied the requirements of Section 401(k)(3), Section 401(m)(2) and Section 416 of the Code, as applicable, for each of the last three plan years. There has not been, nor is there likely to be, a partial termination of any NJCB Pension Plan within the meaning of Section 411(d)(3) of the Code. None of the assets of any NJCB Pension Plan are invested in or consist of NJCB Common Stock.

(g) No non-exempt prohibited transaction, within the meaning of Section 4975 of the Code or Sections 406 or 407 of ERISA, has occurred with respect to any of the NJCB Benefit Plans. None of NJCB, any of its Subsidiaries, or any plan fiduciary of any NJCB Benefit Plan has engaged in, or has any liability in respect of, any transaction in violation of Section 404 of ERISA.

(h) There are no pending, or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened or anticipated claims (other than routine claims for benefits) by, on behalf of or against any of the NJCB Benefit Plans or any trusts related thereto. None of the NJCB Benefit Plans is the subject of any pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, any threatened investigation, audit or administrative proceeding, including any voluntary compliance submission through the IRS’s Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System or the DOL’s Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program, by or with the IRS, the DOL or any other Governmental Entity.

(i) Except as set forth in Section 3.12(i) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, no NJCB Benefit Plan provides medical benefits, death benefits or other non-pension benefits (whether or not insured) beyond an employee’s retirement or other termination of service, other than (i) coverage mandated by continuation coverage laws, or (ii) death benefits under any NJCB Pension Plan. There are no unfunded benefit obligations which are not accounted for by full reserves shown in the NJCB Financial Statements, or otherwise noted on the NJCB Financial Statements.

(j) There are no welfare benefit funds (within the meaning of Section 419 of the Code) related to a NJCB Welfare Plan, and any NJCB Welfare Plan that is a group health plan (within the meaning of Section 4980B(g)(2) of the Code) complies with all of the applicable material requirements of Section 4980B of the Code.

(k) With respect to each NJCB Benefit Plan that is funded wholly or partially through an insurance policy, there will be no liability of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries as of the Effective Time under any such insurance policy or ancillary agreement with respect to such insurance policy in the nature of a retroactive rate adjustment, loss sharing arrangement or other actual or contingent liability arising wholly or partially out of events occurring prior to the Effective Time.

(l) Except as set forth in Section 3.12(l) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither the execution of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will (either alone or in conjunction with any other event, such as a termination of employment) (i) entitle any current or



former officer, employee, director or consultant of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries to severance pay, bonus, unemployment compensation (other than as required by law) or any similar payment, or (ii) accelerate the time of payment, funding, vesting, or increase the amount, of any bonus or any compensation due to, or result in the forgiveness of any indebtedness of, any current or former officer, employee, director or consultant of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

(m) Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries or ERISA Affiliates has announced an intention to create, or has otherwise created, a legally binding commitment to adopt any additional NJCB Benefit Plans or to amend or modify any existing NJCB Benefit Plan.

(n) With respect to NJCB Benefit Plans, no event has occurred and, to the Knowledge of NJCB, there exists no condition or set of circumstances in connection with which NJCB, any Subsidiary of NJCB or any ERISA Affiliate would be subject to any liability (other than a liability to pay benefits thereunder) under the terms of such NJCB Benefit Plans, ERISA, the Code or any other applicable law which has had, or would reasonably be expected to have, a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB.

(o) Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is, nor at any time has been, a party to any collective bargaining agreement or other labor agreement, nor is any such agreement being negotiated and, to the Knowledge of NJCB, no activities or proceedings are underway by any labor union, organization, association or other employee representation group to organize any employees of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries. No work stoppage, slowdown or labor strike against NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened. NJCB and its Subsidiaries (i) do not have direct or indirect liability with respect to any misclassification of any Person as an independent contractor or temporary worker hired through a temporary worker agency rather than as an employee, (ii) are in compliance in all material respects with all applicable Laws respecting employment, employment practices, labor relations, employment discrimination, health and safety, terms and conditions of employment and wages and hours and (iii) have not received any written remedial order or notice of offense under applicable occupational health and safety Laws. Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has incurred, nor do they expect to incur, any liability or obligation under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, the regulations promulgated thereunder or any similar state or local Law.

(p) There is no unfair labor practice charge or complaint against NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened, before the National Labor Relations Board, any court or any Governmental Entity.

(q) With respect to NJCB and its Subsidiaries, there are no pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened actions, charges, citations or Orders concerning: (i) wages, compensation or violations of employment Laws prohibiting discrimination, (ii) representation petitions or unfair labor practices, (iii) violations of occupational safety and health Laws, (iv) workers' compensation, (v) wrongful termination, negligent hiring, invasion of privacy or defamation or (vi) immigration and naturalization or any other claims under state or federal labor Law.

(r) Section 3.12(r) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule contains a complete and correct list of (i) the names, job titles, current annual compensation, two (2) most recent annual bonuses, overtime exemption status and active or inactive status (and, if inactive, the reason therefor) of each current employee of NJCB and its Subsidiaries whose annual salary and bonus for the year ended December 31, 2016 was in excess of \$50,000 (calculated on a per annum basis with respect to any such employee who



was not employed by NJCB and its Subsidiaries for the entire year), (ii) the names of each director of NJCB or any Subsidiary, and (iii) the name of each Person who currently provides, or who has within the prior twelve (12) month period provided, services to NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries as an independent contractor and the amount paid to such independent contractor by NJCB and its Subsidiaries during each of the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016. To the Knowledge of NJCB, no employee named in Section 3.12(r) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule has any current plans to terminate employment or service with NJCB or any Subsidiary. Other than as set forth in Section 3.12(r) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, all employees of NJCB and its Subsidiaries are employed at will.

(s) Section 3.12(s) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule accurately sets forth the amounts payable upon consummation of the Merger under the agreements described therein.

### 3.13 NJCB Information.

(a) The information relating to NJCB and its Subsidiaries to be contained in the Proxy Statement, as of the date the Proxy Statement is mailed to shareholders of NJCB, and up to and including the date of the meeting of shareholders of NJCB to which such Proxy Statement relates, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(b) The information relating to NJCB and its Subsidiaries to be contained in the Parties' regulatory applications with respect to the Merger, including without limitation its applications to the FDIC, the New Jersey Department, and the FRB will be accurate in all material respects.

### 3.14 Compliance with Applicable Law.

(a) General. Except as set forth in Section 3.14(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, each of NJCB and its Subsidiaries hold all material licenses, franchises, permits and authorizations necessary for the lawful conduct of its business, and each of NJCB and its Subsidiaries has complied with, and is not in default in any respect under any, applicable Law, including, without limitation, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, or any rules or regulations of any federal, state or local Governmental Entity relating to NJCB or its Subsidiaries (other than where such defaults or non-compliance will not, alone or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB). Except as disclosed in Section 3.14(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, NJCB and its Subsidiaries have not received notice of violation of, and do not know of any such violations of, any of the above which have or are likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on NJCB.

(b) CRA. Without limiting the foregoing, NJCB has complied in all material respects with the Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") and NJCB has no reason to believe that any person or group would object successfully to the consummation of the Merger due to the CRA performance of or rating of NJCB. NJCB has a CRA rating of at least "satisfactory". Except as listed in Section 3.14(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, since January 1, 2014, no person or group has adversely commented in writing to NJCB in a manner requiring recording in a file of CRA communications upon the CRA performance of NJCB.





3.15 Certain Contracts.

(a) Except as disclosed in Section 3.15(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or bound by any contract or understanding (whether written or oral) with respect to the employment or termination of any present or former officers, employees, directors or consultants. NJCB has delivered to 1st Constitution's counsel true and complete copies of all written employment agreements, severance, change of control and other termination agreements with officers, employees, directors, or consultants to which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or is bound (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.15(a) of this Agreement).

(b) Except as disclosed in Section 3.15(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, (i) neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or bound by any commitment, agreement or other instrument that is material to the results of operations, cash flows or financial condition of NJCB and its Subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, (ii) no commitment, agreement or other instrument to which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which any of them is bound limits the freedom of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries to compete in any line of business, in any geographic area or with any person, and (iii) neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to (A) any collective bargaining agreement or (B) any other agreement or instrument that (I) grants any right of first refusal, right of first offer or similar right with respect to any material assets or properties of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, (II) provides for material payments to be made by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries upon a change in control thereof, (III) requires referrals of business or requires NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries to make available investment opportunities to any person on a priority or exclusive basis or (IV) requires NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries to use any product or service of another person on an exclusive basis. For purposes of clause (i) above, any contract with a remaining term of greater than ninety days or involving the payment of more than \$25,000 (other than contracts relating to banking transactions in the Ordinary Course of Business) shall be deemed material.

(c) Except as disclosed in Section 3.15(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries, nor to the Knowledge of NJCB, any other party thereto, is in default in any material respect under any material lease, contract, mortgage, promissory note, deed of trust, loan or other commitment (except those under which NJCB will be the creditor) or arrangement to which NJCB is a party.

(d) Except as set forth in Section 3.15(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither the entering into of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereunder will cause NJCB, the Bank or 1st Constitution to become obligated to make any payment of any kind to any party, including but not limited to, any termination fee, breakup fee or reimbursement fee, pursuant to any agreement or understanding between NJCB or its Subsidiaries and such party, other than the payments contemplated by this Agreement.

(e) Except as set forth in Section 3.15(e) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or bound by any contract (whether written or oral) with respect to the services of any directors, consultants or other independent contractors that, upon the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, will (either alone or upon the occurrence of any additional acts or events) result in any payment or benefits (whether of severance pay or otherwise) becoming due,



or the acceleration or vesting of any rights to any payment or benefits, from 1st Constitution, the Bank, NJCB, the Surviving Entity or any of their respective Subsidiaries to any director, officer, consultant or independent contractor thereof.

(f) Except as set forth in Section 3.15(f) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or bound by any contract (whether written or oral) which (i) is a licensing, service or other agreement relating to any IT Assets, or is any other consulting agreement or licensing agreement not terminable on ninety days or less notice involving the payment of more than \$25,000 per annum, or (ii) that materially restricts the conduct of any line of business by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

(g) Section 3.15(g) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule contains a schedule showing the good faith estimated present value as of June 30, 2017 of the monetary amounts payable (including any Tax indemnification payments in respect of income and/or excise Taxes) and identifying the in-kind benefits due under any plan other than a Tax-qualified plan for each director of NJCB and each officer of NJCB with the position of vice president or higher, specifying the assumptions in such schedule.

(h) Each contract, arrangement, commitment or understanding of the type described in this Section 3.15, whether or not set forth in Section 3.15 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, is referred to herein as a "NJCB Contract". NJCB has previously delivered to 1st Constitution's counsel true and complete copies of each NJCB Contract (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.15 of this Agreement).

3.16 Transactions with Management. Except for (a) deposits, all of which are on terms and conditions comparable to those made available to other customers of NJCB at the time such deposits were entered into, (b) the Loans listed in Section 3.21(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule or arm's length loans to employees entered into in the ordinary course of business, (c) compensation arrangements or obligations under employee benefit plans of NJCB or an NJCB Subsidiary set forth in Sections 3.12(a), 3.12(r), 3.15(a) and 3.15(e) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, (d) any loans or deposit agreements entered into in the ordinary course with customers of NJCB, and (e) items set forth on Section 3.16 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, there are no contracts with or commitments to directors, officers or employees involving the expenditure of more than \$5,000 as to any one individual, including, with respect to any business directly or indirectly controlled by any such person, or \$5,000 for all such contracts for commitments in the aggregate for any such individuals. No Loan or credit accommodation to any Affiliate of NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB is presently in default or, during the three-year period prior to the date of this Agreement, has been in default or has been restructured, modified or extended (with respect to extensions, not in the ordinary course of business) except for rate modifications pursuant to its loan modification policy that is applicable to all Persons. NJCB has not been notified that principal and interest with respect to any such Loan or other credit accommodation will not be paid when due or that the loan grade classification accorded such Loan or credit accommodation by NJCB is inappropriate.

3.17 Agreements with Regulatory Agencies. Except as set forth in Section 3.17 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any cease-and-desist or other order issued by, or is a party to any written agreement, consent agreement or memorandum of understanding with, or is a party to any commitment letter or similar undertaking to, or is subject to any order or directive by, or is a recipient of any extraordinary supervisory letter from, or has adopted any



board resolutions at the request of (each, whether or not set forth on Section 3.17 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, a “Regulatory Agreement”), any Governmental Entity, nor has NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries been advised by any Governmental Entity that it is considering issuing or requesting any Regulatory Agreement. With respect to any such Regulatory Agreement, NJCB is in full compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in any such Regulatory Agreement and has taken any and all actions required by any such Regulatory Agreement. Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is required by Section 32 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to give prior notice to a Federal banking agency of the proposed addition of an individual to its board of directors or the employment of an individual as a senior executive officer.

### 3.18 Properties and Insurance.

(a) Section 3.18(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth a true and complete list of (i) all material real property and interests in real property owned by NJCB and/or any of its Subsidiaries (individually, an “Owned Property” and collectively, the “Owned Properties”), and (ii) all leases, licenses, agreements or other instruments conveying a leasehold interest in real property by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries as lessee or lessor (or licensee or licensor, as applicable) (individually, a “Real Property Lease” and collectively, the “Real Property Leases” and, together with the Owned Properties, being referred to herein individually as a “NJCB Property” and collectively as the “NJCB Properties”).

(b) Section 3.18(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth a correct legal description, street address and Tax parcel identification number of all Owned Properties. NJCB has furnished to 1st Constitution’s counsel copies of all deeds, surveys and title policies relating to the Owned Properties and copies of all instruments, agreements and other documents evidencing, creating or constituting Liens on such Owned Properties (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.18(b) of this Agreement) to the extent in the possession of NJCB or its Subsidiaries.

(c) Section 3.18(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth a correct legal description, street address and Tax parcel identification number of all real property leased by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries under the Real Property Leases. NJCB has furnished to 1st Constitution’s counsel true and complete copies of all Real Property Leases and any and all amendments, modifications, restatements and supplements thereto (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.18(c) of this Agreement). None of the Real Property Leases have been modified in any material respect, except to the extent that such modification is disclosed by the copy made available to 1st Constitution’s counsel. The Real Property Leases are valid and enforceable in accordance with their respective terms and neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries nor, to the Knowledge of NJCB, any other party thereto, is in default thereunder in any material respect nor does any condition exist that with the giving of notice or passage of time, or both, would constitute a material default by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, other than defaults that have been cured by NJCB or its Subsidiaries or waived in writing. Except as set forth in Section 3.18(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, NJCB and its Subsidiaries have not leased or sub- leased any NJCB Property to any third parties. NJCB has furnished to 1st Constitution’s counsel true and complete copies of all leases and subleases where NJCB and/or its Subsidiaries have leased or subleased any NJCB Property to any third parties.

(d) NJCB or its Subsidiaries have good and marketable title to all Owned Property, and a valid and existing leasehold interest under each of the Real Property Leases, in each case, free and clear of all Liens of any nature whatsoever except (A) Liens set forth on Section 3.18(d) of the NJCB Disclosure



Schedule and (B) Permitted Liens. NJCB or one of its Subsidiaries enjoys peaceful, undisturbed and exclusive possession of each NJCB Property. All NJCB Property is in a good state of maintenance and repair, reasonable wear and tear excepted, does not require material repair or replacement in order to serve their intended purposes, including use and operation consistent with their present use and operation, except for scheduled maintenance, repairs and replacements conducted or required in the Ordinary Course of Business, conforms in all material respects with all applicable Laws and NJCB Properties are considered by NJCB to be adequate for the current business of NJCB and its Subsidiaries. There are no pending, or to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened condemnation or eminent domain proceedings that affect any NJCB Property or any portion thereof. There is no option or other agreement (written or otherwise) or right in favor of others to purchase any interest in Owned Properties. With respect to any NJCB Property subject to the Real Property Leases, except as expressly provided in the Real Property Leases, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries owns or holds, or is obligated under or a party to, any option, right of first refusal or other contractual right to purchase or acquire any real property or any portion thereof or interest therein. All real estate Taxes and assessments which are due and payable as of the date hereof with respect to NJCB Property have been paid (or will, prior to the imposition of any penalty or assessment, be paid). Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any notice of any special Tax or assessment affecting any NJCB Property, and no such Taxes or assessments are pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened. Neither NJCB Property nor the use or occupancy thereof violates in any material way any applicable Laws, covenants, conditions or restrictions. NJCB and its Subsidiaries have made all material repairs and replacements to NJCB Property that, to NJCB's Knowledge, are required to be made by NJCB and its Subsidiaries under the Real Property Leases or as required under applicable Laws. NJCB has delivered to 1st Constitution's counsel true and complete copies of all agreements that pertain to the ownership, management or operation of NJCB Property (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.18(d) of this Agreement).

(e) The tangible assets and other personal property owned or leased by NJCB and/ or any of its Subsidiaries are in good condition and repair (ordinary wear and tear excepted) and are fit for use in the Ordinary Course of Business. Section 3.18(e)(i) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth all leases of tangible assets and other personal property by NJCB or its Subsidiaries ("Personal Property Leases") involving annual payments in excess of \$25,000. Except as set forth on Section 3.18(e)(ii) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, (i) neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is in default under any material provision of any Personal Property Lease and, to the Knowledge of NJCB, none of the other counterparties thereto is in default under any material provision of any Personal Property Lease, (ii) no written or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, oral notice has been received by NJCB or by any of its Subsidiaries from any lessor under any Personal Property Lease that NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is in material default thereunder, (iii) with respect to clauses (i) and (ii) above, to the Knowledge of NJCB, no event has occurred or circumstance exists which, with the delivery of notice, the passage of time or both, would constitute such a breach or default, or permit the termination, modification or acceleration of any payments due under such Personal Property Leases, (iv) each of the Personal Property Leases is valid and in full force and effect, (v) neither NJCB's nor any Subsidiary's possession and quiet enjoyment of the personal property leased under such Personal Property Leases has been disturbed in any material respect and, to the Knowledge of NJCB, there are no disputes with respect to such Personal Property Leases, (vi) neither NJCB nor any Subsidiary has subleased, licensed or otherwise granted any Person the right to use the personal property leased under such Personal Property Leases and (vii) neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries have collaterally assigned or granted any other security interest in and there are no Liens on the leasehold interest created by such Personal Property Leases. NJCB has delivered to 1st Constitution's





counsel true and complete copies of each written Personal Property Lease, and in the case of any oral Personal Property Lease, a written summary of the material terms of such Personal Property Lease (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.18(e) of this Agreement).

(f) The business operations and all insurable properties and assets of NJCB and its Subsidiaries are insured for their benefit against all risks which, in the reasonable judgment of the management of NJCB, should be insured against, in each case under policies or bonds issued by insurers of recognized responsibility, in such amounts with such deductibles and against such risks and losses as are in the reasonable judgment of the management of NJCB adequate for the business engaged in by NJCB and its Subsidiaries. NJCB and its Subsidiaries have not received any notice of cancellation or notice of a material amendment of any such insurance policy or bond and are not in default under any such policy or bond, no coverage thereunder is being disputed and all material claims thereunder have been filed in a timely fashion. Section 3.18(f) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth a complete and accurate list of all primary and excess insurance coverage held by NJCB and/or its Subsidiaries currently or at any time during the past three years. Copies of all insurance policies reflected on such list have been provided to 1st Constitution. Except as set forth in Section 3.18(f) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any written notice, or to the Knowledge of NJCB, any oral notice, that there are any pending actions or claims against NJCB Property, NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, whether or not such claims or actions are covered by insurance. None of the insurance policies maintained by NJCB or its Subsidiaries constitute self-insured fronting policies or are subject to retrospective premium adjustments. Any pending claims that NJCB or its Subsidiaries have made for insurance have been acknowledged for coverage by the applicable insurer.

(g) NJCB has purchased in 2012 and 2013, for an aggregate premium of \$3.5 million received by the insurance carriers, with approximately \$8.2 million of bank owned life insurance (“BOLI”) coverage covering the lives of 18 officers and directors of NJCB (the “BOLI Covered Individuals”). NJCB has entered into an agreement with each BOLI Covered Individual (an “Insurance Agreement”) entitling such BOLI Covered Individual to receive a death benefit. Section 3.18(g) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth the names and current ages of each of the BOLI Covered Individuals, and the formula for determining the death benefit that each such individual will be entitled to receive. Except as set forth in Section 3.18(g) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, in no event will any BOLI Covered Individual be entitled to receive more than \$25,000 upon his or her death pursuant to the Insurance Agreements and any other plan or arrangement entered into in connection with NJCB’s BOLI, all of which shall be funded by NJCB’s BOLI without the payment of any further premium. Other than the BOLI for the BOLI Covered Individuals, NJCB and its Subsidiaries do not sponsor, maintain or otherwise provide BOLI coverage or any other type of insurance coverage providing, or shall be obligated to pay, any death benefits with respect to any current or former employee, officer or director of NJCB or its Subsidiaries. NJCB has delivered to 1st Constitution’s counsel true and complete copies of the agreements and other documents providing for the BOLI, the Insurance Agreements and of any plan documents that afford to the BOLI Covered Individuals any rights to receive payments from NJCB’s BOLI (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 3.18(g) of this Agreement). Such Insurance Agreements and plan documents will entitle the BOLI Covered Individuals to the payments set forth herein, but no other payments.



3.19 Environmental Matters. Except as set forth in Section 3.19 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule:

(a) Neither NJCB nor its Subsidiaries have received notice that any of the Participation Facilities or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, the Loan Properties, are not in compliance in all material respects with all applicable Environmental Laws, including common law, regulations and ordinances, and with all applicable Orders and contractual obligations relating to any Environmental Matters, pollution or the discharge of, or exposure to, Regulated Substances in the environment or workplace.

(b) There is no suit, claim, action or proceeding, pending or, to the Knowledge of NJCB, threatened, before any Governmental Entity or other forum in which NJCB, any of its Subsidiaries, any Participation Facility or to the Knowledge of NJCB, any Loan Property, has been or, with respect to threatened proceedings, may be, named as a potentially responsible party (x) for alleged noncompliance (including by any predecessor) with any Environmental Laws, or (y) relating to the release of, threatened release of or exposure to any Regulated Substances whether or not occurring at or on a site owned, leased or operated by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, any Participation Facility or any Loan Property;

(c) To the Knowledge of NJCB, during the period of (x) NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' ownership or operation of any of their respective current or former properties, (y) NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' participation in the management of any Participation Facility, or (z) NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' interest in a Loan Property, there has been no release of Regulated Substances in, on, under, from or affecting any such property. To the Knowledge of NJCB, prior to the period of (x) NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' ownership or operation of any of their respective current or former properties, (y) NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' participation in the management of any Participation Facility, or (z) NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' interest in a Loan Property, there was no release of Regulated Substances in, on, under, from or affecting any such property, Participation Facility or Loan Property.

(d) The following definitions apply for purposes of this Section 3.19: (v) "Regulated Substances" means any chemicals, pollutants, contaminants, wastes, toxic substances, petroleum or other substances or materials regulated under any Environmental Law, (w) "Loan Property" means any property in which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries holds a security interest, and, where required by the context, said term means the owner or operator of such property; (x) "Participation Facility" means any facility in which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries participates in the management and, where required by the context, said term means the owner or operator of such property; (y) "Environmental Laws" means any and all applicable common law, statutes and regulations, of the United States and New Jersey dealing with Environmental Matters, including without limitation, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq., ("CERCLA"), the Hazardous Material Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. §1801 et seq., the Solid Waste Disposal Act including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. §6901 et seq. ("RCRA"), the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq., the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq., the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq., the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. §136 et seq., the Emergency Planning and Right-To-Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §11001 et seq., the New Jersey Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10A-23.11, et seq. ("Spill Act"); the New Jersey Industrial Site Remediation Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6, et seq. ("ISRA"); the New Jersey Brownfield and Contaminated Site Remediation Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10B-1, et seq. ("BCSRA"); the New Jersey Site Remediation Reform Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10C-1, et seq. ("SRRA"); the New Jersey Water Pollution Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:



10A-1 et seq.; the New Jersey Air Pollution Control Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2C-1, et seq., the New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1, et seq.; as in effect and amended, and all other applicable Laws, and any applicable provisions of common law and civil law relating to the protection of human health and safety, and the environment, the protection of natural resources or providing for any remedy or right of recovery or right of injunctive relief with respect to Environmental Matters, as these Laws were in the past or are in effect; and (z) “Environmental Matters” means all matters, conditions, liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, requirements, prohibitions, and restrictions arising out of or relating to the environment, natural resources, safety, or sanitation, or the production, storage, handling, use, emission, release, discharge, dispersal, or disposal of any substance, product or waste which is hazardous or toxic or which is regulated by any Environmental Law whatsoever.

3.20 Indemnification. Except as provided in NJCB Contracts or the certificate of incorporation or by-laws of NJCB or the governing documents of any NJCB Subsidiary as in effect on the date hereof (which provisions are accurately summarized in Section 3.20 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule), and except as set forth in Section 3.20 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to any indemnification agreement with any of its present or former directors, officers, employees, agents or with any other persons who serve or served in any other capacity with any other enterprise at the request of NJCB (a “Covered Person”), and, to the Knowledge of NJCB, there are no claims for which any Covered Person would be entitled to indemnification under the certificate of incorporation or by-laws of NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB, applicable Law or any indemnification agreement.

3.21 Loan Portfolio.

(a) With respect to each loan owned by NJCB or its Subsidiaries in whole or in part (each, a “Loan”), to the Knowledge of NJCB:

(i) the note and the related security documents are each legal, valid and binding obligations of the maker or obligor thereof, enforceable against such maker or obligor in accordance with their terms, except as enforcement may be limited by general principles of equity whether applied in a court of law or a court of equity and by bankruptcy, insolvency and similar Laws affecting creditors’ rights and remedies generally;

(ii) neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries nor any prior holder of a Loan has modified the note or any of the related security documents in any material respect or satisfied, canceled or subordinated the note or any of the related security documents except as otherwise disclosed by documents in the applicable Loan file;

(iii) NJCB or a Subsidiary is the sole holder of legal and beneficial title to each Loan (or NJCB’s applicable participation interest, as applicable), except as otherwise referenced on the books and records of NJCB;

(iv) the note and the related security documents, copies of which are included in the Loan files, are true and complete copies of the documents they purport to be and have not been suspended, amended, modified, canceled or otherwise changed except as otherwise disclosed by documents in the applicable Loan file;

(v) there is no pending or threatened condemnation proceeding or similar proceeding affecting the property that serves as security for a Loan, except as otherwise referenced on the books and records of NJCB;



(vi) except as set forth in Section 3.21(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, there is no pending or threatened litigation or proceeding relating to the property that serves as security for a Loan; and

(vii) with respect to a Loan held in the form of a participation, the participation documentation is legal, valid, binding and enforceable, except as enforcement may be limited by general principles of equity whether applied in a court of law or a court of equity and by bankruptcy, insolvency and similar Laws affecting creditors' rights and remedies generally.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 3.21(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to any written or oral loan agreement, note or borrowing arrangement (including, without limitation, leases, credit enhancements, commitments, guarantees and interest-bearing assets), under the terms of which the obligor was, as of June 30, 2017, over 90 days delinquent in payment of principal or interest. Section 3.21(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule sets forth (a) all of the Loans of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries that as of the date of NJCB's most recent bank examination, were classified by NJCB, any of its Subsidiaries or any bank examiner (whether regulatory or internal) as "Special Mention", "Substandard", "Doubtful", "Loss", "Classified", "Criticized", "Credit Risk Asset", "Concerned Loans", "Watch List" or words of similar import, together with the principal amount of and accrued and unpaid interest on each such Loan and the identity of the borrower thereunder, (b) each Loan that was classified as of June 30, 2017 as impaired in accordance with ASC 310, (c) by category of Loan (i.e., commercial, consumer, etc.), all of the other Loans of NJCB and its Subsidiaries that as of June 30, 2017, were categorized as such, together with the aggregate principal amount of and accrued and unpaid interest on such Loans by category and (d) each asset of NJCB that as of June 30, 2017, was classified as "Other Real Estate Owned" ("OREO") and the book value thereof as of such date.

(c) As of June 30, 2017, the allowance for loan losses in the NJCB Financial Statements was adequate pursuant to GAAP, and the methodology used to compute such allowance complies in all material respects with GAAP and all applicable policies of NJCB Regulatory Agencies. As of June 30, 2017, the reserve for OREO properties (or if no reserve, the carrying value of OREO properties) in the NJCB Financial Statements was adequate pursuant to GAAP, and the methodology used to compute the reserve for OREO properties (or if no reserve, the carrying value of OREO properties) complies in all material respects with GAAP and all applicable policies of NJCB Regulatory Agencies.

(d) NJCB has previously delivered to 1st Constitution a schedule setting forth a list of all Loans as of June 30, 2017 by NJCB and its Subsidiaries to any directors, executive officers and principal shareholders (as such terms are defined in Regulation O promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board (12 CFR Part 215)) of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries. Except as set forth in Section 3.21(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, (i) there are no employee, officer, director or other Affiliate Loans on which the borrower is paying a rate other than that reflected in the note or the relevant credit agreement or on which the borrower is paying a rate which was below market at the time the Loan was made; and (ii) all such loans are and were made in compliance in all material respects with all applicable Laws.

(e) Except as set forth in Section 3.21(e) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, none of the agreements pursuant to which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries has sold Loans or pools of Loans or participations in Loans or pools of Loans is subject to any obligation to repurchase such Loans or interests therein solely on account of a payment default by the obligor on any such Loan.





(f) Except as set forth in Section 3.21(f) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, since December 31, 2012, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has originated or serviced or currently holds, directly or indirectly, any Loans that would be commonly referred to as “subprime”, “Alt-A” or “negative amortization” Loans, or home equity Loans or lines of credit with a loan to value ratio at origination of over ninety percent (collectively, “High Risk Loans”).

(g) Except as set forth in Section 3.21(g) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries owns any investment securities that are secured by High Risk Loans.

### 3.22 Investment Securities; Borrowings; Deposits.

(a) Except for investments in Federal Home Loan Bank stock, Atlantic Community Bankers Bank stock and pledges to secure Federal Home Loan Bank borrowings, Atlantic Community Bankers Bank borrowings and reverse repurchase agreements entered into in arms-length transactions pursuant to normal commercial terms and conditions and entered into in the Ordinary Course of Business and restrictions that exist for securities to be classified as “held to maturity,” none of the investment securities held by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any restriction (contractual or statutory) that would materially impair the ability of the entity holding such investment freely to dispose of such investment at any time.

(b) Neither NJCB nor any Subsidiary is a party to or has agreed to enter into an exchange-traded or over-the-counter equity, interest rate, foreign exchange or other swap, forward, future, option, cap, floor or collar or any other contract that is not included on the face of the NJCB Financial Statements and is a derivative contract (including various combinations thereof) (each, a “Derivatives Contract”) or owns securities that (A) are referred to generically as “structured notes,” “high risk mortgage derivatives,” “capped floating rate notes” or “capped floating rate mortgage derivatives” or (B) are likely to have changes in value as a result of interest or exchange rate changes that significantly exceed normal changes in value attributable to interest or exchange rate changes, except for those Derivatives Contracts and other instruments legally purchased or entered into in the Ordinary Course of Business, consistent with regulatory requirements and listed (as of the date hereof) in Section 3.22(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule.

(c) Set forth in Section 3.22(c) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule is a true and complete list of the borrowed funds (excluding deposit accounts) of NJCB and its Subsidiaries as of the date hereof.

(d) None of the deposits of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is a “brokered” deposit, except as set forth in Section 3.22(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule.

3.23 Vote Required. Approval by holders of a two-thirds of the shares of NJCB Common Stock entitled to vote at the NJCB Shareholders’ Meeting shall be sufficient to constitute approval by NJCB’s shareholders of this Agreement and the Merger. A majority of the outstanding shares of NJCB Common Stock constitutes a quorum for purposes of the NJCB Shareholders’ Meeting.

3.24 Intellectual Property. Except as set forth in Section 3.24 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule:

(a) Each of NJCB and its Subsidiaries: (i) solely owns (beneficially, and of record where applicable), free and clear of all Liens, other than non-exclusive licenses entered into in the Ordinary



Course of Business, all right, title and interest in and to its respective Owned Intellectual Property and (ii) has valid and sufficient rights and licenses to all of the Licensed Intellectual Property. The Owned Intellectual Property is subsisting, and to the Knowledge of NJCB, the Owned Intellectual Property that is Registered is valid and enforceable.

(b) The Owned Intellectual Property and the Licensed Intellectual Property constitute all Intellectual Property used in or necessary for the operation of the respective businesses of NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries as presently conducted. Each of NJCB and its Subsidiaries has sufficient rights to use all Intellectual Property used in its respective business as presently conducted.

(c) To NJCB's Knowledge, the operation of NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries' respective businesses as presently conducted does not infringe, dilute, misappropriate or otherwise violate the Intellectual Property rights of any Person.

(d) Other than as set forth in Section 3.24(d) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any written notice (including, but not limited to, any invitation to license or request or demand to refrain from using intellectual property rights) from any Person during the two years prior to the date hereof, asserting that NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, or the operation of any of their respective businesses, infringes, dilutes, misappropriates or otherwise violates any Person's Intellectual Property rights.

(e) To NJCB's Knowledge, no Person has infringed, diluted, misappropriated or otherwise violated any of NJCB's or any of its Subsidiaries' rights in the Owned Intellectual Property.

(f) NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries has taken reasonable measures to protect: (i) their rights in their respective Owned Intellectual Property and (ii) the confidentiality of all Trade Secrets that are owned, used or held by NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, and to NJCB's Knowledge, such Trade Secrets have not been used, disclosed to or discovered by any Person except pursuant to appropriate non-disclosure agreements which have not been breached. To NJCB's Knowledge, no Person has gained unauthorized access to NJCB's or its Subsidiaries' IT Assets.

(g) NJCB's and each of its Subsidiaries' respective IT Assets: (i) operate and perform in all material respects as required by NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries in connection with their respective businesses and (ii) to NJCB's Knowledge, have not materially malfunctioned or failed within the past two years. NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries has implemented reasonable backup, security and disaster recovery technology and procedures consistent with industry practices.

(h) NJCB and each of its Subsidiaries: (i) is, and at all times prior to the date hereof have been, compliant in all material respects with all applicable Laws, and their own privacy policies and commitments to their respective customers, consumers and employees, concerning data protection and the privacy and security of personal data and the nonpublic personal information of their respective customers, consumers and employees and (ii) at no time during the two years prior to the date hereof have received any written notice and, to the Knowledge of NJCB, received any oral notices, in either case asserting any violations of any of the foregoing. The transfer of all such personal data and nonpublic personal information to the Bank's control in connection with the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby shall not violate any such Laws, privacy policies or commitments.



(i) For purposes of this Agreement:

(1) “Intellectual Property” means any and all: (i) trademarks, service marks, brand names, collective marks, Internet domain names, logos, symbols, trade dress, trade names, business names, corporate names, slogans, designs and other indicia of origin, together with all translations, adaptations, derivations and combinations thereof, all applications, registrations and renewals for the foregoing, and all goodwill associated therewith and symbolized thereby (“Trademarks”); (ii) patents and patentable inventions (whether or not reduced to practice), all improvements thereto, and all invention disclosures and applications therefor, together with all divisions, continuations, continuations-in-part, revisions, renewals, extensions, reexaminations and reissues thereof (“Patents”); (iii) confidential proprietary business information, trade secrets and know-how, including processes, schematics, business and other methods, technologies, techniques, protocols, formulae, drawings, prototypes, models, algorithms, processes, designs, discoveries and inventions (whether or not patentable) (“Trade Secrets”); (iv) copyrights in published and unpublished works of authorship (including databases and other compilations of information), and all registrations and applications therefor, and all renewals, extensions, restorations and reversions thereof; and (v) other intellectual property rights.

(2) “IT Assets” means, with respect to any Person, the computers, computer software, firmware, middleware, servers, workstations, routers, hubs, switches, data, data communications lines, and all other information technology equipment, and all associated documentation owned by such Person or such Person’s Subsidiaries.

(3) “Licensed Intellectual Property” means, with respect to any Person, the Intellectual Property owned by third persons that is used in or necessary for the operation of the respective businesses of such Person and each of its Subsidiaries as presently conducted.

(4) “Owned Intellectual Property” means, with respect to any Person, Intellectual Property owned or purported to be owned by such Person or any of its Subsidiaries.

(5) “Registered” or “Registration” means issued by, registered with, renewed by or the subject of a pending application before any Governmental Entity or Internet domain name registrar.

3.25 Prior Regulatory Applications. Except as disclosed in Section 3.25 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, from January 1, 2014 through the date hereof, no regulatory agency has objected to, denied, or advised NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB to withdraw, and to NJCB’s Knowledge, no third party has submitted an objection to a Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB regarding, any application, notice, or other request filed by NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB with any Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over NJCB or such Subsidiary.

3.26 Mortgage Banking Activities.

(a) Except as set forth on Section 3.26 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule, all Mortgage Loans have been originated, processed, underwritten, closed, funded, insured, sold or acquired, serviced and subserviced (including all loss mitigation, loan modification, foreclosure and real property administration activities) in accordance with Applicable Requirements. To the Knowledge of NJCB and its Subsidiaries, no fraud, error, omission, misrepresentation, mistake or similar occurrence has occurred in connection with the origination or servicing of any of the Mortgage Loans.



(b) None of the Mortgage Loans have ever been classified as (a) “high cost” loans under the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act of 1994 or (b) “high cost,” “threshold,” “covered,” or “predatory” loans under any other Applicable Requirement.

3.27 Reorganization. Neither NJCB nor any of its Subsidiaries has taken or agreed to take any action, has failed to take any action, or knows of any fact, agreement, plan or other circumstances that could prevent the Merger from qualifying as a “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

3.28 Disclosure. No representation or warranty contained in Article III of this Agreement contains any untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary to make the statements in Article III not misleading.

#### ARTICLE IV

#### REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF 1ST CONSTITUTION AND THE BANK

References herein to the “1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule” shall mean all of the disclosure schedules required by this Article IV, dated as of the date hereof and referenced to the specific sections and subsections of Article IV of this Agreement, which have been delivered on the date hereof by 1st Constitution to NJCB. Except as set forth in the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, 1st Constitution and the Bank hereby represent and warrant to NJCB as follows:

##### 4.1 Corporate Organization.

(a) 1st Constitution is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the Laws of the State of New Jersey. 1st Constitution has the corporate power and authority to own or lease all of its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted, and is duly licensed or qualified to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or location of the properties and assets owned or leased by it makes such licensing or qualification necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified would not have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution. 1st Constitution is registered as a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Copies of the certificate of incorporation and by-laws of 1st Constitution have previously been delivered to NJCB’s counsel (with a designation that such copies have been delivered pursuant to Section 4.1(a) of this Agreement); such copies are true and complete copies of such documents as in effect as of the date of this Agreement.

(b) The Bank is a state-chartered commercial banking corporation duly organized and validly existing under the Laws of the State of New Jersey. The deposit accounts of the Bank are insured by the FDIC through the FDIC’s Deposit Insurance Fund to the fullest extent permitted by Law, and all premiums and assessments required to be paid in connection therewith have been paid when due. Each of 1st Constitution’s other Subsidiaries is a business entity duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the Laws of its jurisdiction of incorporation or organization. Each of their Subsidiaries has the corporate power and authority to own or lease all of its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted and is duly licensed or qualified to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or the location of the properties and assets owned or leased by it makes such licensing or qualification necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified would not have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution.





#### 4.2 Capitalization.

(a) The authorized capital stock of 1st Constitution consists solely of 30,000,000 shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock. As of June 30, 2017, there were 8,046,197 shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock outstanding, and 33,298 shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock held by 1st Constitution as treasury stock and no shares of preferred stock of 1st Constitution outstanding or held as treasury stock. As of June 30, 2017, there were no shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock reserved for issuance except for 148,462 shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock reserved for issuance pursuant to 1st Constitution's stock incentive plans (the "1st Constitution Stock Incentive Plans") and 285,176 shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock reserved for issuance under two outstanding warrants (the "1st Constitution Warrants"). All of the issued and outstanding shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. Except for (i) shares of capital stock issuable pursuant to the 1st Constitution Stock Incentive Plans and the 1st Constitution Warrants and (ii) shares of capital stock issuable as a result of increases in the number of shares of capital stock underlying the 1st Constitution Warrants, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the 1st Constitution Warrants, resulting from the payment of cash dividends by 1st Constitution, as of the date hereof, 1st Constitution does not have and is not bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock or any other equity security of 1st Constitution or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock or any other equity security of 1st Constitution. The shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the Merger will be duly authorized and validly issued and, at the Effective Time, all such shares will be fully paid, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 4.2(b) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, 1st Constitution owns, directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding shares of the capital stock or all of the other equity interests of each of its Subsidiaries, free and clear of all Liens, and all of such shares or other equity interests are duly authorized and validly issued, are (if applicable) fully paid and nonassessable and are free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. As of the date of this Agreement, no Subsidiary of 1st Constitution has or is bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments or agreements of any character with any party that is not a direct or indirect Subsidiary of 1st Constitution calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of capital stock or any other equity interest of such Subsidiary or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock or any other equity interests of such Subsidiary.

#### 4.3 Authority; No Violation.

(a) 1st Constitution has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and, subject to the Parties' obtaining (i) all bank regulatory approvals required to effectuate the Merger and (ii) the other approvals listed in Section 4.4 of this Agreement, to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby in accordance with the terms hereof. On or prior to the date of this Agreement, 1st Constitution's Board of Directors and the Bank's Board of Directors have (i) declared the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby to be advisable and (ii) approved this Agreement, the Merger



and the other transactions contemplated hereby. The execution and delivery of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly and validly approved (i) by the Boards of Directors of 1st Constitution and the Bank and (ii) by 1st Constitution as the sole shareholder of the Bank. No other corporate proceedings on the part of 1st Constitution or the Bank (including no approval by 1st Constitution's shareholders) are necessary to approve this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by 1st Constitution and the Bank and (assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by NJCB) this Agreement constitutes a valid and binding obligation of 1st Constitution and the Bank, enforceable against 1st Constitution and the Bank in accordance with its terms, except as enforcement may be limited by general principles of equity, whether applied in a court of law or a court of equity, and by bankruptcy, insolvency and similar Laws affecting creditors' rights and remedies generally.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by 1st Constitution or the Bank, nor the consummation by 1st Constitution or the Bank of the transactions contemplated hereby in accordance with the terms hereof, or compliance by 1st Constitution or the Bank with any of the terms or provisions hereof, will (i) violate any provision of the certificate of incorporation or by-laws of 1st Constitution or the certificate of incorporation, by-laws or similar governing documents of the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries, or (ii) assuming that the consents and approvals referred to in Section 4.4 of this Agreement are duly obtained and except as set forth in Section 4.3(b) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, (x) violate any Law or Order applicable to 1st Constitution, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries, or any of their respective properties or assets, or (y) violate, conflict with, result in a breach of any provision of or the loss of any benefit under, constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time, or both, would constitute a default) under, result in the termination of or a right of termination or cancellation under, accelerate the performance required by, or result in the creation of any Lien upon any of the respective properties or assets of 1st Constitution, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries under, any of the terms, conditions or provisions of any note, bond, mortgage, indenture, deed of trust, license, lease, agreement or other instrument or obligation to which 1st Constitution, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries is a party, or by which they or any of their respective properties or assets may be bound or affected, except, with respect to (ii) above, such as individually or in the aggregate will not have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution.

4.4 Consents and Approvals. Except for (a) the filing of applications and notices, as applicable, with the Board of Governors of the FRB and approval of such applications and notices, (b) the filing of applications and notices, as applicable, with the FDIC and approval of such applications and notices, (c) the filing of applications and notices, as applicable, with the New Jersey Department and approval of such applications and notices, (d) the filing with the SEC and declaration of effectiveness of the S-4, (e) the approval of this Agreement and the Merger by the requisite vote of the shareholders of NJCB, (f) approval of the listing of the 1st Constitution Common Stock to be issued in the Merger on the NASDAQ Global Market, (g) such filings as shall be required to be made with any applicable state securities bureaus or commissions, (h) such consents, authorizations or approvals as shall be required under the Environmental Laws and (i) such other filings, authorizations or approvals as may be set forth in Section 4.4 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, no consents or approvals of or filings or registrations with any Governmental Entity or with any third party are necessary on behalf of 1st Constitution or the Bank in connection with (1) the execution and delivery by 1st Constitution and the Bank of this Agreement and (2) the consummation by 1st Constitution and the Bank of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby.



4.5 Reports. 1st Constitution, the Bank and each of their Subsidiaries have timely filed all reports, registrations and statements, together with any amendments required to be made with respect thereto, that they were required to file since December 31, 2013 with (i) the FRB, (ii) the New Jersey Department, (iii) the FDIC and (iv) any other Governmental Entity that regulates 1st Constitution, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries (collectively with the FRB, the New Jersey Department and the FDIC, the “1st Constitution Regulatory Agencies”), and have paid all fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith. Except for normal examinations conducted by the 1st Constitution Regulatory Agencies in the regular course of the business of 1st Constitution, the Bank and their Subsidiaries, and except as set forth in Section 4.5 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, no 1st Constitution Regulatory Agency has initiated any proceeding or, to the Knowledge of 1st Constitution, investigation into the business or operations of 1st Constitution, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries since December 31, 2013 the effect of which is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution, the Bank or to delay approval of the Merger by any Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over the Merger, 1st Constitution, the Bank, NJCB or their respective Subsidiaries or which is reasonably likely to result in such Governmental Entity’s objecting to the Merger. There is no unresolved violation, criticism, or exception by any 1st Constitution Regulatory Agency with respect to any report or statement relating to any examinations of 1st Constitution, the Bank or any of their Subsidiaries the effect of which is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution or to delay approval of the Merger by any Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over the Merger, the 1st Constitution, the Bank, NJCB or their respective Subsidiaries or which is reasonably likely to result in such Governmental Entity’s objecting to the Merger.

4.6 Financial Statements. 1st Constitution has previously made available to NJCB copies of (a) the consolidated statements of financial condition of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2015 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders’ equity and cash flows and consolidated statements of comprehensive income for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, in each case accompanied by the audit report of BDO USA, LLP, independent public accountants with respect to 1st Constitution, (b) the notes related thereto, (c) the unaudited consolidated statement of financial condition of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries as of June 30, 2017 and the related unaudited consolidated statements of income and cash flows for the three and six months ended June 30, 2016 and 2017 and (d) the notes related thereto (the “1st Constitution Financial Statements”). BDO USA, LLP, 1st Constitution’s current independent public accountants, is independent with respect to 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries to the extent required by Regulation S-X of the SEC. The consolidated statements of financial condition of 1st Constitution (including the related notes, where applicable) included within the 1st Constitution Financial Statements fairly present, and the consolidated statements of financial condition of 1st Constitution (including the related notes, where applicable) to be included or incorporated by reference in the S-4 will fairly present the consolidated financial position of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries as of the dates thereof, and the consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders’ equity and cash flows and consolidated statements of comprehensive income (including the related notes, where applicable) included within the 1st Constitution Financial Statements fairly present, and the consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders’ equity and cash flows and consolidated statements of comprehensive income of 1st Constitution (including the related notes, where applicable) to be included or incorporated by reference in the S-4 will fairly present, the results of the consolidated operations and consolidated financial position of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries for the respective fiscal periods therein set forth; each of the 1st Constitution Financial Statements (including the related notes, where applicable) complies, and each of such consolidated financial statements



(including the related notes, where applicable) to be included or incorporated by reference in the S-4 will comply, with accounting requirements applicable to financial statements to be included or incorporated by reference in the S-4 and with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto, including without limitation Regulation S-X; and each of the 1st Constitution Financial Statements (including the related notes, where applicable) has been, and each of such consolidated financial statements (including the related notes, where applicable) to be included or incorporated by reference in the S-4 will be, prepared in accordance with GAAP consistently applied during the periods involved, except, in the case of unaudited statements, as permitted by the SEC with respect to financial statements included on Form 10-Q. The books and records of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries have been, and are being, maintained in accordance with GAAP and any other applicable legal and accounting requirements, and reflect only actual transactions.

#### 4.7 SEC Reports.

(a) 1st Constitution has filed all reports, schedules, registration statements, prospectuses and other documents, together with amendments thereto, required to be filed with the SEC since December 31, 2013 (the “1st Constitution Reports”). Except as set forth in Section 4.7(a) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, as of their respective dates of filing with the SEC (or, if amended or superseded by a subsequent filing prior to the date hereof, as of the date of such subsequent filing), the 1st Constitution Reports complied, and each 1st Constitution Report filed subsequent to the date hereof and prior to the Effective Time will comply, in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the “Sarbanes-Oxley Act”) and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and did not or will not, as the case may be, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. There are no outstanding comments from, or unresolved issues raised by, the SEC with respect to any of the 1st Constitution Reports. None of 1st Constitution’s Subsidiaries is required to file periodic reports with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. No executive officer of 1st Constitution has failed in any respect to make the certifications required of him or her under Sections 302 or 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and to the Knowledge of 1st Constitution, no enforcement action has been initiated against 1st Constitution or its officers or directors by the SEC relating to disclosures contained in any 1st Constitution Report.

(b) The records, systems, controls, data and information of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries are recorded, stored, maintained and operated under means (including any electronic, mechanical or photographic process, whether computerized or not) that are under the exclusive ownership and direct control of 1st Constitution or its Subsidiaries or accountants (including all means of access thereto and therefrom), except for any non-exclusive ownership and non-direct control that would not reasonably be expected to have a materially adverse effect on the system of internal accounting controls described in the following sentence. Except as set forth in Section 4.7(b) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries have devised and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with GAAP. Except as set forth in Section 4.7(b) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, 1st Constitution has designed disclosure controls and procedures (within the meaning of Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) promulgated under the





Exchange Act) to ensure that material information relating to 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries is made known to the management of 1st Constitution by others within those entities as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and to make the certifications required by the Exchange Act with respect to the 1st Constitution Reports. Management of 1st Constitution has disclosed, based on its most recent evaluation prior to the date hereof, to 1st Constitution's auditors and the audit committee of 1st Constitution's Board of Directors (1) any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect in any material respect 1st Constitution's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data and have identified for 1st Constitution's auditors any material weaknesses in internal controls, with any such significant deficiencies and material weaknesses having previously been disclosed in the 1st Constitution Reports, and (2) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in 1st Constitution's internal controls.

4.8 Absence of Certain Changes or Events. Except as disclosed in any 1st Constitution Report filed with the SEC prior to the date of this Agreement, since December 31, 2016, there has been no change or development or combination of changes or developments which, individually or in the aggregate, has had a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution or the Bank.

4.9 Legal Proceedings.

(a) Except as disclosed in any 1st Constitution Report filed with the SEC prior to the date of this Agreement or as may be set forth in Section 4.9(a) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, neither 1st Constitution nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to any, and there are no pending or, to 1st Constitution's Knowledge, threatened, legal, administrative, arbitral or other proceedings, claims, actions or governmental or regulatory investigations of any material nature against 1st Constitution or any of its Subsidiaries or challenging the validity or propriety of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 4.9(b) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, there is no outstanding Order imposed upon 1st Constitution, any of its Subsidiaries or the assets of 1st Constitution or any of its Subsidiaries.

4.10 1st Constitution Information.

(a) The information relating to 1st Constitution and the Bank to be contained in the Proxy Statement, as of the date the Proxy Statement is mailed to shareholders of NJCB, and up to and including the date of the meeting of shareholders of NJCB to which such Proxy Statement relates, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The Proxy Statement (except for such portions thereof that relate only to NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries) will comply in all material respects with the provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and the S-4 will comply in all material respects with all provisions of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

(b) The information relating to 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries to be contained in 1st Constitution's applications to the FRB, the FDIC and the New Jersey Department will be accurate in all material respects.



4.11 Compliance with Applicable Law. Except as set forth in Section 4.11 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, each of 1st Constitution and each of its Subsidiaries hold all material licenses, franchises, permits and authorizations necessary for the lawful conduct of its business, and each of 1st Constitution and each of its Subsidiaries has complied with, and is not in default in any respect under any, applicable Law of any federal, state or local Governmental Entity relating to 1st Constitution or its Subsidiaries (other than where such defaults or non-compliance will not, alone or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution). Except as disclosed in Section 4.11 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries have not received notice of violation of, and do not know of any such violations of, any of the above which have or are likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on 1st Constitution.

4.12 Ownership of NJCB Common Stock; Affiliates and Associates. Except as set forth on Section 4.12 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule and other than as contemplated by this Agreement, neither 1st Constitution nor any of its “affiliates” or “associates” (as such terms are defined under the Exchange Act) beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or is a party to any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of, any shares of capital stock of NJCB (other than Trust Account Shares and DPC Shares).

4.13 Agreements with Regulatory Agencies. Neither 1st Constitution nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any Regulatory Agreement with any Governmental Entity that restricts the conduct of its business or that in any manner relates to its capital adequacy, its credit policies, its management or its business, nor has 1st Constitution or any of its Subsidiaries been advised by any Governmental Entity that it is considering issuing or requesting any Regulatory Agreement. Neither 1st Constitution nor any of its Subsidiaries is required by Section 32 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to give prior notice to a Federal banking agency of the proposed addition of an individual to its board of directors or the employment of an individual as a senior executive officer.

4.14 Loan Loss Provision. As of June 30, 2017, the allowance for loan losses in the 1st Constitution Financial Statements was adequate pursuant to GAAP, and the methodology used to compute such allowance complies in all material respects with GAAP and all applicable policies of the 1st Constitution Regulatory Agencies. As of June 30, 2017, the reserve for OREO properties (or if no reserve, the carrying value of OREO properties) in the 1st Constitution Financial Statements was adequate pursuant to GAAP, and the methodology used to compute the reserve for OREO properties (or if no reserve, the carrying value of OREO properties) complies in all material respects with GAAP and all applicable policies of all 1st Constitution Regulatory Agencies.

4.15 Community Reinvestment Act. All Subsidiaries of 1st Constitution that are subject to the CRA have a CRA rating of at least “satisfactory”. Except as listed on Section 4.15 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, from January 1, 2014 through the date hereof, no person or group has adversely commented in writing to 1st Constitution or any of its Subsidiaries subject to the CRA in a manner requiring recording in a file of CRA communications upon such entity’s CRA performance.

4.16 Prior Regulatory Applications. Except as disclosed in Section 4.16 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule, from January 1, 2014 through the date hereof, no regulatory agency has objected to, denied, or advised 1st Constitution or any Subsidiary of 1st Constitution to withdraw, and to 1st Constitution’s Knowledge, no third party has submitted an objection to a Governmental Entity having



jurisdiction over the 1st Constitution or any Subsidiary of 1st Constitution regarding, any application, notice, or other request filed by 1st Constitution or any Subsidiary of 1st Constitution with any Governmental Entity having jurisdiction over 1st Constitution or such Subsidiary.

4.17 Regulatory Capital. Upon consummation of the Merger, and after taking effect of the Merger and 1st Constitution's ownership of NJCB, as calculated on a pro forma basis as of June 30, 2017, 1st Constitution will be deemed "well capitalized" under the applicable capital standards and policies of the FRB as in effect on the date of this Agreement (it being understood that this representation shall not be updated as of the Closing Date).

4.18 Access to Funds. The Bank has, and on the Closing Date, will have, access to all funds necessary to consummate the Merger and pay the entire cash portion of the Aggregate Merger Consideration and the aggregate amount of cash payable to the holders of Stock Options and Warrants pursuant to Sections 1.6 and 1.7 hereof.

4.19 Reorganization. Neither 1st Constitution, the Bank nor any of their respective Subsidiaries has taken or agreed to take any action, has failed to take any action, or knows of any fact, agreement, plan or other circumstances that could prevent the Merger from qualifying as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

4.20 Disclosure. No representation or warranty contained in Article IV of this Agreement contains any untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary to make the statements in Article IV not misleading.

#### ARTICLE V COVENANTS RELATING TO CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

5.1 Covenants of NJCB. Except as expressly provided in this Agreement, during the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time, NJCB shall use commercially reasonable efforts to, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries to use commercially reasonable efforts to, (i) conduct its business in the ordinary and usual course consistent with past practices and prudent banking practice; (ii) maintain and preserve intact its business organization, properties, leases, employees and advantageous business relationships and retain the services of its officers and key employees, (iii) take no action that would adversely affect or delay the ability of NJCB or 1st Constitution to perform its covenants and agreements on a timely basis under this Agreement, and (iv) take no action that would adversely affect or delay the ability of NJCB or 1st Constitution to obtain any necessary approvals, consents or waivers of any Governmental Entity or third party required for the transactions contemplated hereby or that would reasonably be expected to result in any such approvals, consents or waivers containing any material condition or restriction. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, and except as set forth in Section 5.1 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule or as otherwise specifically provided by this Agreement or as consented to in writing by 1st Constitution, NJCB shall not, and shall not permit any of its Subsidiaries to:

- (a) declare or pay any dividends on, or make other distributions in respect of, any of its capital stock;
- (b) (i) repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire (except for the acquisition of Trust



Account Shares and DPC Shares) any shares of the capital stock of NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB, or any securities convertible into or exercisable for any shares of the capital stock of NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB, (ii) split, combine or reclassify any shares of its capital stock or issue or authorize or propose the issuance of any other securities in respect of, in lieu of or in substitution for shares of its capital stock, (iii) issue, deliver or sell, or authorize or propose the issuance, delivery or sale of, any shares of its capital stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable for, or any rights, warrants or options to acquire, any such shares, (iv) accelerate the exercisability or vesting of any Stock Options or (v) enter into any agreement with respect to any of the foregoing, except, (A) in the case of clauses (ii) and (iii), for the issuance of up to a total of 47,525 shares of NJCB Common Stock upon the exercise of NJCB Stock Options granted under NJCB Stock Compensation Plans and the issuance of up to a total of 265,698 shares of NJCB Common Stock upon the exercise of Warrants outstanding prior to the date hereof, any such exercise to be in accordance with the original terms of such options and Warrants, and (Y) in the case of clause (iv), the acceleration of vesting of Stock Options covering up to 47,525 shares of NJCB Common Stock granted pursuant to NJCB Stock Compensation Plans and outstanding on the date hereof;

(c) amend its certificate of incorporation, by-laws or other similar governing documents;

(d) make any capital expenditures other than those that (i) are made in the Ordinary Course of Business or are necessary to maintain existing assets in good repair and (ii) in any event are in an amount of no more than \$25,000 in the aggregate;

(e) enter into any new line of business or offer any new products or services;

(f) acquire or agree to acquire, by merging or consolidating with, or by purchasing a substantial equity interest in or a substantial portion of the assets of, or by any other manner, any business or any corporation, partnership, association or other business organization or division thereof or otherwise acquire any assets, other than in connection with foreclosures, settlements in lieu of foreclosure or troubled loan or debt restructurings in the Ordinary Course of Business;

(g) take any action that is intended or may reasonably be expected to result in any of the conditions to the Merger set forth in Article VII of this Agreement not being satisfied or not being satisfied prior to the Cut-off Date (as such term is defined in Section 8.1(c) of this Agreement);

(h) change its methods of accounting in effect at December 31, 2016, except as required by changes in GAAP or regulatory accounting principles as concurred with in writing by NJCB's independent auditors;

(i) except as contemplated by this Agreement, (1) enter into, establish, adopt, amend, modify or terminate any NJCB Benefit Plan or any agreement, arrangement, plan, trust, other funding arrangement or policy between NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB and one or more of its current or former directors, officers, employees or independent contractors, change any trustee or custodian of the assets of any plan or transfer plan assets among trustees or custodians, (2) increase or accelerate payment of in any manner the compensation or fringe benefits of any director, officer or employee or pay any bonus or benefit not required by any NJCB Benefit Plan or agreement as in effect as of the date hereof or (3) grant, award, amend, modify or accelerate any stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units, performance units or shares or any other awards under NJCB Stock Compensation Plans or otherwise, other than any acceleration provided for under the terms of NJCB Stock Compensation Plans in effect on the date hereof or under any grant agreement issued thereunder as such grant agreement exists on the date hereof;





(j) other than activities in the Ordinary Course of Business, sell, lease, encumber, assign or otherwise dispose of, or agree to sell, lease, encumber, assign or otherwise dispose of, any of its material assets, properties (including, without limitation, any NJCB Property) or other rights or agreements except as otherwise specifically contemplated by this Agreement or otherwise take or permit any action that otherwise would impair the condition of title to NJCB Property or any part thereof;

(k) other than in the Ordinary Course of Business, incur any indebtedness for borrowed money or assume, guarantee, endorse or otherwise as an accommodation become responsible for the obligations of any other individual, corporation or other entity;

(l) file any application to relocate or terminate the operations of any banking office of it or any of its Subsidiaries;

(m) create, renew, amend or terminate or give notice of a proposed renewal, amendment or termination of, any material contract, agreement or lease for goods, services or office space (including, without limitation, any Real Property Lease) to which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or by which NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries or their respective properties is bound;

(n) other than in the Ordinary Course of Business, in individual amounts not to exceed \$200,000, and other than investments for NJCB's portfolio made in accordance with Section 5.1(o) of this Agreement, make any investment either by purchase of stock or securities, contributions to capital, property transfers or purchase of any property or assets of any other individual, corporation or other entity;

(o) make any investment in any debt security, including mortgage-backed and mortgage related securities, other than U.S. government and U.S. government agency securities with final maturities not greater than five years or mortgage-backed or mortgage related securities that would not be considered "high risk" securities and which are purchased in the Ordinary Course of Business;

(p) settle any claim, action or proceeding involving any liability of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries for money damages in excess of \$10,000 (net of insurance proceeds) or involving any material restrictions upon the operations of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries;

(q) except in the Ordinary Course of Business and in amounts less than \$100,000, waive or release any material right or collateral or cancel or compromise any extension of credit or other debt or claim;

(r) (x) make, renegotiate, renew, increase, extend, modify or purchase any loan, lease (credit equivalent), advance, credit enhancement or other extension of credit, if (A) such transaction is not made in accordance with NJCB's Board-approved loan policy manual in effect on the date hereof (the "Lending Manual"), (B) the collateral involved in such transaction is located outside of the State of New Jersey, (C) the transaction involves a an extension or renewal of an existing loan, lease (credit equivalent), advance, credit enhancement or other extension of credit with an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$750,000, (D) the transaction involves a new loan, lease (credit equivalent), advance, credit enhancement or other extension of credit involving an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$750,000, (E) the transaction involves a restructuring of a prior extension of credit with an aggregate principal amount (prior to the restructuring) in excess of \$250,000, (F) the underlying extension of credit is underwritten based on either no or limited verification of income or otherwise without full documentation customary for



such an extension of credit; (G) the transaction involves a loan or commitment to an employee, director, officer or other Affiliate of NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries; (H) the transaction arises outside of the Ordinary Course of Business of NJCB and its Subsidiaries; or (I) the transaction involves an “interest rate swap” or (y) make any commitment in respect of any of the foregoing. For any proposed extension of credit for which NJCB shall seek the prior consent of 1st Constitution, NJCB shall send the credit write-up for the proposed credit to the Bank’s Chief Lending Officer, Mr. John Andraecio (email address: jandraecio@1stconstitution.com); and if 1st Constitution has not (i) objected in writing to the proposed credit or (ii) requested reasonable additional information on the proposed credit, within two (2) business days of receipt of the credit write-up, 1st Constitution shall be deemed to have consented to the origination of such credit. If NJCB sends additional information on the proposed credit to 1st Constitution, and 1st Constitution does not (i) request any further additional information on the proposed credit or (ii) object in writing to the proposed credit, within two (2) business days of receipt of the initial additional information, 1st Constitution shall be deemed to have consented to the origination of such credit. Any objection or request for additional information shall be sent by e-mail to NJCB’s Interim Chief Credit Officer, Mark Megee (e-mail address: mmegee@njcbk.com), with a copy to NJCB’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. William H. Placke (e-mail address: bplacke@njcbk.com);

(s) incur any additional borrowings beyond those set forth in Section 5.1(s) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule other than short-term (with a final maturity of two years or less) Federal Home Loan Bank borrowings and reverse repurchase agreements in the Ordinary Course of Business, or pledge any of its assets to secure any borrowings other than as required pursuant to the terms of borrowings of NJCB or any Subsidiary in effect at the date hereof or in connection with borrowings or reverse repurchase agreements permitted hereunder (it being understood that deposits shall not be deemed to be borrowings within the meaning of this sub-section);

(t) make any investment or commitment to invest in real estate, other than investments related to maintenance of owned or leased real estate used by NJCB as of the date hereof, or in any real estate development project, other than real estate acquired in satisfaction of defaulted mortgage loans;

(u) except pursuant to commitments existing at the date hereof which have previously been disclosed in writing to 1st Constitution, make any construction loans outside the Ordinary Course of Business, make any real estate loans secured by undeveloped land or make any real estate loans secured by land located outside the State of New Jersey;

(v) establish, or make any commitment relating to the establishment of, any new branch or other office facilities;

(w) elect to the Board of Directors of NJCB any person who is not a member of the Board of Directors of NJCB as of the date hereof;

(x) change any method of Tax accounting, make or change any Tax election, file any amended Tax Return, settle or compromise any Tax liability, agree to an extension or waiver of the statute of limitations with respect to the assessment or determination of Taxes, enter into any closing agreement with respect to any Tax or surrender any right to claim a Tax refund;

(y) after an Acquisition Proposal (whether or not conditional) or intention to make an Acquisition Proposal (whether or not conditional) shall have been made directly to NJCB’s shareholders



or otherwise publicly disclosed or otherwise communicated or made known to any member of senior management of NJCB or any member of NJCB's Board of Directors, except to the extent permitted by Section 5.3 hereof, take any intentional act, or intentionally omit to take any act, that causes any one or more of NJCB's representations in this Agreement to be inaccurate in any material respect as of the date of such act or omission;

(z) take any other action outside of the Ordinary Course of Business; or

(aa) agree to do any of the foregoing.

5.2 Covenants of 1st Constitution. Except as expressly provided in this Agreement, during the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time, 1st Constitution shall use commercially reasonable efforts to, and shall cause the Bank and their Subsidiaries to use commercially reasonable efforts to, (i) maintain and preserve intact its business organization, properties, leases, employees and advantageous business relationships and retain the services of its officers and key employees, (ii) take no action which would adversely affect or delay the ability of NJCB, 1st Constitution or the Bank to perform its covenants and agreements on a timely basis under this Agreement, and (iii) take no action which would adversely affect or delay the ability of NJCB, 1st Constitution or the Bank to obtain any necessary approvals, consents or waivers of any Governmental Entity or third party required for the transactions contemplated hereby or which would reasonably be expected to result in any such approvals, consents or waivers containing any material condition or restriction. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, and except as set forth in Section 5.2 of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule or as otherwise specifically provided by this Agreement or consented to in writing by NJCB (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld), 1st Constitution shall not, and shall not permit the Bank nor any of their Subsidiaries to:

(a) take any action that is intended or may reasonably be expected to result in any of the conditions to the Merger set forth in Article VII of this Agreement not being satisfied or not being satisfied prior to the Cut-Off Date;

(b) change its methods of accounting in effect at December 31, 2016, except in accordance with changes in GAAP or regulatory accounting principles as concurred with by 1st Constitution's independent auditors;

(c) amend its certificate of incorporation, by-laws or similar governing documents other than (i) to enable 1st Constitution and the Bank to comply with the provisions of this Agreement, (ii) to establish one or more series of 1st Constitution Preferred Stock or (iii) to adopt provisions or authorize actions that do not materially and adversely affect the holders of NJCB Common Stock; or

(d) agree to do any of the foregoing.

### 5.3 No Solicitation.

(a) Except as expressly permitted by this Section 5.3, NJCB and its Subsidiaries shall not, and NJCB and its Subsidiaries shall use their best efforts to cause their respective representatives not to, initiate, solicit or knowingly encourage or facilitate inquiries or proposals with respect to, or engage in any negotiations concerning, or provide any confidential or nonpublic information or data to, or have



any discussions with, any person relating to, any Acquisition Proposal; provided that in the event that, prior to the time that NJCB's shareholders' approval of the Merger (the "NJCB Shareholder Approval") is obtained but not after, (1) NJCB receives, after the execution of this Agreement, an unsolicited bona fide Acquisition Proposal from a person other than 1st Constitution, and (2) NJCB's Board of Directors concludes in good faith (A) that, after consulting with its financial advisor, such Acquisition Proposal constitutes a Superior Proposal or would reasonably be likely to result in a Superior Proposal and (B) that, after considering the advice of outside counsel, failure to take such actions would be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties to NJCB's shareholders under applicable Law, NJCB may, and may permit its Subsidiaries and its and its Subsidiaries' representatives to, furnish or cause to be furnished nonpublic information or data and participate in negotiations or discussions with respect to such Acquisition Proposal; provided that prior to providing any nonpublic information permitted to be provided pursuant to the foregoing proviso, it shall have entered into an agreement with such third party on terms substantially similar to and no more favorable to such third party than those contained in the Confidentiality Agreement between 1st Constitution and NJCB dated June 7, 2017 (the "Confidentiality Agreement") and any non-public information provided to any person given access to nonpublic information shall have previously been provided to 1st Constitution or shall be provided to 1st Constitution prior to or concurrently with the time it is provided to such person. NJCB will (A) immediately cease and cause to be terminated any activities, discussions or negotiations conducted before the date of this Agreement with any persons other than 1st Constitution with respect to any Acquisition Proposal, (B) not terminate, waive, amend, release or modify any provision of any confidentiality or standstill agreement relating to any Acquisition Proposal to which it or any of its Affiliates or representatives is a party and (C) use its commercially reasonable efforts to enforce any confidentiality or similar agreement relating to any Acquisition Proposal.

(b) Neither NJCB's Board of Directors nor any committee thereof shall (i) (A) withdraw (or modify or qualify in any manner adverse to 1st Constitution) or refuse to make the NJCB Board Recommendation or (B) adopt, approve, recommend, endorse or otherwise declare advisable the adoption of any Acquisition Proposal, or (ii) cause or permit NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries to enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, agreement in principle, acquisition agreement, merger agreement, option agreement, joint venture agreement, partnership agreement or other agreement constituting or related to, or which is intended to or is reasonably likely to lead to, any Acquisition Proposal (other than a confidentiality agreement permitted by the terms of Section 5.3(a) of this Agreement). Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the date of the NJCB Shareholders Meeting, NJCB's Board of Directors may take any of the actions specified in items (i) and (ii) of the preceding sentence (a "NJCB Subsequent Determination") after the fourth (4th) Business Day following 1st Constitution's receipt of a written notice (the "Notice of Superior Proposal") from NJCB (A) advising that NJCB's Board of Directors has decided that a bona fide unsolicited written Acquisition Proposal that it received (that did not result from a breach of this Section 5.3 or from an action by a representative of NJCB or its Subsidiaries that would have been such a breach if committed by NJCB or its Subsidiaries) constitutes a Superior Proposal (it being understood that NJCB shall be required to deliver a new Notice of Superior Proposal in respect of any revised Superior Proposal from such third party or its Affiliates that NJCB proposes to accept), (B) specifying the material terms and conditions of, and the identity of the party making, such Superior Proposal, and (C) containing an unredacted copy of the relevant transaction agreements with the party making such Superior Proposal, if, but only if, NJCB's Board of Directors has reasonably determined in good faith, after consultation with and having considered the advice of outside legal counsel and its financial advisor, that the failure to take such actions would be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties to NJCB's shareholders under applicable Law and that such Acquisition Proposal is a Superior Proposal





and such Superior Proposal has been made and has not been withdrawn and continues to be a Superior Proposal after taking into account all adjustments to the terms of this Agreement that are committed to in writing by 1st Constitution pursuant to this Section 5.3(b).

(c) In addition to the obligations of NJCB set forth in Sections 5.3(a) and (b) of this Agreement, in the event that NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries or any representative of NJCB or its Subsidiaries receives (i) any Acquisition Proposal or (ii) any request for non-public information or to engage in negotiations that NJCB's Board of Directors believe is reasonably likely to lead to or that contemplates an Acquisition Proposal, NJCB promptly (and in any event within 48 hours of receipt) shall advise 1st Constitution in writing of the existence of the matters described in clause (i) or (ii), together with the material terms and conditions of such Acquisition Proposal or request and the identity of the person making any such Acquisition Proposal or request. NJCB shall keep 1st Constitution reasonably well informed in all material respects of the status (including after the occurrence of any material amendment or modification) of any such Acquisition Proposal or request. Without limiting any of the foregoing, NJCB shall promptly (and in any event within 48 hours) notify 1st Constitution in writing if it determines to begin providing non-public information or to engage in negotiations concerning an Acquisition Proposal pursuant to Sections 5.3(a) or (b) of this Agreement and shall in no event begin providing such information or engaging in such discussions or negotiations prior to providing such notice.

(d) For purposes of this Agreement:

(i) "Acquisition Proposal" means, other than the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, a tender or exchange offer to acquire 25% or more of the voting power in NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries, a proposal for a merger, consolidation or other business combination involving NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries or any other proposal or offer to acquire in any manner 25% or more of the voting power in, or 25% or more of the business, assets or deposits of, NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries.

(ii) "Superior Proposal" means an unsolicited bona fide written Acquisition Proposal (with the percentages set forth in the definition of such term changed from 25% to 50%) that NJCB's Board of Directors concludes in good faith to be more favorable from a financial point of view to its shareholders than the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby (including taking into account any adjustment to the terms and conditions proposed by 1st Constitution in response to such proposal pursuant to Section 5.3(b) of this Agreement or otherwise), after (1) receiving the advice of its financial advisor (which shall be a nationally recognized investment banking firm), (2) taking into account the likelihood of consummation of such transaction on the terms set forth therein (as compared to, and with due regard for, the terms herein) and (3) taking into account all legal (with the advice of outside counsel), financial (including the financing terms of any such proposal), regulatory and other aspects of such proposal and any other relevant factors permitted under applicable Law.

## ARTICLE VI ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

### 6.1 Regulatory Matters.

(a) 1st Constitution shall promptly prepare and file with the SEC the S-4, in which the Proxy Statement will be included as a prospectus. 1st Constitution shall prepare the Proxy Statement and NJCB shall cooperate with 1st Constitution in the preparation of such Proxy Statement. Each of



NJCB and 1st Constitution shall use its reasonable best efforts to have the S-4 declared effective under the Securities Act as promptly as practicable after such filing, and NJCB shall thereafter mail the Proxy Statement to its shareholders. With NJCB's cooperation, 1st Constitution shall also use its reasonable best efforts to obtain all necessary state securities Law or "Blue Sky" permits and approvals required to carry out the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, if any.

(b) The Parties shall cooperate with each other and use their reasonable best efforts to promptly prepare and file all necessary documentation, to effect all applications, notices, petitions and filings, and to obtain as promptly as practicable all permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of all third parties and Governmental Entities that are necessary or advisable to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (including without limitation the Merger). NJCB and 1st Constitution shall have the right to review in advance, and to the extent practicable each will consult the other on, in each case subject to applicable Laws relating to the exchange of information, all of the information relating to NJCB or 1st Constitution, as the case may be, and any of their respective Subsidiaries, which appears in any filing made with, or written materials submitted to, any third party or any Governmental Entity in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. In exercising the foregoing right, each of the Parties shall act reasonably and as promptly as practicable. The Parties agree that they will consult with each other with respect to the obtaining of all permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of all third parties and Governmental Entities necessary or advisable to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and each Party will keep the other apprised of the status of matters relating to completion of the transactions contemplated herein.

(c) 1st Constitution and NJCB shall, upon request, furnish each other with all information concerning themselves, their Subsidiaries, directors, officers and shareholders and such other matters as may be reasonably necessary or advisable in connection with the Proxy Statement, the S-4, any filing pursuant to Rule 165 or Rule 425 under the Securities Act or Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act and any other statement, filing, notice or application made by or on behalf of 1st Constitution, NJCB or any of their respective Subsidiaries to any Governmental Entity in connection with the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement (collectively, the "Filing Documents"). 1st Constitution agrees promptly to advise NJCB if, at any time prior to the NJCB Shareholders' Meeting, any information provided by 1st Constitution for the Filing Documents becomes incorrect or incomplete in any material respect and promptly to provide NJCB with the information needed to correct such inaccuracy or omission. 1st Constitution shall promptly furnish NJCB with such supplemental information as may be necessary in order to cause the Filing Documents, insofar as they relate to 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries, to comply with all applicable legal requirements. NJCB agrees promptly to advise 1st Constitution if, at any time prior to the NJCB Shareholders' Meeting, any information provided by NJCB for the Filing Documents becomes incorrect or incomplete in any material respect and promptly to provide 1st Constitution with the information needed to correct such inaccuracy or omission. NJCB shall promptly furnish 1st Constitution with such supplemental information as may be necessary in order to cause the Filing Documents, insofar as they relate to NJCB and the NJCB Subsidiaries, to comply with all applicable legal requirements.

(d) 1st Constitution and NJCB shall promptly furnish each other with copies of written communications received by 1st Constitution or NJCB, as the case may be, or any of their respective Subsidiaries, affiliates or associates (as such terms are defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act as in effect on the date of this Agreement) from, or delivered by any of the foregoing to, any Governmental Entity in respect of the transactions contemplated hereby.



(e) NJCB shall engage a proxy solicitor reasonably acceptable to 1st Constitution to assist NJCB in obtaining the approval of NJCB's shareholders of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

## 6.2 Access to Information.

(a) NJCB shall permit, and shall cause each of NJCB's Subsidiaries to permit, 1st Constitution and its representatives, and 1st Constitution shall permit, and shall cause each of their Subsidiaries to permit, NJCB and its representatives, reasonable access to their respective properties, and shall disclose and make available to 1st Constitution and its representatives, or NJCB and its representatives, as the case may be, all books, papers and records relating to its and its Subsidiaries' assets, stock ownership, properties, operations, obligations and liabilities, including, but not limited to, all books of account (including the general ledger), Tax records, minute books of directors' and shareholders' meetings (excluding information related to the Merger), organizational documents, by-laws, material contracts and agreements, filings with any regulatory authority, accountants' work papers, litigation files, plans affecting employees, and any other business activities or prospects in which 1st Constitution and its representatives or NJCB and its representatives may have a reasonable interest, all to the extent reasonably requested by the Party seeking such access. However, neither Party shall be required to provide access to or to disclose information where such access or disclosure would violate or prejudice the rights of any customer, would contravene any Law or Order or would waive any privilege. The Parties will use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain waivers of any such restriction (other than waivers of the attorney-client privilege) and in any event make appropriate substitute disclosure arrangements under circumstances in which the restrictions of the preceding sentence apply. Notwithstanding the foregoing, NJCB acknowledges that 1st Constitution may be involved in discussions from time to time concerning other potential acquisitions and 1st Constitution shall not be obligated to disclose information regarding such discussions to NJCB except as such information is disclosed to 1st Constitution's shareholders generally.

(b) During the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time, each of NJCB and 1st Constitution will cause one or more of its designated representatives to confer with representatives of the other Party on a monthly or more frequent basis regarding its consolidated business, operations, properties, assets and financial condition and matters relating to the completion of the transactions contemplated herein. NJCB will promptly notify 1st Constitution of any material change in the normal course of business or the operations or the properties of NJCB, any governmental complaints, investigations or hearings (or communications indicating that the same may be contemplated) affecting NJCB or any Subsidiary of NJCB or the threat of litigation, claims, threats or causes of action involving NJCB, and will keep 1st Constitution fully informed of such events. On a monthly basis, NJCB agrees to provide 1st Constitution with internally prepared consolidated profit and loss statements no later than 20 days after the close of each calendar month. As soon as reasonably available, but in no event more than 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter (other than the last fiscal quarter of each fiscal year), NJCB will deliver to 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution will deliver to NJCB their respective consolidated quarterly financial statements. As soon as reasonably available, but in no event more than 90 days after the end of each calendar year (commencing with the year ending December 31, 2017), NJCB will deliver to 1st Constitution and 1st Constitution will deliver to NJCB their respective consolidated annual financial statements.

(c) All information furnished pursuant to Sections 6.2(a) and 6.2(b) of this Agreement shall be subject to, and each of NJCB and 1st Constitution shall hold all such information in confidence in accordance with, the provisions of the Confidentiality Agreement.



(d) No investigation by either of the Parties or their respective representatives shall affect the representations, warranties, covenants or agreements of the other set forth herein.

(e) As soon as reasonably available, but in no event more than forty-five (45) days after the end of each fiscal quarter ending after the date of this Agreement and prior to the Effective Time, NJCB will deliver to 1st Constitution NJCB's call reports filed with the New Jersey Department and the FDIC.

6.3 NJCB Shareholders' Meeting. NJCB shall take all steps necessary to duly call, give notice of, convene and hold a meeting of its shareholders to be held as soon as is reasonably practicable after the date on which the S-4 becomes effective for the purpose of voting upon the approval and adoption of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby (the "NJCB Shareholders' Meeting"). NJCB will, through its Board of Directors, unless legally required to do otherwise for the discharge by NJCB's Board of Directors of its fiduciary duties as advised by such Board's legal counsel and the provisions of Section 5.3 of this Agreement, recommend to its shareholders approval of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby and such other matters as may be submitted to its shareholders in connection with this Agreement.

6.4 Legal Conditions to Merger. Each of 1st Constitution and NJCB shall, and shall cause its Subsidiaries to, use their reasonable best efforts (a) to take, or cause to be taken, all actions necessary, proper or advisable to comply promptly with all legal requirements which may be imposed on such Party or its Subsidiaries with respect to the Merger and, subject to the conditions set forth in Article VII of this Agreement, to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and (b) to obtain (and to cooperate with the other Party to obtain) any consent, authorization, order or approval of, or any exemption by, any Governmental Entity and any other third party that is required to be obtained by NJCB or 1st Constitution or any of their respective Subsidiaries in connection with the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and to comply with the terms and conditions of such consent, authorization, order or approval.

6.5 D&O Voting Agreements and Shareholder Voting Agreements.

(a) Contemporaneous with the execution of this Agreement, NJCB shall deliver to 1st Constitution copies of the D&O Voting Agreements signed by each member of the Board of Directors of NJCB, the President and Chief Executive Officer of NJCB and the Chief Financial Officer of NJCB. In addition to the D&O Voting Agreements delivered on or prior to the date of the Agreement by each director, the President and Chief Executive Officer of NJCB and the Chief Financial Officer of NJCB, NJCB shall deliver to 1st Constitution a D&O Voting Agreement executed by each person who becomes a director, the President and Chief Executive Officer of NJCB or the Chief Financial Officer of NJCB prior to the Closing.

(b) Contemporaneous with the execution of this Agreement, NJCB shall deliver to 1st Constitution copies of the Shareholder Voting Agreements signed by each Supporting Shareholder. In addition to the Shareholder Voting Agreements delivered on or prior to the date of the Agreement by Supporting Shareholder, NJCB shall deliver to 1st Constitution a Shareholder Voting Agreement executed by each Person who becomes a Supporting Shareholder prior to the Closing.

6.6 NASDAQ Global Market Listing. 1st Constitution shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause the shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock to be issued in the Merger to be approved for listing on the NASDAQ Global Market, subject to official notice of issuance, as of the Effective Time.





#### 6.7 Employee Benefit Plans; Existing Agreements.

(a) As of or as soon as practicable following the Effective Time, the employees of NJCB and its Subsidiaries who remain in the employ of 1st Constitution or its Subsidiaries subsequent to the Effective Time (the “NJCB Employees”) shall be eligible to participate in the employee benefit plans of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries (the “1st Constitution Plans”) in which similarly situated employees of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries participate, to the same extent as similarly situated employees of 1st Constitution or its Subsidiaries (it being understood that inclusion of NJCB Employees in such 1st Constitution Plans may occur at different times with respect to different plans). NJCB agrees to take any necessary actions to cease benefit accruals under any NJCB plan that is a Tax-qualified defined benefit plan as of the Effective Time.

(b) With respect to each 1st Constitution Plan, other than an employee pension plan as such term is defined in Section 3(2) of ERISA, for purposes of determining eligibility to participate, service with NJCB (or predecessor employers to the extent that NJCB provides past service credit) shall be treated as service with 1st Constitution. 1st Constitution shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause each 1st Constitution Plan that is a group health plan to waive pre-existing condition limitations applicable to NJCB Employees (to the same extent such limitations were satisfied immediately prior to the Closing).

(c) Unless instructed otherwise by 1st Constitution, effective as of no later than the day immediately preceding the Effective Time, NJCB shall, and shall cause its Subsidiaries to, terminate any and all NJCB Benefit Plans that are intended to include a Code Section 401(k) arrangement (each, a “401(k) Plan”), unless 1st Constitution provides written notice to NJCB that any such 401(k) Plans shall not be terminated. NJCB shall provide 1st Constitution with evidence that any such 401(k) Plan has been terminated pursuant to resolutions of the board of directors (or similar body) of NJCB or its Subsidiaries, as the case may be. Such resolutions shall be subject to review by, and shall be in form and substance reasonably acceptable to, 1st Constitution. NJCB shall also take such other actions in furtherance of terminating any such 401(k) Plan as 1st Constitution may reasonably request.

(d) The Board of Directors of NJCB, or the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of NJCB, shall take all required actions (i) to terminate all Stock Options as of the Effective Time or (ii) to cause the holders of Stock Options to surrender their Stock Options in exchange for the payment, if any, set forth in Section 1.6.

#### 6.8 Indemnification.

(a) For a period commencing as of the Effective Time and ending three years after the Effective Time, to the extent permitted by Law, 1st Constitution shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless each person who is now, or has been at any time prior to the date hereof or who becomes prior to the Effective Time, a director or officer of NJCB or who serves or has served at the request of NJCB as a director or officer with any other person (collectively, the “Indemnitees”) against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, losses, costs, charges, expenses (including, subject to the provisions of this Section 6.8, reasonable costs of investigation and the reasonable fees and disbursements of legal counsel and other advisers and experts as incurred), judgments, fines, penalties and amounts paid in settlement, asserted against, incurred by or imposed upon any Indemnitee by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director or officer of NJCB or serves or has served at the request of NJCB as a director or officer with any other person, in connection with, arising out of or relating to (i) any threatened, pending or completed claim,



action, suit or proceeding (whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative), including, without limitation, any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings or investigations by or on behalf of or in the right of or against NJCB or any of its Affiliates, or by any former or present shareholder of NJCB (each a “Claim” and collectively, “Claims”), including, without limitation, any Claim that is based upon, arises out of or in any way relates to the Merger, the Proxy Statement, this Agreement, any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Indemnitee’s service as a member of the Board of Directors of NJCB or its Subsidiaries or of any committee thereof, the events leading up to the execution of this Agreement, any statement, recommendation or solicitation made in connection therewith or related thereto and any breach of any duty in connection with any of the foregoing, or (ii) the enforcement of the obligations of 1st Constitution set forth in this Section 6.8, in each case to the fullest extent that NJCB would have been permitted under its certificate of incorporation and by-laws in effect as of the date hereof (and 1st Constitution shall also advance expenses as incurred due to clauses (i) or (ii) above to the fullest extent so permitted).

(b) Any Indemnitee wishing to claim indemnification under this Section 6.8 shall promptly notify 1st Constitution in writing upon learning of any Claim, but the failure to so notify shall not relieve 1st Constitution of any liability it may have to such Indemnitee except to the extent that such failure prejudices 1st Constitution. In the event of any Claim as to which indemnification under this Section 6.8 is applicable, (x) 1st Constitution shall have the right to assume the defense thereof and 1st Constitution shall not be liable to the applicable Indemnitee for any legal expenses of other counsel or any other expenses subsequently incurred by such Indemnitee in connection with the defense thereof, except that if 1st Constitution elects not to assume such defense, or counsel for such Indemnitee advises that there are issues that raise conflicts of interest between 1st Constitution and such Indemnitee, such Indemnitee may retain counsel satisfactory to such Indemnitee, and 1st Constitution shall pay the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel for such Indemnitee as statements therefor are received; provided, however, that 1st Constitution shall be obligated pursuant to this Section 6.8 to pay for only one firm of counsel for all Indemnitees in any jurisdiction with respect to a matter unless the use of one counsel for multiple Indemnitees would present such counsel with a conflict of interest that is not waived, and (y) the Indemnitees will cooperate in the defense of any such matter. 1st Constitution shall not be liable for the settlement of any claim, action or proceeding hereunder unless such settlement is effected with its prior written consent. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 6.8, 1st Constitution shall not have any obligation hereunder to any Indemnitee when and if a court of competent jurisdiction shall ultimately determine, and such determination shall have become final and nonappealable, that the indemnification of such Indemnitee in the manner contemplated hereby is prohibited by applicable Law or public policy.

(c) 1st Constitution shall cause the persons serving as officers and directors of NJCB immediately prior to the Effective Time to be covered for a period of four years from the Effective Time by the directors’ and officers’ liability insurance policy maintained by NJCB (provided that 1st Constitution may substitute therefor policies of at least the same coverage and amounts containing terms and conditions that are not materially less advantageous than such policy or single premium tail coverage with policy limits equal to NJCB’s existing annual coverage limits) with respect to acts or omissions occurring prior to the Effective Time that were committed by such officers and directors in their capacity as such; provided, however, that (A) in no event shall 1st Constitution be required to expend an aggregate annual premium in excess of 175% of the annual premium of the base directors’ and officers’ liability insurance policy most recently paid by NJCB prior to the date hereof (the “Insurance Amount”) to maintain or procure



insurance coverage, (B) if 1st Constitution is unable to maintain or obtain the insurance called for by this Section 6.8, 1st Constitution shall use all reasonable efforts to obtain as much comparable insurance as is available for the Insurance Amount and (C) notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, 1st Constitution shall be deemed to have satisfied all of its obligations pursuant to this Section 6.8 in the event that it acquires, or directs NJCB to acquire at an aggregate premium cost not to exceed 175% of the annual premium most recently paid by NJCB prior to the date hereof, single premium tail insurance. NJCB shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with 1st Constitution in the event that 1st Constitution determines to acquire, or directs NJCB to acquire, such tail insurance with respect to NJCB's existing base directors' and officers' liability insurance policy. NJCB represents and warrants that the annual premium for its base directors' and officers' liability insurance policy most recently paid with respect to the period covering October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2018 is \$37,000.

(d) The provisions of this Section 6.8 are intended to be for the benefit of, and shall be enforceable by, each Indemnitee and his or her heirs and representatives.

6.9 Additional Arrangements. If, at any time after the Effective Time, the Surviving Entity considers or is advised that any deeds, bills of sale, assignments, assurances or any other actions or things are necessary or desirable to vest, perfect or confirm of record or otherwise in the Surviving Entity its right, title or interest in, to or under any of the rights, properties or assets of either of the Bank or NJCB (the "Constituent Entities") acquired or to be acquired by the Surviving Entity as a result of, or in connection with, the Merger or otherwise to carry out the purposes of this Agreement, the officers and directors of the Surviving Entity shall be authorized to execute and deliver, in the name and on behalf of each of the Constituent Entities or otherwise, all such deeds, bills of sale, assignments and assurances and to take and do, in the name and on behalf of each of the Constituent Entities or otherwise, all such other actions and things as may be necessary or desirable to vest, perfect or confirm any and all right, title and interest in, to and under such rights, properties or assets in the Surviving Entity or otherwise to carry out the purposes of this Agreement.

6.10 Employee Severance and other Employment Matters.

(a) To the extent that any NJCB employees (other than those NJCB employees with agreements as set forth on Section 3.15(a) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule) are terminated by the Bank without cause following the Effective Time, the Bank shall pay severance to such employees pursuant to the severance policy set forth on Section 6.10(a) of the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule. The Bank will grant credit to such employees for years of prior service with NJCB.

(b) 1st Constitution and the Bank shall honor the agreements set forth on Section 6.10(b) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule.

6.11 Notification of Certain Matters. Each Party shall give prompt notice to the other Party of (a) any event, condition, change, occurrence, act or omission that causes any of its representations hereunder to cease to be true in all material respects (or, with respect to any such representation that is qualified as to materiality, causes such representation to cease to be true in all respects); and (b) any event, condition, change, occurrence, act or omission that individually or in the aggregate has, or that, so far as reasonably can be foreseen at the time of its occurrence, is reasonably likely to have, a Material Adverse Effect on such Party. Each of NJCB and 1st Constitution shall give prompt notice to the other Party of any notice or other communication from any third party alleging that the consent of such third party is or may be required in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.



6.12 Certain Matters, Certain Revaluations, Changes and Adjustments. Notwithstanding that NJCB believes that it and its Subsidiaries have established all reserves and taken all provisions for possible loan losses required by GAAP and applicable Laws, NJCB recognizes that 1st Constitution may have adopted different loan, accrual and reserve policies (including loan classifications and levels of reserves for possible loan losses). At or before the Effective Time, upon the request of 1st Constitution and in order to formulate the plan of integration for the Merger, NJCB shall, consistent with GAAP, modify and change its loan, litigation and real estate valuation policies and practices (including loan classifications and levels of reserves) so as to be applied consistently on a mutually satisfactory basis with those of 1st Constitution and establish such accruals and reserves as shall be necessary to reflect Merger-related expenses and costs incurred by NJCB and its Subsidiaries, provided, however, that NJCB shall not be required to take such action (A) more than five days prior to the Effective Time; and (B) unless 1st Constitution agrees in writing that all conditions to closing set forth in Article VII of this Agreement have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions relating to delivery of documents on the Closing Date); and provided further, however, that no accrual or reserve made by NJCB or any NJCB Subsidiary pursuant to this Section 6.12 or any litigation or regulatory proceeding arising out of any such accrual or reserve, shall constitute or be deemed to be a breach, violation of or failure to satisfy any representation, warranty, covenant, condition or other provision of this Agreement or otherwise be considered in determining whether any such breach, violation or failure to satisfy shall have occurred.

6.13 Other Policies. At or before the Effective Time, upon the request of 1st Constitution NJCB shall cooperate with 1st Constitution to reasonably conform the policies and procedures of NJCB and its Subsidiaries regarding applicable regulatory matters to those of 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries, as 1st Constitution may reasonably identify to NJCB from time to time, provided, however, that NJCB shall not be required to take such actions (A) more than five days prior to the Effective Time; and (B) unless 1st Constitution agrees in writing that all conditions to closing set forth in Article VII of this Agreement have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions relating to delivery of documents on the Closing Date).

6.14 Other Transactions. NJCB acknowledges that 1st Constitution may be in the process of acquiring other banks and financial institutions or in offering securities to the public and that in connection with such transactions, information concerning NJCB and its Subsidiaries may be required to be included in the registration statements, if any, for the sale of securities of 1st Constitution or in SEC reports in connection with such transactions. 1st Constitution shall provide NJCB and its counsel with copies of such registration statements at the time of filing. NJCB agrees to provide 1st Constitution with any information, certificates, documents or other materials about NJCB and its Subsidiaries as are reasonably necessary to be included in such SEC reports or registration statements, including registration statements that may be filed by 1st Constitution prior to the Effective Time. NJCB shall use its reasonable efforts to cause its attorneys, accountants and the Advisory Firm to provide 1st Constitution and any underwriters for 1st Constitution with any consents, comfort letters, opinion letters, reports or information that are necessary to complete the registration statements and applications for any such acquisition or issuance of securities. 1st Constitution shall reimburse NJCB for reasonable expenses thus incurred by NJCB should this Agreement be terminated for any reason. 1st Constitution shall not file with the SEC any such registration statement or amendment thereto or supplement thereof containing information regarding NJCB unless NJCB shall have consented in writing to such filing, which consent shall not be unreasonably delayed or withheld.





6.15 Failure to Fulfill Conditions. In the event that 1st Constitution or NJCB determines that a material condition to its obligation to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby cannot be fulfilled on or prior to the Cut-off Date and that it will not waive that condition, it will promptly notify the other Party. NJCB and 1st Constitution will promptly inform the other of any facts applicable to NJCB or 1st Constitution, respectively, or their respective directors, officers or Subsidiaries, that would be reasonably likely to prevent or materially delay approval of the Merger by any Governmental Entity or that would otherwise prevent or materially delay completion of the Merger. Any information so provided shall be retained by the receiving Party in accordance with the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement.

6.16 Transaction Expenses of NJCB.

(a) NJCB shall cause its and its Subsidiaries' professionals to render monthly invoices within 30 days after the end of each month. NJCB shall advise 1st Constitution monthly of all out-of-pocket expenses that NJCB and its Subsidiaries have incurred in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby. NJCB shall not, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries not to, pay fees and expenses to its accountants or attorneys on any basis different than the basis on which such professionals would be paid in the absence of any business combination.

(b) NJCB shall make all arrangements with respect to the printing and mailing of the Proxy Statement.

6.17 Pre-Closing Delivery of Financial Statements. Prior to the Closing, NJCB shall deliver to 1st Constitution such consolidated financial statements of NJCB as 1st Constitution shall reasonably request in order to enable 1st Constitution to comply with its reporting obligations under the Exchange Act, together with an executed report of NJCB's outside auditors with respect to all such financial statements that have been audited. Such report shall be in form and substance satisfactory to 1st Constitution. The financial statements delivered pursuant to this Section 6.17 shall be prepared in accordance with GAAP and shall conform to all provisions of the SEC's Regulation S-X (to the extent applicable), such that such financial statements are suitable for filing by 1st Constitution with the SEC in response to Items 2.01 and 9.01 of the SEC's Current Report on Form 8-K. Immediately prior to the Closing, NJCB shall cause its outside auditors to deliver to 1st Constitution an executed consent, in form and substance satisfactory to the 1st Constitution and suitable for filing by 1st Constitution with the SEC, which consent shall authorize 1st Constitution to file with the SEC the report referred to in this Section 6.17 and all other reports delivered by NJCB hereunder.

6.18 ISRA. NJCB shall provide a certification identifying the North American Industrial Classification System ("NAICS") code number(s) that is appropriate and accurate for each property in New Jersey that NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries owns or operates. For each property that has an NAICS number that is within the definition of an "industrial establishment" as set forth at N.J.S.A. 13:K-8 (collectively, the "ISRA Properties"), NJCB, at its sole cost and expense, shall within five (5) days of the date hereof prepare and submit a general information notice to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP"). In addition, NJCB shall retain a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (as defined in ISRA) who shall prepare and submit to NJDEP, prior to the Effective Time, a Response Action Outcome or Remediation Certification (in each case in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to 1st Constitution) and NJCB will simultaneously create and maintain a "Remediation Funding Source," as such term is defined under the applicable Environmental Laws, or other financial assurance.



6.19 Maintenance of Properties; Certain Remediation and Capital Improvements. NJCB and the Subsidiaries of NJCB will maintain their properties and assets in satisfactory condition and repair for the purposes for which they are intended, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

6.20 Environmental Audits. Upon the written request of 1st Constitution, which request shall occur within sixty (60) days after the date hereof, NJCB will permit 1st Constitution, at 1st Constitution's expense, with respect to each parcel of real property owned by NJCB, to procure an environmental audit, preliminary assessment, property condition assessment and/or such other environmental evaluations of such real property as 1st Constitution deems necessary or appropriate.

6.21 Title Insurance. Upon the written request of 1st Constitution, which request shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date hereof, NJCB will permit 1st Constitution, at 1st Constitution's expense, with respect to each parcel of real property owned by NJCB, to obtain a commitment to issue owner's title insurance in such amounts and by such insurance company reasonably acceptable to 1st Constitution.

6.22 Surveys. Upon the written request of 1st Constitution, which request shall occur within forty five (45) days after the date hereof, with respect to each parcel of real property as to which a title insurance policy is to be procured pursuant to Section 6.21, NJCB will permit 1st Constitution, at 1st Constitution's expense, to obtain a survey of such real property, which survey shall be reasonably acceptable to and shall be prepared by a licensed surveyor reasonably acceptable to 1st Constitution, disclosing the locations of all improvements, easements, sidewalks, roadways, utility lines and other matters customarily shown on such surveys and showing access affirmatively to public streets and roads and providing the legal description of the property in a form suitable for recording and insuring the title thereof (the "Survey").

6.23 Consents to Assign and Use Leased Premises. With respect to the Real Property Leases disclosed in Schedule 3.18(a) of the NJCB Disclosure schedule, NJCB will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain all Consents necessary or appropriate to transfer and assign all right, title and interest of NJCB to the Bank and to permit the use and operation of the leased premises by the Bank as of the Closing.

6.24 Section 16 Matters. Prior to the Effective Time, to the extent permitted by Law without expense to the Parties, the Parties will use commercially reasonable efforts to take such steps as may be reasonably necessary or appropriate to cause any disposition of shares of NJCB Common Stock or conversion of any derivative securities in respect of shares of NJCB Common Stock or purchase of shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock in connection with the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to be exempt under Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

6.25 Disclosure Controls. Between the date of this Agreement and the Effective Time of the Merger, NJCB shall, upon reasonable notice during normal business hours, permit 1st Constitution (i) to meet with the officers of NJCB responsible for the Financial Statements of NJCB and the internal control over financial reporting of NJCB to discuss such matters as 1st Constitution may deem reasonably necessary or appropriate concerning 1st Constitution's obligations under Section 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act; and (ii) to meet with officers of NJCB to discuss the integration of appropriate disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting relating to NJCB's operations with the controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting of 1st Constitution for purposes of assisting 1st Constitution in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act following the



Effective Time of the Merger. NJCB shall, and shall cause its and NJCB's respective employees and accountants to, fully cooperate with 1st Constitution in the preparation, documentation, review, testing and all other actions 1st Constitution deems reasonably necessary to satisfy the internal control certification requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

6.26 Tax Treatment. Neither 1st Constitution, the Bank nor NJCB shall, or shall cause any of their respective Subsidiaries to, take any action inconsistent with the treatment of the Merger as a "reorganization" under Section 368(a) of the Code.

6.27 Payment of Retention Bonuses. Provided that a person listed on Section 6.27 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule (i) remains an employee of NJCB from the date hereof through the date after the Effective Time when that person's job function has been converted or transitioned and (ii) does not accept employment with 1st Constitution, the Bank or another Subsidiary of 1st Constitution for any period subsequent to the Effective Time, 1st Constitution shall pay to such person the bonus compensation provided for such employee in Section 6.27 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule.

6.28 Shareholder Litigation. NJCB shall give 1st Constitution the opportunity to participate at its own expense in the defense or settlement of any shareholder litigation against NJCB and/or its directors or other Affiliates relating to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and no such settlement shall be agreed to without 1st Constitution's prior written consent.

6.29 No Control Over Other Party's Business. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall give 1st Constitution, directly or indirectly, the right to control or direct the operations of NJCB or its Subsidiaries prior to the Effective Time, and nothing contained in this Agreement shall give NJCB, directly or indirectly, the right to control or direct the operations of 1st Constitution or its Subsidiaries prior to the Effective Time. Prior to the Effective Time, each of NJCB and 1st Constitution shall exercise, consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, complete control and supervision over its and its Subsidiaries' respective operations.

6.30 Press Releases. 1st Constitution and NJCB agree that they will not issue any press release or other public disclosure related to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby without first consulting with the other party as to the form and substance of such disclosures that may relate to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall prohibit either party, following notification to the other party, from making any disclosure that is required by law or regulation.

6.31 Prior Notice and Approval Before Payments To Be Made. Without the express prior written consent of 1st Constitution, no payments shall be made by NJCB to any director, officer or employee in accordance with any agreement, contract, plan or arrangement (including, but not limited to any employment agreement, change in control agreement, severance arrangement, stock option, non- compete agreements, deferred compensation plan, bonus, vacation or leave plan or other compensation or benefits program), which payments arise upon the termination of such agreement, contract, plan or arrangement or upon the termination of employment or service of such recipient with NJCB, except to the extent that (i) such intended payments have been set forth in the NJCB Disclosure Schedule furnished to 1st Constitution at the date of this Agreement, (ii) prior written notice has been provided to 1st Constitution of such intended payment, and (iii) a written acknowledgement and release, executed by the recipient and NJCB, reasonably satisfactory to 1st Constitution in form and substance, has been



delivered to 1st Constitution. Prior to NJCB making any such payments to any officer or director, NJCB, with the assistance of its tax accountants, shall determine that no such payments, if made, shall constitute an “excess parachute payment” in accordance with Section 280G of the Code, and NJCB shall furnish 1st Constitution with a detailed schedule related to such determination prior to making any such payments.

6.32 Liquidation of Holding Company. The Board of Directors of NJCB shall take all corporate action to liquidate and dissolve New Jersey Community Bancorp, Inc., a New Jersey corporation, which was incorporated to become the holding company for NJCB but such holding company structure was never implemented.

6.33 Further Assurances. Subject to the terms and conditions herein provided, each of the Parties agrees to use its commercially reasonable efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions and to do, or cause to be done, all things necessary, proper or advisable under applicable laws and regulations to satisfy the conditions to the Parties’ obligations hereunder and to consummate and make effective the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including, without limitation, using reasonable efforts to lift or rescind any injunction or restraining order or other Order adversely affecting the ability of the Parties to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and using its commercially reasonable efforts to prevent the breach of any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement of such Party contained or referred to in this Agreement and to promptly remedy the same. Nothing in this Section 6.33 shall be construed to require any Party to participate in any threatened or actual legal, administrative or other proceedings (other than proceedings, actions or investigations to which it is otherwise a party or subject or threatened to be made a party or subject) in connection with consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement unless such Party shall consent in advance and in writing to such participation and the other Party agrees to reimburse and indemnify such Party for and against any and all costs and damages related thereto.

## ARTICLE VII CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

7.1 Conditions to Each Party’s Obligations Under this Agreement. The respective obligations of each Party under this Agreement to consummate the Merger shall be subject to the satisfaction or, where permissible under applicable Law, waiver at or prior to the Effective Time of the following conditions:

(a) Approval of Shareholders; SEC Registration; Blue Sky Laws. This Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby shall have been approved by the requisite vote of the shareholders of NJCB. The S-4 shall have been declared effective by the SEC and shall not be subject to a stop order or any threatened stop order, and the issuance of the 1st Constitution Common Stock shall have been qualified in every state where such qualification is required under the applicable state securities Laws.

(b) Regulatory Filings. Subject to Section 7.2(g) hereof, all necessary approvals and consents (including without limitation any required approval (or in the case of the FRB, any required approval or waiver) of the FDIC, the New Jersey Department, the FRB, the SEC and (if necessary) the NJDEP) of Governmental Entities required to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby shall have been obtained. All conditions required to be satisfied prior to the Effective Time by the terms of such approvals and consents shall have been satisfied; and all statutory waiting periods in respect thereof (including the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, if applicable) shall have expired.





(c) Suits and Proceedings. No Order shall be outstanding against a Party or its Subsidiaries or a third party that would have the effect of preventing completion of the Merger; no suit, action or other proceeding shall be pending or threatened by any Governmental Entity seeking to restrain or prohibit the Merger; and no suit, action or other proceeding shall be pending before any court or Governmental Entity seeking to restrain or prohibit the Merger or obtain other substantial monetary or other relief against one or more Parties, NJCB or the Bank in connection with this Agreement and which 1st Constitution or NJCB determines in good faith, based upon the advice of their respective counsel, makes it inadvisable to proceed with the Merger because any such suit, action or proceeding has a significant potential to be resolved in such a way as to deprive the Party electing not to proceed of any of the material benefits to it of the Merger.

(d) Tax Opinion. 1st Constitution and NJCB shall each have received an opinion, dated as of the Effective Time, of Day Pitney LLP, reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to NJCB and its counsel and to 1st Constitution, based upon representation letters reasonably required by such counsel, dated on or about the date of such opinion, and such other facts, representations and customary limitations as such counsel may reasonably deem relevant, to the effect that the Merger will be treated for federal income Tax purposes as a reorganization qualifying under the provisions of Section 368(a) of the Code. In connection therewith, each of 1st Constitution, the Bank and NJCB shall deliver to Day Pitney LLP representation letters, in each case in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Day Pitney LLP and dated the date of such opinion, on which Day Pitney LLP shall be entitled to rely.

(e) Listing of Shares. The shares of 1st Constitution Common Stock which shall be issuable to the shareholders of NJCB upon consummation of the Merger shall have been authorized for listing on the NASDAQ Global Market, subject to official notice of issuance.

7.2 Conditions to the Obligations of 1st Constitution and the Bank Under this Agreement. The obligations of 1st Constitution and the Bank under this Agreement shall be further subject to the satisfaction or waiver, at or prior to the Effective Time, of the following conditions:

(a) Representations and Warranties; Performance of Obligations of NJCB. Except for those representations and warranties that are made as of a particular date, the representations and warranties of NJCB contained in this Agreement shall be true and complete in all material respects (except with respect to those representations and warranties that are qualified as to materiality, which shall be true in all respects) on the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date. The representations and warranties of NJCB contained in this Agreement that are made as of a particular date shall be true and complete in all material respects (except with respect to those representations and warranties that are qualified as to materiality, which shall be true in all respects) as of such date. NJCB shall have performed in all material respects the agreements, covenants and obligations to be performed by it prior to the Closing Date.

(b) Certificates. NJCB shall have furnished 1st Constitution with such certificates of its officers or other documents to evidence fulfillment of the conditions set forth in this Section 7.2 as 1st Constitution may reasonably request.

(c) Intentionally Omitted.



(d) Third Party Consents. All consents, waivers and approvals of any third parties (other than the consents, waivers and approvals referred to in Section 7.1(b) of this Agreement) that are necessary to permit the consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby shall have been obtained or made, except for those as to which the failure to obtain would not be material (i) on NJCB and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole or (ii) on the 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole. None of the consents, approvals or waivers referred to in this Section 7.2(d) shall contain any term or condition which would have a material adverse impact on the Surviving Entity and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, after giving effect to the Merger.

(e) FIRPTA. NJCB shall have delivered to 1st Constitution a certificate dated as of the Closing Date, in form and substance required under the Treasury Regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 1445 of the Code, certifying such facts as to establish that the transactions contemplated hereby are exempt from withholding pursuant to Section 1445 of the Code.

(f) Dissenting Shares. No more than 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of NJCB Common Stock shall be Dissenting Shares.

(g) Regulatory Conditions. A Governmental Entity (including, without limitation, the FRB, FDIC or New Jersey Department), has not imposed a condition or requirement on 1st Constitution, the Bank or the Surviving Entity that (A) the Board of Directors of 1st Constitution reasonably determines is (i) onerous to 1st Constitution, the Bank or the Surviving Entity, or (ii) reasonably likely to have a material imposition on the operations, business or prospects of 1st Constitution, the Bank or the Surviving Entity, or (B) requires 1st Constitution, the Bank or the Surviving Entity to raise capital through the sale of securities within one year of the Closing Date.

(h) Regulatory Matters. NJCB shall have satisfied, or is in the process of satisfying in a manner and under a timetable reasonably satisfactory to 1st Constitution, the regulatory matters set forth in Section 7.2(h) of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule.

(i) Environmental Audit Results. The results of any environmental audit, assessment, or study conducted by 1st Constitution pursuant to Section 6.20 hereof shall not indicate circumstances or conditions that would reasonably be expected to require remediation or could reasonably be expected to impose liability with an aggregate estimated cost or liability in excess of \$250,000 for all such properties.

(j) Intentionally Omitted.

(k) Amended and Restated Indemnification Agreements. The indemnification agreements with existing directors of NJCB as set forth in Section 3.20 of the NJCB Disclosure Schedule shall be amended and restated in substantially the form of Exhibit F hereto (the "Indemnification Agreements").

(l) First Amendment to Freehold Lease. The First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Lease Agreement by and between Poppy Lane Holdings, LLC, as Landlord, and NJCB, as Tenant, relating to the premises located at 3441 U.S. Highway 9, Freehold, New Jersey, is in full force and effect as of the Closing Date.

7.3 Conditions to the Obligations of NJCB Under this Agreement. The obligation of NJCB to effect the Merger is also subject to the satisfaction or waiver by NJCB at or prior to the Effective Time of the following conditions:



(a) Representations and Warranties; Performance of Obligations of 1st Constitution and the Bank. Except for those representations and warranties that are made as of a particular date, the representations and warranties of 1st Constitution and the Bank contained in this Agreement shall be true and complete in all material respects (except with respect to those representations and warranties that are qualified as to materiality, which shall be true in all respects) on the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date. The representations and warranties of 1st Constitution and the Bank contained in this Agreement that are made as of a particular date shall be true and complete in all material respects (except with respect to those representations and warranties that are qualified as to materiality, which shall be true in all respects) as of such date. Each of 1st Constitution and the Bank shall have performed in all material respects the agreements, covenants and obligations to be performed by it prior to the Closing Date.

(b) Certificates. 1st Constitution shall have furnished NJCB with such certificates of its officers or other documents to evidence fulfillment of the conditions set forth in this Section 7.3 as NJCB may reasonably request.

(c) Escrow Agreement. 1st Constitution, the Shareholder Representative and the Escrow Agent shall have executed the Escrow Agreement and 1st Constitution shall have made arrangements reasonably satisfactory to the Shareholder Representative to deliver the Escrowed Amount to the Escrow Agent immediately upon consummation of the Merger.

(d) Acknowledgement of the Indemnification Agreements. 1st Constitution shall have acknowledged and assumed the Indemnification Agreements.

#### ARTICLE VIII

#### TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

8.1 Termination. This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the Effective Time, whether before or after approval by the shareholders of NJCB of the matters presented in connection with the Merger:

(a) by mutual consent of NJCB, on one hand, and 1st Constitution and the Bank, on the other hand;

(b) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand, upon written notice to the other Party if the approval of any Governmental Entity required for consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement is denied by final, non-appealable action of such Governmental Entity; provided, however, that the right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8.1(b) shall not be available to any Party whose failure to comply with any provision of this Agreement has been the cause of, or materially contributed to, such action;

(c) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand, if the Merger shall not have been consummated on or before the one year anniversary of the date hereof (the "Cut-off Date") or such later date as shall have been agreed to in writing by 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, and NJCB, on the other hand, unless the failure of the Closing to occur by such date shall be due to the failure of the Party seeking to terminate this Agreement to perform or observe the covenants and agreements of such Party set forth herein;



(d) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand, if the approval of the shareholders of NJCB required for the consummation of the Merger shall not have been obtained by reason of the failure to obtain the required vote at a duly held meeting of such shareholders or at any adjournment or postponement thereof;

(e) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand (provided that the terminating Party is not then in material breach of any representation, warranty, covenant or other agreement contained herein), if there shall have been a breach of any of the representations or warranties set forth in this Agreement on the part of the other Party (determined as of the date hereof or, in the case of representations and warranties made as of a particular date, as of the date as of which such representation or warranty is made), which breach is not cured within thirty days following written notice to the Party committing such breach, or which breach, by its nature, cannot be cured prior to the Cut-Off Date; provided, however, that neither Party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8.1(e) unless the breach of representation or warranty, together with all other such breaches, (i) would entitle the Party receiving such representation not to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby under Section 7.2(a) of this Agreement (in the case of a breach of a representation or warranty by NJCB) or Section 7.3(a) of this Agreement (in the case of a breach of a representation or warranty by 1st Constitution) or (ii) would constitute a Material Adverse Effect with respect to the Party committing such breach or breaches;

(f) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand (provided that the terminating Party is not then in material breach of any representation, warranty, covenant or other agreement contained herein), if there shall have been a material breach of any of the covenants or agreements set forth in this Agreement on the part of the other Party hereto, which breach shall not have been cured within thirty days following receipt by the breaching Party of written notice of such breach from the other Party, or which breach, by its nature, cannot be cured prior to the Cut-Off Date;

(g) by NJCB if, prior to receipt of NJCB Shareholder Approval, NJCB has received a Superior Proposal, and in accordance with Section 5.3 of this Agreement, has entered into an acquisition agreement with respect to the Superior Proposal, but only if immediately upon terminating this Agreement, NJCB (A) pays to 1st Constitution the Termination Fee and Termination Expenses, and (B) delivers to 1st Constitution a release signed by the parties to such acquisition agreement and any entity that controls such parties, which release shall be in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to 1st Constitution and shall irrevocably waive any right the releasing parties may have to challenge the payment to 1st Constitution of the Termination Fee and the payment to 1st Constitution of the Termination Expenses;

(h) by 1st Constitution and the Bank if prior to receipt of NJCB Shareholder Approval, NJCB or NJCB's Board of Directors (or any committee thereof) has (A) effected a NJCB Subsequent Determination or approved, adopted, endorsed or recommended any Acquisition Proposal, (B) failed to make the NJCB Board Recommendation, withdrawn the NJCB Board Recommendation or failed to publicly re-affirm the NJCB Board Recommendation within five days after receipt from 1st Constitution of a written request to do so, (C) breached the terms of Section 5.3 of this Agreement in any material respect adverse to 1st Constitution, or (D) in response to the commencement (other than by 1st Constitution or a Subsidiary thereof) of a tender offer or exchange offer for 25% or more of the outstanding shares of NJCB's Common Stock, recommended that the shareholders of NJCB tender their shares in such tender or exchange offer or otherwise failed to recommend that such shareholders reject such tender offer or exchange offer within the ten business day period specified in Rule 14e-2(a) under the Exchange Act;





(i) by 1st Constitution and the Bank if the conditions set forth in Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of this Agreement are not satisfied and are not capable of being satisfied by the Cut-off Date;

(j) by NJCB if the conditions set forth in Sections 7.1 and 7.3 of this Agreement are not satisfied and are not capable of being satisfied by the Cut-off Date.

(k) by NJCB if its Board of Directors so determines by a vote of a majority of the members of its entire board, at any time during the five day period commencing on the day after the Determination Date, if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) the 1st Constitution Common Stock Average Price on the Determination Date shall be less than \$16.00 (the “Base Amount”); and

(2) (i) the number (rounded to four decimals) obtained by dividing the 1st Constitution Common Stock Average Price on the Determination Date by the 1st Constitution Initial Price (the “1st Constitution Ratio”) shall be less than (ii) the number (rounded to four decimals) obtained by dividing the Final Index Price on the Determination Date by the Initial Index Price and subtracting 0.30 from the quotient in this clause (2)(ii) (such number being referred to herein as the “Index Ratio”);

For purposes of this subsection (k), the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Final Index Price” means the average (rounded to four decimals) of the daily closing prices of the NASDAQ Bank Index for the 10 consecutive trading days immediately preceding the Determination Date.

“Initial Index Price” means \$3,935.30.

“1st Constitution Common Stock Average Price” means the average (rounded to four decimals) of the daily closing sales prices of 1st Constitution Common Stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Market (as reported in an authoritative source chosen by 1st Constitution) for the 10 consecutive full trading days in which such shares are quoted on the NASDAQ Global Market ending at the close of trading on the Determination Date.

“1st Constitution Initial Price” means \$18.00.

If 1st Constitution declares or effects a stock dividend, reclassification, recapitalization, split-up, combination, exchange of shares or similar transaction between the date of this Agreement and the Determination Date, the 1st Constitution Common Stock Average Price shall be appropriately adjusted for the purposes of applying this Section 8.1(k).

(l) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand, if the 1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price is less than \$7.00 and 1st Constitution determines in its sole discretion to not increase the Exchange Ratio pursuant to the last paragraph of Section 1.4(a)(A) hereof.

8.2 Effect of Termination. In the event of termination of this Agreement by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand, as provided in Section 8.1 of this Agreement, this Agreement shall forthwith become void and have no effect except that (i) Sections 8.1,



8.2, 8.5 and Article IX of this Agreement shall survive any termination of this Agreement and (ii) in the event that such termination is effected pursuant to Sections 8.1(e) or 8.1(f) of this Agreement, the non-defaulting Party may pursue any remedy available at law or in equity to enforce its rights and shall be paid by the defaulting Party for all damages, costs and expenses, including without limitation legal, accounting, investment banking and printing expenses, incurred or suffered by the non-defaulting Party in connection herewith or in the enforcement of its rights hereunder.

8.3 Amendment. Subject to compliance with applicable Law, this Agreement may be amended by the Parties at any time before or after approval of the matters presented in connection with the Merger by the shareholders of NJCB; provided, however, that after any approval of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement by NJCB's shareholders, there may not be, without further approval of such shareholders, any amendment of this Agreement which reduces the amount or changes the form of the consideration to be delivered to NJCB's shareholders hereunder other than as contemplated by this Agreement. This Agreement may not be amended except by an instrument in writing signed on behalf of each of the Parties.

8.4 Extension; Waiver. At any time prior to the Effective Time, each of the Parties may, to the extent legally allowed, (a) extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other Party, (b) waive any inaccuracies in the representations and warranties of the other Party contained herein or in any document delivered pursuant hereto and (c) waive compliance with any of the agreements or conditions of the other Party contained herein. Any agreement on the part of a Party to any such extension or waiver shall be valid only if set forth in a written instrument signed on behalf of such Party, but such extension or waiver or failure to insist on strict compliance with an obligation, covenant, agreement or condition shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any subsequent or other failure.

8.5 Termination Fee; Expenses. In the event that:

(i) this Agreement is terminated by NJCB pursuant to Section 8.1(g) of this Agreement or by 1st Constitution and the Bank pursuant to Section 8.1(h) of this Agreement, then NJCB shall pay to 1st Constitution, immediately upon such termination, by wire transfer of immediately available funds, the sum of (x) \$275,000 (the "Termination Fee") and (y) the dollar amount of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by 1st Constitution and the Bank in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (as certified by 1st Constitution upon receipt of NJCB's notice of termination or delivery of 1st Constitution's and the Bank's notice of termination, whichever is applicable), up to \$125,000 in such expenses (the "Termination Expenses"), provided, however that the sum of the Termination Fee and the Termination Expenses shall not exceed \$400,000 (the "Maximum Amount");

(ii) (A) a bona fide Acquisition Proposal (whether or not conditional) shall have been made directly to NJCB's shareholders or otherwise publicly disclosed or otherwise communicated or made known to any member of senior management of NJCB or any member of NJCB's Board of Directors, and (B) this Agreement is thereafter terminated (x) by NJCB or 1st Constitution pursuant to Sections 8.1(c) or 8.1(d) of this Agreement (if NJCB Shareholder Approval has not theretofore been obtained after the S-4 shall have been declared effective), or (y) by 1st Constitution and the Bank pursuant to Sections 8.1(e) or 8.1(f) of this Agreement, then if within 18 months after such termination, NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates a transaction contemplated by, any Acquisition Proposal (which, in each case, need not be the same Acquisition Proposal that shall have



been made, publicly disclosed or communicated prior to termination hereof), then NJCB shall pay 1st Constitution, on the earlier of the date of such execution or consummation, a fee equal to the Maximum Amount; and

(iii) (A) a bona fide Acquisition Proposal (whether or not conditional) shall have been made directly to NJCB's shareholders or otherwise publicly disclosed or otherwise communicated or made known to any member of senior management of NJCB or any member of NJCB's Board of Directors, and (B) this Agreement is thereafter terminated (x) by either 1st Constitution and the Bank, on one hand, or NJCB, on the other hand, pursuant to 8.1(d) of this Agreement (if NJCB Shareholder Approval has not theretofore been obtained after the S-4 shall have been declared effective), or (y) by 1st Constitution and the Bank pursuant to Sections 8.1(e) or 8.1(f) of this Agreement, then, if within 12 months after such termination, NJCB or any of its Subsidiaries enters into a definitive agreement with respect to, or consummates a transaction contemplated by, any Acquisition Proposal (which, in each case, need not be the same Acquisition Proposal that shall have been made, publicly disclosed or communicated prior to termination hereof), then NJCB shall pay 1st Constitution, on the earlier of the date of such execution or consummation, a fee equal to the Maximum Amount less any Termination Expenses paid to 1st Constitution pursuant to clause (ii) of this Section 8.5. For purposes of clauses (ii) and (iii) of this Section 8.5, the term "Acquisition Proposal" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 5.3(d)(i) of this Agreement except that references in Section 5.3(d)(i) to "25%" shall be replaced by "50%".

## ARTICLE IX GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 9.1 Interpretation.

(a) The headings and captions contained in this Agreement and in any table of contents are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

(b) Whenever the words "include", "includes" or "including" are used in this Agreement, they shall be deemed to be followed by the words "without limitation".

(c) The words "hereof", "herein" and "herewith" and words of similar import shall, unless expressly otherwise stated, be construed to refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement, and article, section, paragraph, exhibit, appendix and schedule references are to the articles, sections, paragraphs, exhibits, appendices and schedules of this Agreement unless expressly otherwise specified.

(d) The meaning assigned to each term defined herein shall be equally applicable to both the singular and the plural forms of such term, and words denoting any gender shall include all genders. Where a word or phrase is defined herein, each of its other grammatical forms shall have a corresponding meaning.

(e) A reference to any Party to this Agreement or any other agreement or document shall include such Party's successors and permitted assigns.



(f) A reference to any legislation or to any provision of any legislation shall include any amendment thereto, and any modification or re-enactment thereof, any legislative provision substituted therefor and all regulations and statutory instruments issued thereunder or pursuant thereto.

(g) The Parties have participated jointly in the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement. In the event that an ambiguity or a question of intent or interpretation arises, this Agreement shall be construed as if drafted jointly by the Parties, and no presumption or burden of proof shall arise favoring or disfavoring any Party by virtue of the authorship of any provisions of this Agreement.

(h) All references to “dollars” or “\$” in this Agreement refer to United States dollars, which is the currency used for all purposes in this Agreement.

(i) The terms of this Section 9.1 shall apply to the NJCB Disclosure Schedule and the 1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule delivered herewith and to each document included in the exhibits annexed hereto unless expressly otherwise stated therein.

9.2 Nonsurvival of Representations, Warranties and Agreements. None of the representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in this Agreement or in any instrument delivered pursuant to this Agreement shall survive the Effective Time, except for those covenants and agreements contained herein and therein which by their terms apply in whole or in part after the Effective Time. The provisions of Section 6.2(c), Article VIII and Article IX of this Agreement and the Confidentiality Agreement shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

9.3 Expenses. Except as otherwise provided in Section 8.5 of this Agreement, all costs and expenses incurred in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby shall be paid by the Party incurring such costs and expenses.

9.4 Notices. All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed given if delivered personally, telecopied (with confirmation), mailed by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested) or delivered by an express courier (with confirmation) to the Parties at the following addresses (or at such other address for a Party as shall be specified by like notice):

(a)  
if to 1st Constitution and the Bank, to:

1st Constitution Bank  
2650 Route 130  
P.O. Box 634  
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512 Attn: Robert F. Mangano

with a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:

Day Pitney LLP  
1 Jefferson Road  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054  
Attn: Frank E. Lawatsch, Jr., Esq. and Scott W. Goodman, Esq.

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and

(b)  
if to NJCB, to:

New Jersey Community Bank  
3441 U.S. Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728  
Attn: William H. Placke

with a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:

Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP  
120 Albany Street Plaza  
6th Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Attn: Robert A. Schwartz, Esq.

9.5 Counterparts; Facsimile. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement and shall become effective when counterparts have been signed by all of the Parties and delivered to all of the Parties, it being understood that all Parties need not sign the same counterpart. Execution and delivery of this Agreement or any agreement contemplated hereby by facsimile or pdf transmission shall constitute execution and delivery of this Agreement or such agreement for all purposes, with the same force and effect as execution and delivery of an original manually signed copy hereof.

9.6 Entire Agreement. This Agreement (including the documents, the disclosure schedules and the instruments referred to herein), together with the Confidentiality Agreement, constitutes the entire agreement and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

9.7 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the Laws of the State of New Jersey, without regard to any applicable conflicts of law.

9.8 Severability. Any term or provision of this Agreement which is invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction shall, as to that jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such invalidity or unenforceability without rendering invalid or unenforceable the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement in any other jurisdiction. If any provision of this Agreement is so broad as to be unenforceable, the provision shall be interpreted to be only so broad as is enforceable.

9.9 Publicity. Except as otherwise required by Law or the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market, so long as this Agreement is in effect, neither 1st Constitution nor NJCB shall, or shall permit any of its Subsidiaries to, issue or cause the publication of any press release or other public announcement with respect to, or otherwise make any public statement concerning, the transactions contemplated by this Agreement without the consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.



9.10 Assignment; Parties in Interest; No Third Party Beneficiaries. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations hereunder shall be assigned by any Party hereto (whether by operation of law or otherwise) without the prior written consent of the other Party. Subject to the preceding sentence, this Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Except as otherwise expressly provided in Section 6.8 of this Agreement, this Agreement (including the documents and instruments referred to herein) is not intended to confer upon any person other than the Parties any rights or remedies hereunder. Except as otherwise expressly provided in Section 6.8 of this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to or shall confer upon any person other than 1st Constitution, the Bank and NJCB any legal or equitable right, benefit or remedy of any nature under or by reason of this Agreement. The representations and warranties in this Agreement are the product of negotiations among the Parties and are for the sole benefit of the Parties. In certain instances, the representations and warranties in this Agreement may represent an allocation between the Parties of risks associated with particular matters regardless of the knowledge of any of the Parties. Consequently, persons other than the Parties may not rely upon the representations and warranties in this Agreement as characterizations of actual facts or circumstances as of the date of this Agreement or as of any other date.

#### 9.11 Definitions.

(a)

For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Affiliate” of a Person means a Person that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, the first mentioned Person. For purposes of this definition, “control” shall mean the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of an entity, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.

“Agency” means each of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae.

“Applicable Law” means collectively, any federal, state or local constitution, Law or similar legal requirement, or any directive, policy or order that is made or given at any time or from time to time by any Governmental Entity, to which NJCB and/or any of its Subsidiaries is subject or which is otherwise applicable to the origination, processing, underwriting, closing, funding, insuring, selling, purchasing, servicing or subservicing of Mortgage Loans, and any applicable and valid order, verdict, judgment or consent decree.

“Applicable Requirements” means collectively, (i) the terms of a Mortgage Loan (including, without limitation, the related mortgage note and mortgage or other security interest), (ii) all Applicable Laws, (iii) all obligations, under any Contract, (iv) all other applicable requirements and guidelines of any Agency, Investor or Governmental Entity having jurisdiction; and (v) the reasonable and customary practices of prudent mortgage lending, underwriting, processing, origination, insuring, closing, funding, servicing, subservicing, loss mitigation, foreclosure, and real property administration firms and institutions.

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday or Sunday or any day that banks in the State of New Jersey are authorized or required to be closed.



“Contract” means any contract, agreement, indenture, note, bond, mortgage, loan, instrument, lease, license, commitment or other arrangement, understanding, undertaking, commitment or obligation, whether written or oral.

“GAAP” means, for any Person, accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, as consistently applied by such Person.

“Investor” means (i) each Agency, (ii) any Person who has acquired an interest in any Mortgage Loans or with respect to which NJCB has a Contract for the future sale of mortgage loans, (iii) any Person that insures or guarantees the risk of loss upon borrower default on any Mortgage Loan, including without limitation, private mortgage insurers, the Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration and (iv) any Person that provides life, hazard, disability, title or other insurance with respect to any Mortgage Loan or related real property.

“Knowledge” means, with respect to NJCB, the actual knowledge of William H. Placke or Naqi A. Naqvi and with respect to 1st Constitution, the actual knowledge of Robert F. Mangano or Stephen J. Gilhooly.

“Law” means, unless the context expressly indicates otherwise, any foreign, federal, state or local statute, law, ordinance, rule, regulation, code, enactment or other statutory or legislative provision.

“Lien” means, with respect to any asset, (a) any mortgage, deed of trust, lien, pledge, hypothecation, encumbrance, charge or security interest in, on or of such asset, (b) the interest of a vendor or a lessor under any conditional sale agreement, capital lease or title retention agreement relating to such asset and (c) in the case of securities, any purchase option, call or preemptive right, right of first refusal or similar right of a third party with respect to such securities.

“Material Adverse Effect” means, with respect to any Person, any event, effect, condition, change, occurrence, development or state of circumstances that has a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of such Person and its Subsidiaries considered as a single enterprise or has a material adverse effect on the ability of such Person or any of its Subsidiaries to consummate the Merger; provided, however, that “Material Adverse Effect” shall not include the following, either alone or in combination, nor shall any of the following be taken into account in determining whether there has been a Material Adverse Effect: (a) effects, changes, events, developments, circumstances or conditions that generally affect the banking business; (b) general business, financial or economic conditions; (c) national or international political or social conditions, including the engagement in hostilities, whether or not pursuant to the declaration of a national emergency or war, or the occurrence of any actual or threatened military or terrorist attack, (d) changes or developments resulting or caused by natural disasters, (e) the conditions of any financial, banking, or securities markets (including any disruption thereof and any decline in the price of any security or any market index), (f) changes in GAAP or regulatory accounting requirements or in the interpretation or enforcement thereof, (g) changes in Law or other binding directives issued by any Governmental Entity; (h) failure by such Person to meet internal or third party projections or forecasts or any published revenue or earnings projections for any period; provided, that this exception shall not prevent or otherwise affect any determination that any event, condition, change, occurrence, development or state of facts underlying such failure has or resulted in, or contributed to, a Material Adverse Effect; or (i) acts or omissions of such Person or its Subsidiaries carried out (or omitted to be carried out) pursuant to this Agreement; provided, however, that the foregoing clauses (a) through (g) shall not apply if such



effect, change, event, development or circumstance disproportionately adversely affects NJCB and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or 1st Constitution and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, as the case may be, compared to other Persons that operate in the banking industry.

“Mortgage Loans” means any all loans secured by one to four family residential properties, mixed use properties (but only to the extent subject to HUD’s 203(k) program), loans secured by interests in cooperatives, condominium units and units in planned unit developments owned, originated (or in the process of origination), serviced or subserved by NJCB at any time, including any real property acquired in connection with the default of any mortgage loan.

“Most Recent Balance Sheet” means the most recent balance sheet included within NJCB Financial Statements.

“Order” means any judicial or administrative judgment, decision, decree, order, settlement, injunction, writ, stipulation, determination or award, in each case to the extent legally binding and finally determined.

“Ordinary Course of Business” means, with respect to a Person, the ordinary course of business of such Person and its corporate Affiliates consistent with past custom and practice.

“Permitted Liens” means any (a) mechanic’s, materialmen’s, laborer’s, workmen’s, repairmen’s, carrier’s and similar Liens, including all statutory Liens, arising or incurred in the Ordinary Course of Business for amounts that are not delinquent, for which appropriate reserves have been established on the Most Recent Balance Sheet in accordance with GAAP and that are not, individually or in the aggregate, material and do not detract materially from the value thereof, (b) Liens for current state and local property Taxes, assessments and other governmental charges not yet due and payable or, if due, (i) not delinquent, (ii) being contested in good faith through appropriate proceedings and (iii) for which appropriate reserves have been established on the Most Recent Balance Sheet in accordance with GAAP, (c) purchase money Liens and Liens securing rental payments under capital lease arrangements, (d) pledges to secure deposits and other Liens incurred in the Ordinary Course of Business and (e) in the case of Owned Properties held by NJCB or its Subsidiaries, easements, covenants, rights-of-way, conditions and other restrictions or similar matters of record affecting title to such property that are shown on surveys or other title records delivered to 1st Constitution’s counsel (with a designation that such surveys or title records have been delivered pursuant to Section 9.11(a) of this Agreement).

“Person” or “person”, except where the context clearly indicates a reference solely to an individual, means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust, association, Governmental Entity or other entity.

“Response Action Outcome” means a document defined as such pursuant to the Administrative Requirements for Remediation of Contaminated Sites rules at N.J.A.C. 7:26C-1.3.

“Subsidiary”, when used with respect to any Person, means any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which is consolidated with such Person for financial reporting purposes. For the avoidance of doubt the Bank and each of its Subsidiaries constitute Subsidiaries of 1st Constitution.





(b)

The following terms are defined in the following sections of this Agreement:

1st Constitution	Preamble
1st Constitution Common Stock	1.4(a)
1st Constitution Common Stock Average Price	8.1(k)
1st Constitution Disclosure Schedule	Article IV Lead-in
1st Constitution Exchange Ratio Average Price	1.4(a)(B)
1st Constitution Financial Statements	4.6
1st Constitution Initial Price	1.4(a)(C); 8.1(k)
1st Constitution Plans	6.7(a)
1st Constitution Ratio	8.1(k)(2)
1st Constitution Regulatory Agencies	4.5
1st Constitution Reports	4.7
1st Constitution Stock Incentive Plans	4.2(a)
1st Constitution Warrants	4.2(a)
401(k) Plan	6.7(c)
Accounting Firm	3.6(a)
Acquisition Proposal	5.3(d)(i); 8.5(iii)
Advisory Firm	3.7(a)
Aggregate Escrowed Amount	1.4(a)(ii)
Aggregate Merger Consideration	1.4(c)
Agreement	Preamble
Bank	Preamble
Bank Common Stock	1.12
Bank Merger Act	1.1
Base Amount	8.1(k)(1)
BCSRA	3.19(d)
BOLI	3.18(g)
BOLI Covered Individuals	3.18(g)
CERCLA	3.19(d)
Certificates	1.4(c)
Claim	6.8(a)
Claims	6.8(a)
Closing	1.2
Closing Date	1.2
Closing Notice	1.2
Code	1.13
Confidentiality Agreement	5.3(a)
Constituent Entities	6.9
control	Definition of “Affiliate”
Covered Person	3.20
CRA	3.14(b)
Cut-off Date	8.1(c)
D&O Voting Agreement	Recitals
Derivatives Contract	3.22(b)

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Determination Date	1.2
Dissenting Shares	1.14(a)
DOL	3.12(b)
DPC Shares	1.4(b)
Effective Time	1.2
Environmental Laws	3.19(d)
Environmental Matters	3.19(d)
Escrow Agent	1.17
Escrow Agreement	1.17
Escrowed Amount	1.4(a)(ii)
ERISA	3.12(a)
ERISA Affiliate	3.12(a)
Exchange Act	4.7(a)
Exchange Agent	1.5
Exchange Fund	2.1
Exchange Ratio	1.4(a)(A)
FDIC	1.1
Federal Reserve Board	1.1
Filing Documents	6.1(c)
Final Index Price	8.1(k)
FRB	3.4
Governmental Entity	3.4
High Risk Loans	3.21(f)
Indemnification Agreements	7.2(k)
Indemnitees	6.8(a)
Index Ratio	8.1(k)(2)
Initial Index Price	8.1(k)
Insurance Agreement	3.18(g)
Insurance Amount	6.8
Intellectual Property	3.24(i)(1)
IRS	3.11(a)
ISRA	3.19(d)
ISRA Properties	6.18
IT Assets	3.24(i)(2)
Lending Manual	5.1(r)
Licensed Intellectual Property	3.24(i)(3)
Litigation Matter	1.4(a)(ii)
Loan	3.21(a)
Loan Property	3.19(d)
Maximum Amount	8.5(i)
Merger	Recitals
Merger Consideration	1.4(c)
NAICS	6.18
New Jersey Banking Act	1.1
New Jersey Department	1.1
NJCB	Preamble



NJCB Benefit Plans	3.12(a)
NJCB Board Recommendation	3.3(a)
NJCB Common Stock	1.4(a)
NJCB Contract	3.15(h)
NJCB Disclosure Schedule	Article III Lead-in
NJCB Employees	6.7(a)
NJCB Financial Statements	3.6(a)
NJCB Pension Plans	3.12(a)
NJCB Properties	3.18(a)
NJCB Property	3.18(a)
NJCB Regulatory Agencies	3.5(a)
NJCB Shareholder Approval	5.3(a)
NJCB Shareholders' Meeting	6.3
NJCB Stock Award	1.7(b)
NJCB Stock Compensation Plans	1.6(a)
NJCB Subsequent Determination	5.3(b)
NJCB Welfare Plans	3.12(a)
NJDEP	6.18
Notice of Superior Proposal	5.3(b)
Option Grant Agreement	1.6(a)
OREO	3.21(b)
Owned Intellectual Property	3.24(i)(4)
Owned Properties	3.18(a)
Owned Property	3.18(a)
Participation Facility	3.19(d)
Parties	Preamble
Party	Preamble
Patents	3.24(i)(1)
Per Share Cash Consideration	1.4(a)(ii)
Per Share Stock Consideration	1.4(a)(i)
Personal Property Leases	3.18(e)
Proxy Statement	3.4
RCRA	3.19(d)
Real Property Lease	3.18(a)
Real Property Leases	3.18(a)
Registered	3.24(i)(5)
Registration	3.24(i)(5)
Regulated Substances	3.19(d)
Regulatory Agreement	3.17
S-4	3.4
Sarbanes-Oxley Act	4.7(a)
SEC	3.4
Securities Act	4.7(a)
Shareholder Representative	1.17
Shareholder Voting Agreement	Recitals
Spill Act	3.19(d)





SRRA	3.19(d)
Stock Option	1.6(a)
Stock Options	1.6(a)
Superior Proposal	5.3(d)(ii)
Supporting Shareholders	Recitals
Survey	6.22
Surviving Entity	Recitals
Tax Return	3.11(h)
Taxes	3.11(h)
Termination Expenses	8.5(i)
Termination Fee	8.5(i)
Trade Secrets	3.24(i)(1)
Trademarks	3.24(i)(1)
Trust Account Shares	1.4(b)
Warrant	1.7(a)
Warrant Agreement	1.7(a)
Warrants	1.7(a)

#### 9.12 Legal Proceedings; Specific Performance; No Jury Trial.

(a) The Parties hereby irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of New Jersey and the Federal courts of the United States of America located in the State of New Jersey solely in respect of the interpretation and enforcement of the provisions of this Agreement and of the documents referred to in this Agreement, and in respect of the transactions contemplated hereby, and hereby waive, and agree not to assert, as a defense in any action, suit or proceeding for the interpretation or enforcement hereof or of any such document, that it is not subject thereto or that such action, suit or proceeding may not be brought or is not maintainable in said courts or that the venue thereof may not be appropriate or that this Agreement or any such document may not be enforced in or by such courts, and the Parties irrevocably agree that all claims with respect to such action or proceeding shall be heard and determined in such a New Jersey State or Federal court. The Parties hereby consent to and grant any such court jurisdiction over the person of the Parties and over the subject matter of such dispute and agree that mailing of process or other papers in connection with any such action or proceeding in the manner provided in Section 9.4 of this Agreement or in such other manner as may be permitted by applicable Law, shall be valid and sufficient service thereof.

(b) The Parties agree that irreparable damage would occur and that the Parties would not have any adequate remedy at law in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the Parties shall be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions of this Agreement in any Federal court located in the State of New Jersey or in New Jersey state court, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity.

(c) EACH PARTY ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT ANY CONTROVERSY THAT MAY ARISE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT ISSUES, AND THEREFORE EACH SUCH PARTY HEREBY IRREVOCABLY AND



UNCONDITIONALLY WAIVES ANY RIGHT SUCH PARTY MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN RESPECT OF ANY LITIGATION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS AGREEMENT. EACH PARTY CERTIFIES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT (i) NO REPRESENTATIVE, AGENT OR ATTORNEY OF ANY OTHER PARTY HAS REPRESENTED, EXPRESSLY OR OTHERWISE, THAT SUCH OTHER PARTY WOULD NOT, IN THE EVENT OF LITIGATION, SEEK TO ENFORCE THE FOREGOING WAIVER, (ii) EACH SUCH PARTY UNDERSTANDS AND HAS CONSIDERED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS WAIVER, (iii) EACH SUCH PARTY MAKES THIS WAIVER VOLUNTARILY, AND (iv) EACH SUCH PARTY HAS BEEN INDUCED TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE WAIVERS AND CERTIFICATIONS IN THIS SECTION 9.12.

Signature Page Follows

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, 1st Constitution, the Bank and NJCB have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized as of the date first above written.

ATTEST: 1ST CONSTITUTION BANCORP

By: /s/ Stephen J. Gilhooly  
Stephen J. Gilhooly  
Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Chief  
Financial Officer

By: /s/ Robert F. Mangano  
Robert F. Mangano  
President and Chief Executive Officer

ATTEST: 1ST CONSTITUTION BANK

By: /s/ Stephen J. Gilhooly  
Stephen J. Gilhooly  
Senior Vice President, Treasurer  
and Chief Financial Officer

By: /s/ Robert F. Mangano  
Robert F. Mangano  
President and Chief Executive Officer

ATTEST: 1ST CONSTITUTION BANCORP

By: /s/ Naqi A. Naqvi  
Naqi A. Naqvi  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

By: /s/ William H. Placke  
William H. Placke  
President and Chief Executive Officer



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

)

: ss.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

)

On this 6th day of November, 2017, before me, a Notary Public for this state and county, personally came Robert F. Mangano, as President and Chief Executive Officer of 1st Constitution Bancorp, and Stephen J. Gilhooly, as Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of 1st Constitution Bancorp, and each in his capacity acknowledged this instrument to be the act and deed of 1st Constitution Bancorp and the seal affixed to it to be its seal.

WITNESS my official seal and signature this day and year.

/s/ Ana Paula Pereira  
Ana Paula Pereira  
Notary Public of New Jersey  
Commission Expires 2/11/2018

(Seal of Notary)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

)

: ss.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

)

On this 6th day of November, 2017, before me, a Notary Public for this state and county, personally came Robert F. Mangano, as President and Chief Executive Officer of 1st Constitution Bank, and Stephen J. Gilhooly, as Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of 1st Constitution Bank, and each in his capacity acknowledged this instrument to be the act and deed of 1st Constitution Bank and the seal affixed to it to be its seal.

WITNESS my official seal and signature this day and year.

By: /s/ Ana Paula Pereira  
Ana Paula Pereira  
Notary Public of New Jersey  
Commission Expires 2/11/2018

(Seal of Notary)

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

)

: ss.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

)

On this 6th day of November, 2017, before me, a Notary Public for this state and county, personally came William H. Placke, as President and Chief Executive Officer of New Jersey Community Bank, and Naqi A. Naqvi, as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of New Jersey Community Bank, and each in his capacity acknowledged this instrument to be the act and deed of New Jersey Community Bank and the seal affixed to it to be its seal.

WITNESS my official seal  
and signature this day and  
year.

By: /s/ Robert A. Schwartz  
Robert A. Schwartz

(Seal of Notary)

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ANNEX B

November 6, 2017

Board of Directors  
New Jersey Community Bank  
3441 US Highway 9  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

Members of the Board:

You have requested our opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of shares of issued and outstanding common stock, \$1.00 par value (the “Company Common Shares”), of New Jersey Community Bank (“NJCB”), of the Merger Consideration (as defined below) to be received by such holders in the proposed merger (the “Proposed Merger”) of NJCB with and into 1st Constitution Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of 1st Constitution Bancorp (“FCCY”), as set forth in the Agreement and Plan of Merger dated November 6, 2017 (the “Merger Agreement”). As detailed in the Merger Agreement, pursuant to the Proposed Merger, each Company Common Share issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Proposed Merger will be converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration, as such term is defined in Section 1.4 of the Merger Agreement.

Boenning & Scattergood, Inc., as part of its investment banking business, regularly is engaged in the valuation of assets, securities and companies in connection with various types of transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, private placements, public offerings and valuations for various other purposes, and in the determination of adequate consideration in such transactions. In the ordinary course of our business as a broker-dealer, we may, from time to time, purchase securities from, and sell securities to, FCCY, NJCB, and/or their respective affiliates. In the ordinary course of business, we may also actively trade the securities of FCCY for our own account and/or for the accounts of customers and accordingly may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities.

In arriving at our opinion, we have, among other things: (i) reviewed the historical financial performance, current financial position and general prospects of each of NJCB and FCCY and reviewed certain internal financial analyses and forecasts prepared by the respective management teams of NJCB and FCCY, (ii) reviewed the November 6, 2017 version of the Merger Agreement, (iii) reviewed and analyzed the stock performance and trading history of NJCB and FCCY, (iv) studied and analyzed the consolidated financial and operating data of NJCB and FCCY, (v) reviewed the pro forma financial impact of the Proposed Merger on FCCY, based on assumptions relating to transaction expenses, purchase accounting adjustments, cost savings and other synergies determined by the respective management teams of NJCB and FCCY, (vi) considered the financial terms of the Proposed Merger as compared with the financial terms of comparable bank and bank holding company mergers and acquisitions, (vii) met and/or communicated with certain members of each of NJCB’s and FCCY’s senior management to discuss their respective operations, historical financial statements and future prospects, and (viii) conducted such other financial analyses, studies and investigations as we deemed appropriate.

4 Tower Bridge 200 Barr Harbor Drive West Conshohocken PA 19428-2979  
phone (610) 832-1212 fax (610) 832-5301 www.boenninginc.com Member FINRA/SIPC

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Board of Directors  
New Jersey Community Bank  
November 6, 2017  
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Our opinion is given in reliance on information and representations made or given by NJCB and FCCY, and their respective officers, directors, auditors, counsel and other agents, and on filings, releases and other information issued by each of NJCB and FCCY, including financial statements, financial projections and stock price data, as well as certain other information from recognized independent sources. We have not independently verified (i) the information or data concerning NJCB and FCCY, or (ii) any other data we considered in our review and, for purposes of the opinion set forth below, we have assumed and relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all such information and data. We have assumed that all forecasts and projections provided to us have been reasonably prepared and reflect the best currently available estimates and good faith judgments of the respective management teams of NJCB and FCCY as to their most likely future financial performance. We express no opinion as to any financial projections or the assumptions on which they are based. We have not conducted any valuation or appraisal of any assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of either NJCB or FCCY, nor have any such valuations or appraisals been provided to us. Additionally, we assume that the Proposed Merger is, in all respects, lawful under applicable law.

With respect to anticipated transaction costs, purchase accounting adjustments, expected cost savings and other synergies and financial and other information relating to the general prospects of NJCB and FCCY, we have assumed that such information has been reasonably prepared and reflects the best currently available estimates and good faith judgments of the respective management teams of NJCB and FCCY as to their most likely future performance. We have further relied on the assurances of the respective management teams of NJCB and FCCY that they are not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make any of such information inaccurate or misleading. We have not been asked to and have not undertaken an independent verification of any of such information and we do not assume any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness thereof. We have assumed that the allowance for loan losses indicated on the balance sheet of each of NJCB or FCCY is adequate to cover such losses; we have not reviewed loans or credit files of NJCB and FCCY. We have assumed that all of the representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement and all related agreements are true and correct, that each party under all such agreements will perform all of the covenants required to be performed by such party under the agreements, and that the conditions precedent in the agreements will not be waived. We have assumed that the Proposed Merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. Also, in rendering our opinion, we have assumed that, in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals for the consummation of the Proposed Merger, no conditions or restrictions will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on the combined entity or contemplated benefits of the Proposed Merger, including the cost savings and related expenses expected to result from the Proposed Merger.

Our opinion is based upon information provided to us by the respective management teams of NJCB and FCCY, as well as market, economic, financial and other conditions as they exist and can be evaluated only as of the date hereof and accordingly, it speaks to no other period. We have not undertaken to reaffirm or revise this opinion or otherwise comment on events occurring after the date hereof and do not have an

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obligation to update, revise or reaffirm our opinion. Our opinion does not address the relative merits of the Proposed Merger or the other business strategies or transactions that NJCB's Board of Directors has considered or may be considering, nor does it address the underlying business decision of NJCB's Board of Directors to proceed with the Proposed Merger. We are expressing no opinion as to the prices at which FCCY's securities may trade at any time. Nothing in our opinion is to be construed as constituting tax advice or a recommendation to take any particular tax position, nor does our opinion address any legal, tax, regulatory or accounting matters, as to which we understand that NJCB and FCCY have obtained such advice as deemed necessary from qualified professionals. Our opinion is for the information of NJCB's Board of Directors in connection with its evaluation of the Proposed Merger and does not constitute a recommendation to the Board of Directors of NJCB in connection with the Proposed Merger or a recommendation to any shareholder of NJCB as to how such shareholder should vote or act with respect to the Proposed Merger. This opinion should not be construed as creating any fiduciary duty on Boenning & Scattergood, Inc.'s part to any party or person. Our opinion is not to be quoted or referred to, in whole or in part, in a registration statement, prospectus, proxy statement or in any other document, nor shall this opinion be used for any other purpose, without our express prior written consent, except that this opinion may be referenced and included in its entirety in any filing made by FCCY in respect to the Proposed Merger with the Securities and Exchange Commission; provided, however, any description of or reference to our opinion or to Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. shall only be in a form reasonably acceptable to us and our counsel. We shall have no responsibility for the form or content of any such disclosure, other than the opinion itself.

We are acting as NJCB's financial advisor in connection with the Proposed Merger and will receive a fee for our services, a significant portion of which is contingent upon consummation of the Proposed Merger. Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. was not asked to, nor did we, solicit indications of interest in connection with the Proposed Merger. We will also receive a fee for rendering this opinion. Our fee for rendering this opinion is not contingent upon any conclusion that we may reach or upon completion of the Proposed Merger. NJCB has also agreed to indemnify us against certain liabilities that may arise out of our engagement.

Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. has not had any material relationship with FCCY during the past two years in which compensation was received or was intended to be received. Although Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. provided investment banking services during 2016 to a third party that had expressed interest in potentially acquiring NJCB, Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. has provided no investment banking services to NJCB during the past two years (other than in regards to the Proposed Merger) in which compensation was received or was intended to be received. Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. may provide services to FCCY in the future (and/or to NCJB if the Proposed Merger is not consummated), although as of the date of this opinion, there is no agreement to do so nor any mutual understanding that such services are contemplated.

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This opinion has been approved by Boenning & Scattergood, Inc.'s Fairness Opinion Committee. We do not express any opinion as to the fairness of the amount or nature of the compensation to be received in the Proposed Merger by any of the officers, directors, or employees of any party to the Merger Agreement or any related agreements, or any class of such persons, relative to the compensation to be received by the holders of Company Common Shares in the Proposed Merger.

Based on and subject to the foregoing, it is our opinion that, as of the date hereof, the Merger Consideration payable to the holders of Company Common Shares pursuant to the Merger Agreement is fair, from a financial point of view, to such holders of Company Common Shares.

Sincerely,

Boenning & Scattergood, Inc.

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ANNEX C

§ 17:9A-140 through § 17:9A-146 of the New Jersey Banking Act of 1948, as amended – Dissenters’ Rights

§ 17:9A-140. Rights of dissenting stockholders; settlement by agreement

A. A stockholder who

- (1) is entitled to vote at the meeting of stockholders prescribed by section 137; and who
- (2) serves a written notice of dissent from the merger agreement, in the manner, at the place, and within the time prescribed in subsections B and C of this section; and who
- (3) does not vote to approve the merger agreement at the meeting prescribed by section 137, or at any adjournment thereof, may, within thirty days after the filing of the agreement in the department as provided by section 137, serve a demand upon the receiving bank at its principal office, for the payment to him of the value of his shares of stock. The receiving bank may, within ten days after the receipt of such demand, offer to pay the stockholder a sum for his shares, which, in the opinion of the board of directors of the receiving bank, does not exceed the amount which would be paid upon such shares if the business and assets of the bank whose stock such stockholder holds were liquidated on the day of the filing of the agreement pursuant to section 137.

B. Service of the notice of dissent prescribed by paragraph (2) of subsection A of this section shall be made at the principal office of the bank whose stock is held by the dissenting stockholder, and shall be made not later than the third day prior to the day fixed for the meeting of the stockholders of such bank pursuant to section 137.

C. Service of the notice of dissent and of the demand for payment prescribed by this section may be made by registered mail or personally by the dissenting stockholder or his agent.

§ 17:9A-141. Appointment of appraisers

If a stockholder fails to accept the sum offered for his shares pursuant to section one hundred forty, he may, within three weeks after the receipt by him of the bank’s offer of payment, or, if no offer is made by the bank, within three weeks after the date upon which his demand was served upon the bank as specified in section one hundred forty, institute an action in the Superior Court for the appointment of a board of three appraisers to determine the value of his shares of stock as of the day of the filing of the merger agreement pursuant to section one hundred thirty-seven. The court may proceed in the action in a summary manner or otherwise. Any other stockholder who has the right to institute a similar action may intervene. The court shall, in respect to any one bank, appoint a single board of three appraisers to determine the value of the shares of all stockholders of such bank who are parties to such action.

§ 17:9A-142. Duties of appraisers; report; objections; compensation; vacancies

A. The appraisers shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties. They shall meet at such place or places, and shall give such notice of their meetings as the court may prescribe. The bank and each stockholder who is a party to the action instituted pursuant to section one hundred forty-one, may be



represented by attorneys in the proceedings before such appraisers, and may present such evidence to them as shall be material to the issue. The determination of any two of the appraisers shall control. Upon the conclusion of their deliberations, the appraisers shall file in the Superior Court a report and appraisal of the value of the shares of stock, and shall mail a copy thereof to the bank and to each stockholder who is a party to said action.

B. The bank and each stockholder who is a party to said action shall have ten days after the filing of the report and appraisal within which to object thereto in the Superior Court. In the absence of any objections, the report and appraisal shall be binding upon the bank and upon such stockholders, and the bank shall pay each such stockholder the value of his shares, as reported by the appraisers, with interest from the date of the filing of the merger agreement pursuant to section one hundred thirty-seven, at such rate, not in excess of the legal rate, as shall be fixed by the appraisers. If objections are made, the court shall make such order or judgment thereon as shall be just.

C. The Superior Court shall fix the compensation of the appraisers, which shall be paid by the bank, and shall be vested with full jurisdiction over all matters arising out of an action instituted pursuant to section one hundred forty-one. In the case of a vacancy in the board of appraisers, the Superior Court shall, on its own motion, or upon motion of a stockholder, or of the receiving bank, fill such vacancy.

§ 17:9A-143. Assignment of stock to bank

Upon payment by the bank of the value of shares of stock pursuant to this article, the holder thereof shall assign such shares to the bank.

§ 17:9A-144. Effect of stockholder's failure to act

A stockholder who fails to act pursuant to sections 140 or 141 shall be forever barred from bringing any action to enforce his right to be paid the value of his shares in lieu of continuing his status as a stockholder in the receiving bank.

§ 17:9A-145. Obligation of bank to pay stockholder

An offer by the bank and an acceptance thereof by the stockholder pursuant to section 140 and the determination of value upon proceedings brought pursuant to sections 141 and 142 shall constitute a debt of the receiving bank for the recovery of which an action will lie.

§ 17:9A-146. Action to enjoin merger

A. A stockholder may, not later than five days prior to the date of the meeting called pursuant to section one hundred thirty-seven institute an action in the Superior Court to enjoin the merger on the ground that the agreement is unfair or inequitable, or contrary to law. The court may proceed in the action in a summary manner or otherwise.

B. A stockholder who fails to institute an action as specified in subsection A of this section shall thereafter be forever barred from bringing any action to enjoin, set aside, or otherwise affect such merger.



## PART II

### INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS

#### Item 20. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

**Limitation of Liability of Directors and Officers.** The Registrant's certificate of incorporation contains provisions that may limit the liability of any director or officer of the Registrant to the Registrant or its shareholders for damages for an alleged breach of any duty owed to the Registrant or its shareholders. This limitation will not relieve an officer or director from liability based on any act or omission (i) in breach of such person's duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its shareholders; (ii) not in good faith or involving a knowing violation of law; or (iii) resulting in receipt by such officer or director of an improper personal benefit. These provisions are explicitly permitted by Section 14A:2-7(3) of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act.

**Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Agents.** The Registrant's certificate of incorporation provides that the Registrant will indemnify to the full extent from time to time permitted by law, any person made, or threatened to be made, a party to, or a witness or other participant in, any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, administrative, arbitrative, legislative, investigative or of any other kind, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or other agent of the Registrant or any subsidiary of the Registrant or serves or served any other enterprise at the request of the Registrant against expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding and any appeal therein. The Federal Deposit Insurance Act generally prohibits indemnification of a holding company's directors and officers for any penalty or judgment resulting from any administrative or civil action instituted by a federal banking agency.

Section 14A:3-5 of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act empowers a corporation to indemnify a corporate agent against its expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any proceeding (other than a derivative lawsuit) involving the corporate agent by reason of his being or having been a corporate agent if (a) the agent acted in good faith and in a manner that the agent reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and (b) with respect to any criminal proceeding, the corporate agent had no reasonable cause to believe its conduct was unlawful. For purposes of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act, the term "corporate agent" includes any present or former director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, and a person serving as a "corporate agent" for any other enterprise at the request of the corporation.

With respect to any derivative action, the Registrant is empowered to indemnify a corporate agent against its expenses (but not its liabilities) incurred in connection with any proceeding involving the corporate agent by reason of the agent being or having been a corporate agent if the agent acted in good faith and in a manner that the agent reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant. However, only the court in which the proceeding was brought can empower a corporation to indemnify a corporate agent against expenses with respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which the agent was adjudged liable to the corporation.

The Registrant may indemnify a corporate agent in a specific case if a determination is made by any of the following that the applicable standard of conduct was met: (i) the board of directors, or a committee thereof, acting by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of disinterested directors; (ii) by independent legal counsel if there is not a quorum of disinterested directors or if the disinterested quorum empowers counsel to make the determination; or (iii) by the shareholders.

A corporate agent is entitled to mandatory indemnification to the extent that the agent is successful on the merits or otherwise in any proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter in the proceeding. If a corporation fails or



refuses to indemnify a corporate agent, whether the indemnification is permissive or mandatory, the agent may apply to a court to grant the agent the requested indemnification. In advance of the final disposition of a proceeding, the corporation may pay an agent's expenses if the agent agrees to repay the expenses if it is ultimately determined that the agent is not entitled to indemnification.

Insurance. The Registrant maintains insurance policies insuring the Registrant's directors and officers against liability for wrongful acts or omissions arising out of their positions as directors and officers, subject to certain limitations.

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Item 21. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.

(a)  
Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 6, 2017, by and among 1st Constitution Bancorp, 1st Constitution Bank and New Jersey Community Bank. See Annex A of the proxy statement-prospectus included in this registration statement.
<u>5.1</u>	Opinion of Day Pitney LLP (previously filed).
<u>8.1</u>	Opinion of Day Pitney LLP, concerning tax matters (previously filed).
<u>10.1</u>	Form of Voting Agreement for Directors and Officers of New Jersey Community Bank (previously filed).
<u>10.2</u>	Form of Voting Agreement for Certain Shareholders of New Jersey Community Bank (previously filed).
<u>10.3</u>	Form of Escrow Agreement by and among 1st Constitution Bancorp, the Shareholder Representative and the Escrow Agent (previously filed).
<u>10.4</u>	Form of Amended and Restated Indemnification Agreement between New Jersey Community Bank and its Directors (previously filed).
<u>23.1</u>	Consent of BDO USA, LLP (filed herewith).
<u>23.2</u>	Consent of Day Pitney LLP (contained in Exhibit 5.1 and Exhibit 8.1) (previously filed).
<u>24.1</u>	Power of Attorney (previously filed).
<u>99.1</u>	Consent of Boenning & Scattergood, Inc (filed herewith).
<u>99.2</u>	Form of NJCB Proxy Card (filed herewith).

(b) Financial Statement Schedules.

All financial statement schedules are omitted because they are not applicable or because the required information is contained in the financial statements or notes thereto or incorporated by reference therein.

(c) Report, Opinion or Appraisal.

The Fairness Opinion of Boenning & Scattergood, Inc. is included as Annex B of the proxy statement-prospectus included in this registration statement.

Item 22. Undertakings

(a) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes as follows: that prior to any public reoffering of the securities registered hereunder through use of a prospectus which is a part of this Registration Statement, by any person or party who is deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Rule 145(c), the issuer undertakes that such reoffering prospectus will contain the information called for by the applicable registration form with respect to reofferings by persons who may be deemed underwriters, in addition to the information called for by the other items of the applicable form.

(c) The Registrant undertakes that every prospectus: (i) that is filed pursuant to paragraph (c) immediately preceding, or (ii) that purports to meet the requirements of Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 and is used in connection with an offering of securities subject to Rule 415, will be filed as a part of an amendment to the Registration Statement and will not be used until such amendment is effective, and that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.



(d) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to respond to requests for information that is incorporated by reference into the prospectus pursuant to Item 4, 10(b), 11 or 13 of this Form S-4, within one business day of receipt of such request, and to send the incorporated documents by first class mail or other equally prompt means. This includes information contained in documents filed subsequent to the effective date of the Registration Statement through the date of responding to the request.

(e) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to supply by means of a post-effective amendment all information concerning a transaction, and the company being acquired involved therein, that was not the subject of and included in the Registration Statement when it became effective.

(f) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

1. To file during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement.

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement.

2. That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

3. To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.



## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Township of Cranbury, State of New Jersey, on February 14, 2018.

## 1ST CONSTITUTION BANCORP

By: /s/ Robert F. Mangano  
 Robert F. Mangano  
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Robert F. Mangano Robert F. Mangano	(Principal Executive Officer)	February 14, 2018
/s/ Stephen J. Gilhooly Stephen J. Gilhooly	(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	February 14, 2018
/s/ Charles S. Crow, III* Charles S. Crow, III	Chairman of the Board	February 14, 2018
/s/ William M. Rue* William M. Rue	Director	February 14, 2018
/s/ Edwin J. Pisani* Edwin J. Pisani	Director	February 14, 2018
/s/ Antonio L. Cruz* Antonio L. Cruz	Director	February 14, 2018
/s/ Roy D. Tartaglia* Roy D. Tartaglia	Director	February 14, 2018
/s/ J. Lynne Cannon* J. Lynne Cannon	Director	February 14, 2018
James G. Aaron	Director	
/s/ Carmen M. Penta* Carmen M. Penta	Director	February 14, 2018
/s/ William J. Barrett* William J. Barrett	Director	February 14, 2018



William J. Barrett

\*By: /s/ Robert F. Mangano  
Robert F. Mangano, Attorney-in-fact

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