



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**First Commons Bank Grows to a \$262 Million Institution in Only 53 Months;  
Net Loans Up 26%**

**— Delivers over \$900,000 in 2013 Net Income —**

**NEWTON, MASS. — January 24, 2014** — First Commons Bank of Newton, Mass., today reported that it achieved a Total Asset level of \$262,549,000 as of December 31, 2013, after only 53 months of operation. Total assets grew by approximately \$53 million, or 25.9 percent, for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2013. Net loans increased by \$47 million, or 26 percent, for the same 12-month period. First Commons Bank's assets have now surpassed the assets of more than 4,400 other banks — or more than 64 percent of the 6,828 FDIC-insured banks which filed FDIC call reports for the period ended September 30, 2013.

"We are pleased with our continued growth, our increasing ongoing profitability, and the continued absence of any nonperforming loans. Further, we are proud that after only 4½ years in business, we delivered over \$900,000 in net income from continuing operations in 2013," said Tony Nuzzo, Chairman, President, and CEO of First Commons Bank.

Net income for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2013 was \$909,000, compared to \$2.9 million for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2012. The December 2012 results were favorably impacted by the recovery of a deferred tax asset in the amount of \$2.5 million. Excluding the tax recovery, Net Income for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2012 would have been approximately \$397,000, compared to the \$909,000 reported for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2013.

Total Interest Income increased by approximately \$2.0 million, or 24 percent, for the 12 months ended December 31, 2013 versus 2012. Interest Expense increased by approximately \$260,000 or 15 percent for the 12 months ended December 31, 2013 versus the 12 months ended December 31, 2012. Noninterest operating expenses increased by approximately \$396,000 or 6.6 percent for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2013 compared to the 12-month period ended December 31, 2012.

First Commons Bank's financial results are available on the FDIC's Web site at: <http://goo.gl/QJhSzM>.

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**First Commons Bank, N.A.****Balance Sheets**

(Unaudited)

**At or for the Year Ended  
December 31,****2013****2012****(Dollars in thousands)****ASSETS**

|                                                             |         |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cash and Due from Banks                                     | 1,864   | 1,258   |
| Interest-bearing demand deposits with other banks           | 6,728   | 3,435   |
| Money market mutual funds                                   | 3,662   | 1,157   |
| Federal funds sold                                          | 13,500  | 5,800   |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                   | 25,754  | 11,650  |
| Interest-bearing time deposits with other banks             | 3,189   | 245     |
| Investments in available-for-sale securities, at fair value | 0       | 9,477   |
| Federal Home Loan Bank stock, at cost                       | 919     | 399     |
| Federal Reserve Bank stock, at cost                         | 1,319   | 1,328   |
| Loans, net                                                  | 227,227 | 180,586 |
| Premises and equipment                                      | 1,414   | 1,725   |
| Accrued interest receivable                                 | 535     | 554     |
| Deferred income tax asset, net                              | 1,913   | 2,303   |
| Other assets                                                | 279     | 304     |
| Total assets                                                | 262,549 | 208,571 |

**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

|                                                                                                    |         |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Deposits                                                                                           |         |         |
| Noninterest-bearing                                                                                | 16,751  | 11,626  |
| Interest-bearing                                                                                   | 212,079 | 173,794 |
| Total deposits                                                                                     | 228,830 | 185,420 |
| Other liabilities                                                                                  | 11,180  | 1,343   |
| Total Liabilities                                                                                  | 240,010 | 186,763 |
| Stockholders' equity                                                                               |         |         |
| Common Stock, par value .01; authorized 10,000,000 shares; 2,504,851 shares issued and outstanding | 25      | 25      |
| Paid-in capital                                                                                    | 26,650  | 26,565  |
| Accumulated deficit                                                                                | (4,136) | (5,046) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income                                                             | 0       | 264     |
| Total stockholders' equity                                                                         | 22,539  | 21,808  |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity                                                         | 262,549 | 208,571 |

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**First Commons Bank, N.A.****Statement of Income**

(Unaudited)

|                                                     | <b>Twelve Months Ended<br/>December 31,</b> |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                                     | <b>2013</b>                                 | <b>2012</b> |
|                                                     | <b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>               |             |
| Interest income:                                    |                                             |             |
| Interest and fees on loans                          | 10,070                                      | 7,817       |
| Interest on securities:                             | 46                                          | 302         |
| Other interest                                      | 61                                          | 53          |
| Total interest income                               | 10,177                                      | 8,172       |
| Interest expense:                                   |                                             |             |
| Interest on deposits                                | 1,900                                       | 1,704       |
| Interest on borrowings                              | 66                                          |             |
| Total interest expense                              | 1,966                                       | 1,704       |
| Net interest income                                 | 8,211                                       | 6,468       |
| Provision for loan losses                           | 611                                         | 171         |
| Net interest income after provision for loan losses | 7,600                                       | 6,297       |
| Noninterest income:                                 |                                             |             |
| Service charges on deposit accounts                 | 45                                          | 41          |
| Gain on sales of available-for-sale securities      | 262                                         | 318         |
| Other income                                        | 10                                          | 7           |
| Total noninterest income                            | 317                                         | 366         |
| Noninterest expense:                                |                                             |             |
| Salaries and employee benefits                      | 3,502                                       | 3,266       |
| Occupancy and Equipment Expense                     | 1,067                                       | 1,102       |
| Professional fees                                   | 406                                         | 343         |
| Regulatory assessment                               | 285                                         | 221         |
| Other expense                                       | 1,125                                       | 1,057       |
| Total noninterest expense                           | 6,385                                       | 5,989       |
| Income (loss) before income tax expense (benefit)   | 1,532                                       | 674         |
| Income Tax expense (benefit)                        | 623                                         | (2,223)     |
| Net income (loss)                                   | 909                                         | 2,897       |

**About First Commons Bank**

First Commons Bank, N.A., is a nationally chartered, FDIC-insured full-service community bank, dedicated to serving the businesses and individuals of Newton, Wellesley, Waltham, and eastern Massachusetts. The bank, which opened for business on July 22, 2009, reported total assets of \$262,549,000 as of December 31, 2013 — after only 53 months of operation — making it larger than 64 percent of all FDIC-insured banks in the U.S. First Commons Bank locations include its headquarters at 718 Beacon St. in Newton Centre, Mass., and 161 Linden Square in Wellesley, Mass. Visit First Commons Bank on the Web at <http://www.firstcommonsbank.com>. Follow the bank on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/firstcommonsbank> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/firstcommonsbnk>.

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**Notes to Editors:**

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