

New York State
BANKING
DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
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Rosebank Enriched Banking Development District To Add Economic Benefits For The Revitalization of Bay Street

State and City Investments Enhance Victory State Bank's Ability to Offer Banking Services to Local Residents and Businesses

Victory State Bank, New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr., Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro and the New York State Banking Department today celebrated the designation of the state's 17th Banking Development District (BDD), the first under the new Enriched BDD Program, with a ground breaking ceremony for Victory State Bank in Rosebank, Staten Island.

Joseph J. LiBassi, Victory's Chairman, stated: "Rosebank is a vibrant, growing community on Staten Island which has never had access to local banking services. We selected Rosebank as a site for our next branch because of the numerous letters sent by the local community to both Borough President Molinaro's office and to the Staten Island Advance. For each person that wrote them a letter, there are hundreds of others in the community who believe that Rosebank needs a local hometown bank like Victory."

Merton Corn, Victory's President and CEO, stated: "The establishment of this Banking Development District demonstrates how effective a partnership with the New York State Banking Department and the state, city and local governments can be. The residents and businesses of Rosebank and Stapleton benefit directly from this partnership, as they will have banking products available to them and the highest quality personal service that we at Victory deliver to the Staten Island community."

Governor George E. Pataki created the BDD Program in 1997 to encourage the establishment of bank branches in those areas where there is a demonstrated need for banking services, by allowing public funds to be deposited in these branches at below-market rates. In late 2004, Banking Superintendent Diana L. Taylor formed the Banking Development District Working Group to enhance and proactively market the program.

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"This is a public private partnership that's great for small businesses and great for Staten Island," said Small Business Services Commissioner Robert Walsh. "The Enriched Banking Development District program is another example of the Bloomberg Administration's continuing efforts to make the City more livable, more business friendly and more economically diverse. The New York State Banking Department deserves a lot of credit for pulling so many different government agencies and private sector partners together to create more banking opportunities for small businesses and residents alike. Victory State Bank is leading the way here and their work on behalf of Staten Island's small businesses is unparalleled."

The new branch will offer a full range of low-cost financial services to both consumers and businesses, such as checking and savings accounts, wire transfers, CDs, and direct deposit services. The bank plans to focus particularly on small business loans. It will make loans of as low as \$100 to both established small businesses and start-ups. Other available loans will include: construction; commercial real estate; personal; secured and unsecured loans; as well as equity and credit lines and condominium mortgages.

The area approved for the Enriched BDD encompasses portions of Stapleton and Rosebank and contains six Census tracts. There are more than 31,000 residents in the Enriched BDD according to 2000 Census data. Approximately 26 percent of that population earns income below the poverty level, compared to the borough-wide average of 10 percent. Twenty-seven percent of the population is foreign-born (compared to 16 percent borough-wide) and English is the second language of 43 percent of the population.

The branch will be located in a new small commercial strip along the Bay Street Corridor, which is already in the midst of economic revitalization as part of the Staten Island North Shore Empire Zone. Plans for the area include: residential and commercial redevelopment of the former Hon. airport naval base; creation of waterfront access and an esplanade; and a Home Depot on Targee Street.

Members of the BDD Working Group include:

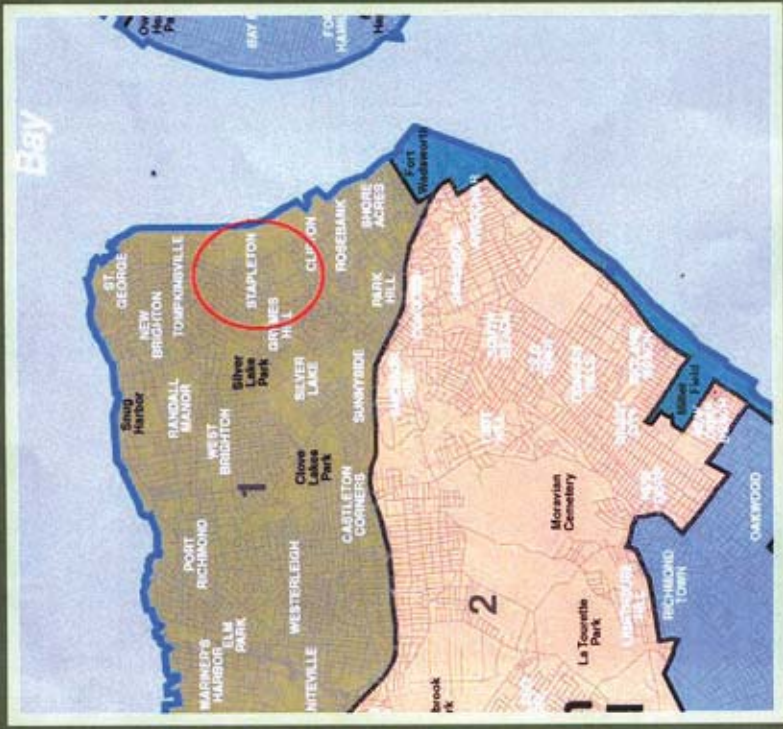
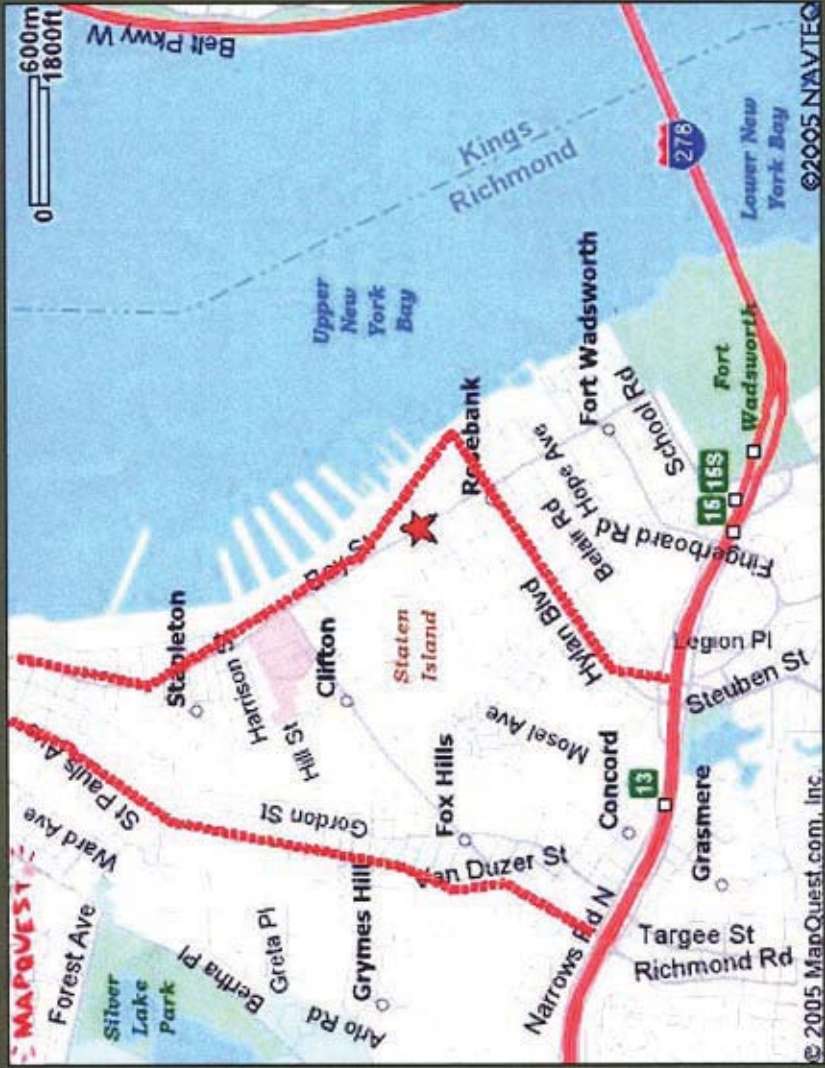
- NYS Banking Department;
- Empire State Development Corporation;
- NY State Comptroller's Office;
- NYC Comptroller's Office;
- NYC Department of City Planning;
- NYC Department of Finance;
- NYC Housing Authority;
- NYC Department of Small Business Services;
- NYC Economic Development Corporation; and
- NYC School Construction Authority.

The New York State Banking Department is the regulator for all state-chartered banking institutions, virtually all of the United States offices of international banking institutions, and all of the State's mortgage brokers, mortgage bankers, check cashers and budget planners. The aggregate assets of the companies and institutions supervised by the Banking Department are over \$1.3 trillion.

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Staten Island: Stapleton/Rosebank BDD Area



Stapleton/Rosebank