

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond** (A. Linwood Gill, III, Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23261-4528:

1. *Southern Financial Bancorp., Inc.*, Warrenton, Virginia; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Essex Bancorp, Inc., Norfolk, Virginia, and thereby indirectly acquire Essex Savings Bank, F.S.B., Norfolk, Virginia, and thereby engage in operating a savings association, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of Regulation Y.

In connection with this application, Applicant also has applied to acquire 24.9 percent of the voting shares of LoanCare Servicing Center, Inc., Norfolk, Virginia, and thereby engage in extending credit and servicing loans, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y, and in collection agency services, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(2)(iv) of Regulation Y.

Comments on this application must be received by January 9, 2004.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 22, 2003.

**Jennifer J. Johnson**,  
*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 03-31996 Filed 12-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### **Public Meeting: Application by Bank of America Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina, To Merge with FleetBoston Financial Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts**

**AGENCY:** Federal Reserve System

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Two public meetings will be held regarding the notice submitted by Bank of America Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina, to acquire FleetBoston Financial Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts ("FleetBoston"), and its banking and nonbanking subsidiaries pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act ("BHC Act") and related statutes. The purpose of the public meetings is to collect information relating to factors the Board is required to consider under the BHC Act.

**DATES:** The Boston meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. EST. The San Francisco meeting will be held on Friday, January 16, 2004, at 8:30 a.m. PST.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. EST. The public meeting in San Francisco, California, will be held at the

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California, and will begin at 8:30 a.m. PST.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For the Boston meeting, contact Jonathan S. Fine, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. Facsimile: 617/973-3219. For the San Francisco meeting, contact Joy Hoffmann, Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94120. Facsimile: 415/393-1920.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On November 14, 2003, Bank of America Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina ("Bank of America"), requested the Board's approval under the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1841 et seq.) ("BHC Act") and related statutes to merge with FleetBoston. The General Counsel, acting pursuant to delegated authority, hereby orders that public meetings on the Bank of America/FleetBoston proposal be held in Boston, Massachusetts, and San Francisco, California.

### **Purpose and Procedures**

The purpose of the public meetings is to collect information relating to factors the Board is required to consider under the BHC Act. These factors are (i) the effects of the proposal on the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the companies and banks involved in the proposal, (2) competition in the relevant markets, and (3) the convenience and needs of the communities to be served. Convenience and needs considerations include a review of the records of performance of Bank of America and FleetBoston under the Community Reinvestment Act, which requires the Board to take into account in its review of a bank acquisition or merger proposal each institution's record of meeting the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with the safe and sound operation of the institution. 12 U.S.C. 2903.

### **Procedures for Hearing**

Testimony at the public meeting will be presented to a panel consisting of a Presiding Officer and other panel members appointed by the Presiding Officer. In conducting the public meeting, the Presiding Officer will have the authority and discretion to ensure that the meeting proceeds in a fair and orderly manner. In contrast to a formal administrative hearing, the rules for

taking evidence in an administrative proceeding will not apply to this public meeting. Panel members may question witnesses, but no cross-examination of witnesses will be permitted. The public meeting will be transcribed and information regarding procedures for obtaining a copy of the transcript will be announced at the public meeting.

On the basis of the requests received, the Presiding Officer will prepare a schedule for persons wishing to testify and establish the order of presentation. To ensure an opportunity for all interested commenters to present their views, the Presiding Officer may limit the time for presentation. Persons not listed on the schedule may be permitted to speak at the public meeting if time permits at the conclusion of the schedule of witnesses at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. Copies of testimony may, but need not, be filed with the Presiding Officer before a person's presentation.

### **Request to Testify**

All persons wishing to testify at the public meeting to be held in Boston must submit a written request to Jonathan Fine, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02106 (facsimile: 617/973-3219) not later than 8:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, January 7, 2004. All persons wishing to testify at the public meeting to be held in San Francisco must submit a written request to Joy Hoffmann, Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94120 (facsimile: 415/393-1920), not later than 5:00 p.m. PST, Wednesday, January 7, 2004. In the alternative, persons wishing to testify at either public meeting may submit a written request to Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 20th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20551 (facsimile 202/452-3556) not later than 8:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, January 7, 2004. The request must include the following information: (i) identification of which meeting the participant wishes to attend, (ii) a brief statement of the nature of the expected testimony (including whether the testimony will support or oppose the proposed transaction, or provide other comment on the proposal) and the estimated time required for the presentation; (iii) address and telephone number (e-mail address and facsimile number, if available) of the person testifying; and (iv) identification of any special needs, such as from persons desiring translation services, persons with a physical disability who may need

assistance, or persons requiring visual aids for their presentation. To the extent available, translators will be provided to persons wishing to present their views in a language other than English if this information is included in the request to testify. Persons interested only in attending the meeting, but not testifying, need not submit a written request to attend.

By order of the General Counsel, acting pursuant to delegated authority, effective December 22, 2003.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 03-31993 Filed 12-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is given of a meeting of the Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness.

The purpose of this public meeting is to convene the Council to discuss issues related to preparing the nation to respond to public health emergencies in general and bioterrorism in particular. The Council may consider the following major issues: BioShield; Modeling Initiatives; Transport of Possibly Infected Exotic Animals; Global IT Monitoring; Public Health Preparedness Effort; State and Local Programs; R&D Initiatives.

*Name of Committee:* Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness.

*Date:* January 22-23, 2004.

*Time:* January 22—9 a.m.–6 p.m.; January 23—9 a.m.–3 p.m.

*Place:* Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024, Telephone: (202) 479-4006.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Judy Blumenthal, Executive Director, Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 638G, Washington, DC 20201, 202-401-4848.

*Supplementary Information:* The Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness was established on October 22, 2001, by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authorization of Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 247d); Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 217a). The purpose of the Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness will be to advise the Secretary on appropriate actions to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies

including acts of bioterrorism. The function of the Council is to advise the Secretary regarding steps that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can take to (1) Improve the public health and health care infrastructure to better enable Federal, State, and local governments to respond to a public health emergency and, specifically, a bioterrorism event; (2) ensure that there are comprehensive contingency plans in place at the Federal, State, and local levels to respond to a public health emergency and, specifically, a bio-terrorism event; and (3) improve public health preparedness at the Federal, State, and local levels.

#### Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public with attendance limited by the availability of space on a first come, first served basis. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting may register by e-mailing [sacphp@esi-dc.com](mailto:sacphp@esi-dc.com) <<mailto:sacphp@esi-dc.com>> no later than close of business, January 15, 2004. All requests should include the name, address, telephone number, and business or professional affiliation of those registering.

Opportunities for oral statements by the public will be provided on Friday, January 23, 2004 at approximately 11:30 a.m. Oral comments will be limited to 5 minutes, 3 minutes to make a statement and 2 minutes to respond to questions from Council members. Due to time constraints, only one representative from each organization will be allotted time for oral testimony. The number of speakers and the time allotment may also be limited by the number of registrants. Members of the public who wish to present oral comments at the meeting may register by e-mailing [E T='03'][sacphp@esi-dc.com](mailto:sacphp@esi-dc.com)[/E] <[E T='03']<mailto:sacphp@esi-dc.com>[/E]> no later than close of business, January 15, 2004. All requests to present oral comments should include the name, address, telephone number, and business or professional affiliation of the interested party, and should indicate the areas of interest or issue to be addressed.

Any person attending the meeting who has not registered to speak in advance of the meeting will be allowed to make a brief oral statement during the time set aside for public comment if time permits and at the Chairperson's discretion. Individuals unable to attend the meeting, or any interested parties, may send written comments by stamp mail or electronic mail to: ESI Attention: Janee Pelletier/SACPHP Meeting Comments; 7735 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 400; Bethesda, MD 20814; [sacphp@esi-dc.com](mailto:sacphp@esi-dc.com) <<mailto:sacphp@esi-dc.com>>, phone 240-744-7026, for inclusion in the public record no later than close of business, January 15, 2004.

When mailing written comments, please provide your comments, if possible, as an electronic version or on a diskette. Persons needing special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other special accommodations, should contact staff at the address and telephone number listed above no later than close of business, January 15, 2004.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 03-32122 Filed 12-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60 Day-04-18]

#### Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 498-1210.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Send comments to Anne O'Connor, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-E11, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

*Proposed Project:* National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) 2005-2006 (OMB No. 0920-0234)—Extension—National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) was conducted annually from 1973 to 1981, again in 1985, and resumed as an annual survey in 1989. The survey is directed by CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Care Statistics. The purpose of NAMCS is to meet the needs and demands for statistical information about the provision of ambulatory