

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In the Matter of)	
)	ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST
)	
EQUITY BANK, SSB)	
DALLAS, TEXAS)	FDIC-09-524b
)	
(Insured State Savings Bank))	
_____)	

Equity Bank, SSB, Dallas, Texas (“Bank”), through its board of directors, having been advised of its right to the issuance and service of a NOTICE OF CHARGES AND OF HEARING detailing the unsafe or unsound banking practices and violations of law and/or regulations alleged to have been committed by the Bank and of its right to a hearing on the alleged charges under section 8(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (“Act”), 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b), and having waived those rights, entered into a STIPULATION AND CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST (“CONSENT AGREEMENT”) with counsel for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) dated November 4, 2009, whereby, solely for the purpose of this proceeding and without admitting or denying the alleged charges of unsafe or unsound banking practices and violations of law and/or regulations, the Bank consented to the issuance of an ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST (“ORDER”) by the FDIC.

The FDIC considered the matter and determined that they had reason to believe that the Bank had engaged in unsafe or unsound banking practices and had violated laws and/or regulations. The FDIC, therefore, accepted the CONSENT AGREEMENT and issued the following:

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

IT IS ORDERED, that the Bank, institution-affiliated parties, as that term is defined in section 3(u) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u), of the Bank and its successors and assigns, cease and desist from the following unsafe or unsound banking practices and violations of laws and/or regulations:

1. Operating the Bank with an excessive level of adversely classified loans or assets.
2. Operating the Bank with an excessive level of delinquent loans.
3. Operating the Bank with an excessive level of nonaccrual loans.
4. Operating the Bank with an inadequate system for problem loan identification.
5. Operating the Bank with inadequate earnings to fund growth, support dividend payments and augment capital.
6. Operating the Bank with an inadequate level of capital protection for the kind and quality of assets held by the Bank.
7. Operating with concentrations of credit.
8. Operating the Bank with excessive level of interest rate risk.
9. Operating the Bank with a heavy reliance on short-term potentially volatile deposits as a source for funding longer-term investments.
10. Operating with an inadequate asset/liability management policy.
11. Operating the Bank without maintaining at least 15 percent of its deposits in the loan categories required in Texas Finance Code Section 94.201.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Bank, its institution-affiliated parties and its successors and assigns take affirmative action as follows:

CLASSIFIED ASSETS - CHARGE-OFF AND PLAN FOR REDUCTION

1. (a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall, to the extent that it has not previously done so, eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified Loss by the FDIC or the Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending (“State”) as a result of its examination of the Bank as of July 6, 2009. Elimination or reduction of these assets through proceeds of loans made by the Bank shall not be considered “collection” for the purpose of this paragraph.

(b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall submit a written plan to the Regional Director of the FDIC’s Dallas Regional Office (“Regional Director”) and the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending (“Commissioner”) to reduce the remaining assets classified Doubtful and Substandard as of July 6, 2009. The plan shall address each asset so classified with a balance of \$250,000 or greater and provide the following:

- (1) The name under which the asset is carried on the books of the Bank;
- (2) Type of asset;
- (3) Actions to be taken in order to reduce the classified asset; and
- (4) Timeframes for accomplishing the proposed actions.

The plan shall also include, at a minimum:

- (1) Review the financial position of each such borrower, including the source of repayment, repayment ability, and alternate repayment sources; and
- (2) Evaluate the available collateral for each such credit, including possible actions to improve the Bank's collateral position.

In addition, the Bank's plan shall contain a schedule detailing the projected reduction of total classified assets on a quarterly basis. Further, the plan shall contain a provision requiring the submission of quarterly progress reports to the Bank's board of directors and a provision mandating a review by the Bank's board of directors.

(c) The Bank shall present the plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review. Within 30 days after the Regional Director's and the Commissioner's response, the plan, including any requested modifications or amendments shall be adopted by the Bank's board of directors which approval shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Bank's board of directors. The Bank shall then immediately initiate measures detailed in the plan to the extent such measures have not been initiated.

(d) For purposes of the plan, the reduction of adversely classified assets as of July 6, 2009 shall be detailed using quarterly targets expressed as a percentage of the Bank's Tier 1 Capital plus the Bank's Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses and may be accomplished by:

- (1) Charge-off;
- (2) Collection;

(3) Sufficient improvement in the quality of adversely classified assets so as to warrant removing any adverse classification, as determined by the FDIC or the State; or

(4) Increase in the Bank's Tier 1 Capital.

(e) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified Loss as determined at any future examination conducted by the FDIC or the State.

REDUCTION OF DELINQUENCIES

2. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan for the reduction and collection of delinquent loans. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions which:

- (1) Prohibit the extension of credit for the payment of interest;
- (2) Delineate areas of responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Bank's collection policies;
- (3) Establish specific collection procedures to be instituted at various stages of a borrower's delinquency;
- (4) Establish dollar levels to which the Bank shall reduce delinquencies within 180 days; and
- (5) Provide for the submission of monthly written progress reports to the Bank's board of directors for review and notation in minutes of the meetings of the Bank's board of directors.

(b) For purposes of the plan, “reduce” means to:

(1) Charge-off; or

(2) Collect.

(c) After the Regional Director and the Commissioner have responded to the plan, the Bank’s board of directors shall adopt the plan as amended or modified by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. The plan will be implemented immediately to the extent that the provisions of the plan are not already in effect at the Bank.

LOAN COMMITTEE AND LOAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

3. (a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank’s board of directors shall establish a loan review committee to periodically review the Bank’s loan portfolio and identify and categorize problem credits. The committee shall file a report with the Bank’s board of directors at each board meeting. This report shall include the following information:

(1) The overall quality of the loan portfolio;

(2) The identification, by type and amount, of each problem or delinquent loan;

(3) The identification of all loans not in conformance with the Bank’s lending policy; and

(4) The identification of all loans to officers, directors, principal shareholders or their related interests.

(b) At least 50 percent of the members of the loan review committee shall be directors not employed in any capacity by the Bank other than as a director.

RESTRICTION ON ADVANCES TO CLASSIFIED BORROWERS

4. (a) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not extend, directly or indirectly, any additional credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose existing credit has been classified Loss by the FDIC or the State as the result of its examination of the Bank, either in whole or in part, and is uncollected, or to any borrower who is already obligated in any manner to the Bank on any extension of credit, including any portion thereof, that has been charged off the books of the Bank and remains uncollected. The requirements of this paragraph shall not prohibit the Bank from renewing credit already extended to a borrower after full collection, in cash, of interest due from the borrower.

(b) While this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall not extend, directly or indirectly, any additional credit to or for the benefit of any borrower whose extension of credit is classified Doubtful and/or Substandard by the FDIC or the State as the result of its examination of the Bank, either in whole or in part, and is uncollected, unless the Bank's board of directors has signed a detailed written statement giving reasons why failure to extend such credit would be detrimental to the best interests of the Bank. The statement shall be placed in the appropriate loan file and included in the minutes of the applicable Bank's board of directors' meeting. This requirement shall not prohibit the Bank from extending additional funds to force place insurance or to pay delinquent property taxes in order to protect the Bank's interest in real estate collateral.

FUTURE LOAN PURCHASES

5. As of the effective date of this Order, the Board shall prohibit the purchase of low quality loans, including but not limited to, loans delinquent 30 days or more, or in nonaccrual status. Loan purchases shall be limited to loans that possess acceptable credit quality based on

satisfactory payment history, sufficient repayment ability of the borrower, and adequate collateral protection. The borrower's repayment ability shall be documented by an acceptable debt service coverage ratio based on a reasonable amortization schedule. Collateral protection shall be documented based on reasonable loan-to-value ratios supported by current valuations.

PROFIT PLAN

6. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, and within the first 30 days of each calendar year thereafter, the board of directors shall develop a written profit plan consisting of goals and strategies for improving the earnings of the Bank for each calendar year.

The written profit plan shall include, at a minimum:

- (1) Identification of the major areas in, and means by, which the board of directors will seek to improve the Bank's operating performance;
- (2) Realistic and comprehensive budgets;
- (3) A budget review process to monitor the income and expenses of the Bank to compare actual figures with budgetary projections on not less than a quarterly basis; and
- (4) A description of the operating assumptions that form the basis for and support major projected income and expense components.

(b) Such written profit plan and any subsequent modification thereto shall be submitted to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment. Within 30 days after the receipt of any comment from the Regional Director and the Commissioner, the Bank's board of directors shall approve the written profit plan which approval shall be recorded

in the minutes of the Bank's board of directors. Thereafter, the Bank, its directors, officers, and employees shall follow the written profit plan and/or any subsequent modification.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE

7. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER and while this ORDER is in effect, the Bank, after establishing an Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses, shall maintain its Tier 1 Leverage Capital ratio equal to or greater than 11 percent of the Bank's Average Total Assets; shall maintain its Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital ratio equal to or greater than 12 percent of the Bank's Total Risk-Weighted Assets; and shall maintain its Total Risk-Based Capital ratio equal to or greater than 13 percent of the Bank's Total Risk Weighted Assets.

(b) If any such capital ratios are less than required by the ORDER, as determined as of the date of any Report of Condition and Income or at an examination by the FDIC or the State, the Bank shall, within 30 days after receipt of a written notice of the capital deficiency from the Regional Director or the Commissioner, present to the Regional Director and the Commissioner a plan to increase the Bank's Tier 1 Capital or to take such other measures to bring all the capital ratios to the percentages required by this ORDER. After the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the plan, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt the plan, including any modifications or amendments requested by the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

(c) Thereafter, to the extent such measures have not previously been initiated, the Bank shall immediately initiate measures detailed in the plan to increase its Tier 1 Capital by an amount sufficient to bring all the Bank's capital ratios to the percentages required by this ORDER within 30 days after the Regional Director and the Commissioner respond to the plan.

Such increase in Tier 1 Capital and any increase in Tier 1 Capital necessary to meet the capital ratios required by this ORDER may be accomplished by:

- (1) The sale of securities in the form of common stock; or
- (2) The direct contribution of cash subsequent to July 6, 2009, by the directors and/or shareholders of the Bank or by the Bank's holding company; or
- (3) Receipt of an income tax refund or the capitalization subsequent to July 6, 2009, of a bona fide tax refund certified as being accurate by a certified public accounting firm; or
- (4) Any other method approved by the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

(d) If all or part of the increase in Tier 1 Capital required by this ORDER is to be accomplished by the sale of new securities, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt and implement a plan for the sale of such additional securities, including soliciting proxies and the voting of any shares or proxies owned or controlled by them in favor of the plan. Should the implementation of the plan involve a public distribution of the Bank's securities (including a distribution limited only to the Bank's existing shareholders), the Bank shall prepare offering materials fully describing the securities being offered, including an accurate description of the financial condition of the Bank and the circumstances giving rise to the offering, and any other material disclosures necessary to comply with Federal securities laws. Prior to the implementation of the plan, and in any event, not less than 20 days prior to the dissemination of such materials, the plan and any materials used in the sale of the securities shall be submitted to the FDIC, Accounting and Securities Disclosure Section, Washington, D.C. 20429, for review. Any changes requested to be made in the plan or the materials by the FDIC shall be made prior

to their dissemination. If the increase in Tier 1 Capital is to be provided by the sale of non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, then all terms and conditions of the issue shall be presented to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for prior approval.

(e) In complying with the provisions of this ORDER and until such time as any such public offering is terminated, the Bank shall provide to any subscriber and/or purchaser of the Bank's securities written notice of any planned or existing development or other change which is materially different from the information reflected in any offering materials used in connection with the sale of the Bank's securities. The written notice required by this paragraph shall be furnished within 10 days after the date such material development or change was planned or occurred, whichever is earlier, and shall be furnished to every purchaser and/or subscriber who received or was tendered the information contained in the Bank's original offering materials.

(f) In addition, the Bank shall comply with the FDIC's Statement of Policy on Risk-Based Capital found in Appendix A to Part 325 of the FDIC's Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. Part 325, App. A.

(g) For purposes of this ORDER, all terms relating to capital shall be calculated according to the methodology set forth in Part 325 of the FDIC's Rules and Regulations, 12 C.F.R. Part 325.

DIVIDEND RESTRICTION

8. As of the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall not declare or pay any cash dividend without the prior written consent of the Regional Director and the Commissioner.

ASSET GROWTH

9. As of the effective date of this Order, the Bank shall not increase its total assets by more than 10 percent during any consecutive 12-month period without providing, at least 30 days prior to its implementation, a growth plan to the Regional Director and Commissioner. Such growth plan, at a minimum, shall include the funding source to support the projected growth, as well as the anticipated use of funds. This growth plan shall not be implemented without the prior written consent of the Regional Director and Commissioner.

STRATEGIC PLAN

10. (a) Within 90 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive strategic plan. The strategic plan required by this paragraph shall contain an assessment of the Bank's current financial condition and market area, and a description of the operating assumptions that form the basis for major projected income and expense components.

- (b) The written strategic plan shall address, at a minimum:
- (1) Strategies for pricing policies and asset/liability management;
 - (2) Plans for sustaining adequate liquidity, including back-up lines of credit to meet any unanticipated deposit withdrawals;
 - (3) Goals for reducing problem loans;
 - (4) Plans for staffing;
 - (5) Financial goals, including pro forma statements for asset growth, capital adequacy, and earnings;

(6) Formulation of a mission statement and the development of a strategy to carry out that mission.

(c) The Bank shall submit the strategic plan to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment. After consideration of all such comments, the Bank shall approve the plan, which approval shall be recorded in the minutes of the Bank's board of directors' meeting. Thereafter, the Bank shall implement and follow the strategic plan.

(d) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's board of directors shall evaluate the Bank's performance in relation to the strategic plan required by this paragraph and record the results of the evaluation, and any actions taken by the Bank, in the minutes of the Bank's board of directors' meeting at which such evaluation is undertaken.

(e) The strategic plan required by this ORDER shall be revised and submitted to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment 30 days after the end of each calendar year for which this ORDER is in effect. Within 30 days after receipt of all such comments from the Regional Director and the Commissioner and after consideration of all such comments, the Bank shall approve the revised plan, which approval shall be recorded in the minutes of the Bank's board of directors' meeting. Thereafter, the Bank shall implement the revised plan.

CONCENTRATIONS – PLAN FOR REDUCTION

11. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall formulate and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan to reduce the commercial real estate loan concentrations of credit identified in the Report of Examination as of July 6, 2009, to not more than 300 percent of the Bank's Total Risk-

Based Capital. Such plan shall prohibit any additional advances, other than advances to force place insurance or pay property taxes needed to protect the Bank's interest in real estate collateral, which would increase the concentrations or create new concentrations and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Dollar levels to which the Bank shall reduce each concentration;
and
- (2) Provisions for the submission of monthly written progress reports to the Bank's board of directors for review and notation in minutes of the meetings of the Bank's board of directors.

(b) For purposes of the plan, "reduce" means to:

- (1) Charge-off;
- (2) Collect; or
- (3) Increase Tier 1 Capital.

(c) After the Regional Director and the Commissioner have responded to the plan, the Bank's board of directors shall adopt the plan as amended or modified by the Regional Director and the Commissioner. The plan shall be implemented immediately to the extent that the provisions of the plan are not already in effect at the Bank.

INTEREST RATE RISK

12. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of the ORDER, the Bank shall develop, adopt, and implement an interest rate risk policy and procedures designed to reduce the Bank's interest rate risk position that shall include, at a minimum:

- (1) Measures designed to control the nature and amount of interest rate risk the Bank takes including those that specify risk limits and defines lines of responsibilities and authority for managing risk;
- (2) A system for identifying and measuring interest rate risk;
- (3) A system for monitoring and reporting risk exposures; and
- (4) A system of internal controls, review, and audit to ensure the integrity of the overall risk management process.

LIQUIDITY/ASSET/LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

13. (a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall develop and submit to the Regional Director and the Commissioner for review and comment a written plan addressing the Bank's relationship of volatile liabilities to short term investments and rate sensitivity objectives. Annually thereafter, while this ORDER is in effect, the Bank shall review this plan for adequacy and, based upon such review, shall make necessary revisions to the plan to strengthen funds management procedures. The initial plan shall include, at a minimum, provisions:

- (1) Limiting the Bank's ratio of net loans to total deposits to not more than 90 percent;
- (2) Establishing a reasonable range for its Net Noncore Funding Dependence ratio as computed in the Uniform Bank Performance Report;
- (3) Identifying the source and use of borrowed and/or volatile funds;
- (4) Establishing lines of credit at correspondent banks, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas or the Federal Home Loan Bank of

Dallas, that would allow the Bank to borrow funds to meet depositor demands if the Bank's other provisions for liquidity proved to be inadequate;

- (5) Requiring the retention of securities and/or other identified categories of investments that can be liquidated within one day in amounts sufficient (as a percentage of the Bank's total assets) to ensure the maintenance of the Bank's liquidity posture at a level consistent with short- and long-term liquidity objectives;
- (6) Establishing a minimum liquidity ratio and defining how the ratio is to be calculated;
- (7) Establishing a Contingency Funding Plan by identifying alternative courses of action designed to meet the Bank's liquidity needs that meets the requirements of Financial Institution Letter (FIL)-84-2008, *Liquidity Risk Management* and FIL-37-2009, *Funding and Liquidity Risk Management, Proposed Interagency Guidance*;
- (8) Addressing the use of borrowings (i.e., seasonal credit needs, match funding mortgage loans, etc.) and providing for reasonable maturities commensurate with the use of the borrowed funds; addressing concentration of funding sources; and addressing pricing and collateral requirements with specific allowable funding channels (i.e., brokered deposits, internet deposits, Fed funds purchased and other correspondent borrowings); and
- (9) Establishing procedures for managing the Bank's sensitivity to interest rate risk which comply with the Joint Agency Statement of

Policy on Interest Rate Risk (June 26, 1996), and the Supervisory Policy Statement on Investment Securities and End-user Derivative Activities (April 23, 1998).

(b) Within 30 days after the receipt of all such comments from the Regional Director and the Commissioner, and after revising the plan as necessary, the Bank shall adopt the plan, which adoption shall be recorded in the minutes of a board of directors' meeting. Thereafter, the Bank shall implement the plan.

ASSET/LIABILITY COMMITTEE

14. Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall appoint members to an Asset/Liability Committee ("ALCO"). The ALCO shall take an active role in monitoring the Bank's liquidity and interest rate risk position and report monthly to the Bank's board of directors concerning the Bank's liquidity and interest rate risk position.

CORRECTION OF VIOLATIONS

15. (a) Within 120 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall eliminate and/or correct its violations of the Texas Finance Code by maintaining at least 15 percent of its deposits in the loan categories required by Section 94.201 as noted in the Report of Examination.

(b) Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall implement procedures to ensure future compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

16. Within 30 days after the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank's board of directors shall establish a subcommittee of the board of directors charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the Bank complies with the provisions of this ORDER. The subcommittee shall report monthly to the entire board of directors of the Bank, and a copy of the report and any discussion related to the report or the ORDER shall be included in the minutes of the Bank's board of directors' meeting. Nothing contained herein shall diminish the responsibility of the entire board of directors of the Bank to ensure compliance with the provisions of this ORDER.

PROGRESS REPORTS

17. Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall furnish to the Regional Director and the Commissioner written progress reports signed by each member of the Bank's board of directors, detailing the actions taken to secure compliance with the ORDER and the results thereof. Such reports may be discontinued when the corrections required by this ORDER have been accomplished and the Regional Director and the Commissioner have released, in writing, the Bank from making further reports.

After the effective date of this ORDER, the Bank shall send a copy of this ORDER, or otherwise furnish a description of this ORDER, to its shareholders (1) in conjunction with the Bank's next shareholder communication, and also (2) in conjunction with its notice or proxy statement preceding the Bank's next shareholder meeting. The description shall fully describe the ORDER in all material respects. The description and any accompanying communication, statement, or notice shall be sent to the FDIC Accounting and Securities Disclosure Section,

Washington, D.C. 20429, for review at least 20 days prior to dissemination to shareholders. Any changes requested by the FDIC shall be made prior to dissemination of the description, communication, notice, or statement.

This ORDER shall be binding upon the Bank, its successors and assigns, and all institution-affiliated parties of the Bank. The provisions of this ORDER shall remain effective and enforceable except to the extent that, and until such time as, any provision of this ORDER shall have been modified, terminated, superseded, or set aside by the FDIC.

This ORDER will become effective upon its issuance by the FDIC.

Pursuant to delegated authority.

Dated this 12th day of November 2009.

/s/ _____
Thomas J. Dujenski
Regional Director
Dallas Region
Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation