



44 BUSINESS CAPITAL

A Division of Berkshire Bank

Business Loans from Business People

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 10, 2017

Contact: Ellen Neri, 484.919.9185 Neri PR Marketing Communications

44 BUSINESS CAPITAL ANNOUNCES NEW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE SBA LOAN PROGRAM — COLUMBUS OHIO TERRITORY

Columbus, Ohio - 44 Business Capital, a Division of Berkshire Bank announces the hiring of Jason Zemke of Columbus, Ohio as First Vice President, SBA Lending for the Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio market. As an established and recognized professional in the Columbus area, Zemke has several years of experience in SBA, commercial and business lending with specific expertise in healthcare financing. Zemke was a commercial lending officer at Civista Bank, business banking officer at Huntington National Bank and US Bank, and served as a business development officer at Bank of America. Zemke is also an Ohio licensed real estate professional.

Zemke graduated from The Ohio State University with a BA in Communications and Public Relations, and served as a senior airman in the United States Air Force for four years as a material storage and distribution specialist. An avid Cleveland sports and Ohio State football fan, Zemke enjoys golfing and heading back home to Sandusky to spend time on Lake Erie. Zemke lives with his wife Farrah in Columbus, OH with their three dogs, Reese's, Snickers and Phoebe.

"As a division of Berkshire Bank, 44 Business Capital will continue to add experienced lenders to build out an exceptional SBA lending team that will serve the SBA's mission on a larger scale," stated Greg Poehlmann, Senior Vice President of Business Banking. "To that end, we are extremely excited to have Jason Zemke join our experienced sales team. We have heard on numerous occasions what a great market Columbus is and so we were pleased to find someone like Jason who is well entrenched in that market to represent 44 Business Capital. Jason has a wealth of experience and contacts in the Columbus region and while he is a diehard Buckeye fan, the Nittany Lion fans in our Blue Bell, PA headquarters will not hold that against him!"

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About 44 Business Capital:

For over 20 years, the principals of 44 Business Capital have provided financing solutions to hundreds of businesses in a variety of industries. For further information, please contact 44 Business Capital at 215.985.4400 or online at 44businesscapital.com. The main office is located at 1787 Sentry Parkway West, Suite 200 Building 16 Blue Bell, PA.

About Berkshire Bank:

Berkshire Hills Bancorp (NYSE: BHLB) is the parent of Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank®. The Company, recognized for its entrepreneurial approach and distinctive culture, has \$9.3 billion in assets and 97 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey and Pennsylvania providing personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services. The Company has a pending agreement to acquire Commerce Bancshares Corp., the parent company of Commerce Bank and Trust Company, a \$2.2 billion bank with 16 branches in the Worcester, MA and Boston, MA markets.

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