

SBA NAMES BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BANK “LENDER OF THE QUARTER”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 5, 2008

For further information please contact Mariane E. Broadhurst at (508) 520-8003.

BOSTON AND FRANKLIN, MA – Benjamin Franklin Bank has been named “Lender of the Quarter” for the third quarter of fiscal year 2008 according to an announcement made today by Robert H. Nelson, Massachusetts District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration

This award was presented to Benjamin Franklin Bank at SBA’s quarterly partners meeting. SBA recognized Benjamin Franklin Bank for this award because of their excellent SBA 7a loan activity for this quarter. Benjamin Franklin Bank approved 12 loans between January 1, 2008 and April 30, 2008.

“Benjamin Franklin Bank has shown a remarkable increase in its SBA loan activity during the current quarter and the SBA is extremely pleased to recognize the bank with the SBA Lender of the Quarter Award,” said Nelson. “Community banks such as Benjamin Franklin Bank are stepping up to the plate to provide needed capital to Massachusetts’ small businesses. Their efforts to increase funding for small business capital with SBA products are appreciated and is deserving of this recognition.”

“We are honored to receive this distinction from the SBA,” said Thomas R. Venables, president and CEO, Benjamin Franklin Bank. “Benjamin Franklin Bank is committed to the small business community in Massachusetts and our partnership with the SBA allows us to better serve this community.”

The SBA, under its 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program, can guarantee loans up to \$2 million. Loans are available for most business purposes, such as to purchase commercial real estate, equipment, and inventory as well as for short-term working capital. The interest rate is not to exceed 2.75 over the prime lending rate. Maturities are up to 10 years for working capital and up to 25 years for fixed assets. For more information about SBA, visit www.sba.gov/ma.

Benjamin Franklin Bank is a full service community bank founded in 1871 with eleven branches located in the communities of Bellingham, Foxboro, Franklin, Medfield, Milford, Newton, Waltham, Wellesley and Watertown. The Bank’s overall service area covers the market within New England’s three largest cities of Boston, Providence, and Worcester. The bank’s deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. Visit Benjamin Franklin Bank at www.bankwithben.com.

###