

First Ottawa Bancshares, Inc.

Company Release – 09/10/2025 4:00pm

Ottawa, Illinois, September 10, 2025. First Ottawa Bancshares, Inc. ("First Ottawa" or the "Company") (OTC:FOTB) the parent company of American Commercial Bank & Trust, NA today announced the appointment of George Barr to the boards of directors of both First Ottawa Bancshares and American Commercial Bank & Trust.

Mr. Barr has practiced law in Illinois for over 40 years. Mr. Barr is the founder of The Barr Group PC that owns and operates: rock quarries in Illinois, 4,000 apartment units and over 3,000 acres of industrial warehouse zoned property throughout the United States.

Mr. Barr was the founder and Chairman of First Community Financial Partners (Nasdaq: FCFP), the parent of First Community Financial Bank. Recently Mr. Barr was a board member of First Busey Corporation (Nasdaq: BUSE).

Mr. Barr was the Developer and Co-Owner of The Chicagoland Speedway and Route 66 Raceway in Joliet and previously served on the boards of directors of The Chicago Zoological Society (Brookfield Zoo), St. Francis University, Joliet Catholic Academy and Provena Health.

Mr. Barr and his wife Donna reside in Western Springs and have three children and three grandchildren.

First Ottawa Bancshares, Inc. is a single bank holding company with American Commercial Bank & Trust as its wholly owned subsidiary.

Safe Harbor Statement

Special Note Concerning Forward-Looking Statements. This document contains, and future oral and written statements of the Company and its management may contain, forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business of the Company. Forward-looking statements, which may be based upon beliefs, expectations and assumptions of the Company's management and on information currently available to management, are generally identifiable by the use of words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "bode," "predict," "suggest," "project," "appear," "plan," "intend," "estimate," "annualize," "may," "will," "would," "could," "should," "likely," "might," "potential," "continue," "annualized," "target," "outlook," as well as the negative forms of those words, or other similar expressions. Additionally, all statements in this document, including forward-looking statements, speak only as of the date they are made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any statement in light of new information or future events. A number of factors, many of which are beyond the ability of the Company to control or predict, could cause actual results to differ materially from those in its forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to: (i) the strength of the local, state, national and international economies and financial markets (including effects of inflationary pressures and supply chain constraints); (ii) effects on the U.S. economy resulting from the implementation of policies proposed by the new presidential administration, including tariffs, mass deportations and tax regulations; (iii) the economic impact of any future terrorist threats and attacks, widespread disease or pandemics, acts of war or threats thereof (including the Russian invasion of Ukraine and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East), or other adverse events that could cause economic deterioration or instability in credit markets, and the response of the local, state and national governments to any such adverse external events; (iv) new or revised accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by state and federal regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board or the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; (v) the imposition of tariffs or other governmental policies impacting the value of products produced by the Company's commercial borrowers; (vi) increased competition in the financial services sector, including from non-bank competitors such as credit unions and fintech companies, and the inability to attract new customers; (vii) changes in technology and the ability to develop and maintain secure and reliable electronic systems; (viii) unexpected results of acquisitions which may include failure to realize the anticipated benefits of the acquisitions and the possibility that transaction costs may be greater than anticipated; (ix) the loss of key executives and employees, talent shortages and employee turnover; (x) changes in consumer spending; (xi) unexpected outcomes and costs of existing or new litigation or other legal proceedings and regulatory actions involving the Company; (xii) the economic impact on the Company and its customers of climate change, natural disasters and exceptional weather occurrences such as tornadoes, floods and blizzards; (xiii) fluctuations in the value of securities held in our securities portfolio, including as a result of changes in interest rates; (xiv) credit risk and risks from concentrations (by type of borrower, geographic area, collateral and industry) within our loan portfolio and large loans to certain borrowers (including CRE loans); (xv) the overall health of the local and national real estate market; (xvi) the ability to maintain an adequate level of allowance for credit losses on loans; (xvii) the concentration of large deposits from certain clients who have balances above current FDIC insurance limits and who may withdraw deposits to diversify their exposure; (xviii) the ability to successfully manage liquidity risk, which may increase dependence on

non-core funding sources such as brokered deposits, and may negatively impact the Company's cost of funds; (xix) the level of non-performing assets on our balance sheets; (xx) interruptions involving our information technology and communications systems or third-party servicers; (xxi) the occurrence of fraudulent activity, breaches or failures of our third-party vendors' information security controls or cybersecurity-related incidents, including as a result of sophisticated attacks using artificial intelligence and similar tools or as a result of insider fraud; (xxii) changes in the interest rates and repayment rates of the Company's assets; (xxiii) the effectiveness of the Company's risk management framework, and (xxiv) the ability of the Company to manage the risks associated with the foregoing as well as anticipated. These risks and uncertainties should be considered in evaluating forward-looking statements and undue reliance should not be placed on such statements.

Contacts:

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