Edgar Filing: Atlantic Coast Financial CORP - Form SC 13D

Atlantic Coast Financial CORP Form SC 13D August 07, 2015

CUSIP No. 048426100

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

ATLANTIC COAST FINANCIAL CORPORATION (Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value (Title of Class of Securities)

048426100 (CUSIP Number)

Mr. Richard J. Lashley
PL Capital, LLC
67 Park Place East
Suite 675
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 539-5400
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

July 31, 2015 (Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition which is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(b)(3) or (4), check the following box \pounds .

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1	NAME OF REPO	PRTING PERSON			
2	PL Capital, LLC CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)				
2	CHECK THE AF	CHECK THE AFFROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP			
3	SEC USE ONLY			(b)	£
4	SOURCE OF FUI	NDS			
5	CHECK BOX IF	DISCLOSURE OF LE	GAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO	£	
	ITEMS 2(d) OR 2	2(e)			
6	CITIZENSHIP O	R PLACE OF ORGAN	IIZATION		
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	BER OF	7	SOLE VOTING POWER		
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	ED BY		786,000		
EACH		9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER		
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WITH			786,000		
11		MOUNT BENEFICIA	LLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON		
	786,000				
12		THE AGGREGATE A	MOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN	T	
	SHARES				
13		LASS REPRESENTED	DBY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)		
	5.1%				
14	TYPE OF REPOR	RTING PERSON			
	00				

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1	NAME OF REPOR	1111012110011			
2	Financial Edge Fund, L.P. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a) (b)				
3	SEC USE ONLY			(-)	£
4	SOURCE OF FUNI	OS			
	WC, OO				
5	CHECK BOX IF DI	SCLOSURE OF LEGA	AL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO	£	
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OWNE	ED BY		488,000		
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PERSO	ON	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER		
WITH			488,000		
11	AGGREGATE AM	OUNT BENEFICIALL	LY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON		
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12	CHECK BOX IF TH	HE AGGREGATE AM	OUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN	T	
	SHARES				
13	PERCENT OF CLA	SS REPRESENTED E	BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)		
	3.1%				
14	TYPE OF REPORT	ING PERSON			
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1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON						
	Financial Edge—St	Financial Edge—Strategic Fund, L.P.					
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (8)						
3	SEC USE ONLY			(0)	£		
4	SOURCE OF FUN	DS					
	WC, OO						
5	CHECK BOX IF D	DISCLOSURE OF LEG	AL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO	£			
	ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)						
6	CITIZENSHIP OR	PLACE OF ORGANIZ	ZATION				
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WITH			204,000				
11	AGGREGATE AM	OUNT BENEFICIALI	LY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON				
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	SHARES						
13	PERCENT OF CLA	ASS REPRESENTED I	BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)				
	1.3%						
14	TYPE OF REPORT	TING PERSON					
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PL Capital/Focused Fund, L.P.		
2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a)	T
	(b)	£
3 SEC USE ONLY		
4 SOURCE OF FUNDS		
WC, OO		
5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUAN	T TO £	
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6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION		
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WITH 94,000		
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94,000		
12 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN	T	
SHARES		
13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)		
0.6%		
14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON		
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CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a				
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ED BY		214,000		
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· -		0		
ON	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER		
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PERCENT OF CI	LASS REPRESENTE	D BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)		
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TYPE OF REPOR	RTING PERSON			
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CUSIP No. 048426100

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1	NAME OF REPOR					
2	Goodbody/PL Capital, LLC CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)					
3	SEC USE ONLY			(b)	£	
4	SOURCE OF FUN	SOURCE OF FUNDS				
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO £					
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WITH			214,000			
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13	PERCENT OF CLA	ASS REPRESENTED I	BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)			
14	TYPE OF REPORT	ΓING PERSON				

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1	NAME OF REPORT					
	PL Capital Advisors, LLC					
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP				T £	
3	SEC USE ONLY					
4	SOURCE OF FUND	OS				
5			AL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO	£		
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6		PLACE OF ORGANIZ	ATION			
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OWNE	D BY		1,000,000			
EACH		9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER			
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WITH			1,000,000			
11	AGGREGATE AMO	OUNT BENEFICIALL	LY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON			
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12	CHECK BOX IF TH	IE AGGREGATE AM	OUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN	T		
	SHARES					
13	PERCENT OF CLA	SS REPRESENTED B	Y AMOUNT IN ROW (11)			
	6.4%					
14	TYPE OF REPORT	ING PERSON				
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1	NAME OF R John W. Paln	EPORTING PERSOner	N			
2	001111 11111	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP				
3	SEC USE ON	NLY		(b)	£	
4	SOURCE OF	FUNDS				
5	CHECK BOX	K IF DISCLOSURE	OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT T	ſΟ£		
	ITEMS 2(d)					
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	USA					
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12	CHECK BOX	K IF THE AGGREG	ATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN	T		
	SHARES					
13	PERCENT O	F CLASS REPRESE	ENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)			
	6.4%					
14	TYPE OF RE	EPORTING PERSON	1			
	IN					

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1		NAME OF REI	PORTING PERS lev	SON		
2	,	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP				
3	,	SEC USE ONL	Y			
4		SOURCE OF F	UNDS			
5	i	CHECK BOX I	F DISCLOSURI	E OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO	Э£	
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1	1	AGGREGATE	AMOUNT BEN	EFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON		
		1,000,000				
1	2	CHECK BOX I	F THE AGGRE	GATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN	T	
		SHARES				
1	3	PERCENT OF	CLASS REPRES	SENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)		
		6.4%				
1	4	TYPE OF REPO	ORTING PERSO	ON		
		IN				

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Item 1. Security and Issuer

This initial Schedule 13D relates to the common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Common Stock"), of Atlantic Coast Financial Corporation (the "Company"). The address of the principal executive offices of the Company is 4655 Salisbury Road, Suite 110, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Item 2. Identity and Background

This initial Schedule 13D is being filed jointly by the parties identified below. All of the filers of this Schedule 13D are collectively referred to herein as the "PL Capital Group." The joint filing agreement of the members of the PL Capital Group is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Schedule 13D.

Financial Edge Fund, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Financial Edge Fund");

Financial Edge-Strategic Fund, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Financial Edge Strategic");

PL Capital/Focused Fund, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Focused Fund");

PL Capital, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("PL Capital") and General Partner of Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic and Focused Fund;

PL Capital Advisors, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("PL Capital Advisors"), and the investment advisor to Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, Goodbody/PL Capital, L.P. and Focused Fund;

Goodbody/PL Capital, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Goodbody/PL LP");

Goodbody/PL Capital, LLC ("Goodbody/PL LLC"), a Delaware limited liability company and General Partner of Goodbody/PL LP;

John W. Palmer and Richard J. Lashley, as Managing Members of PL Capital, PL Capital Advisors and Goodbody/PL LLC.

- (a)-(c) This statement is filed by Mr. John W. Palmer and Mr. Richard J. Lashley, with respect to the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by them, as follows:
- (1) shares of Common Stock held in the name of Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, and Focused Fund, in Mr. Palmer's and Mr. Lashley's capacity as Managing Members of (A) PL Capital: the General Partner of Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic and Focused Fund; and (B) PL Capital Advisors: the investment advisor for Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic and Focused Fund; and

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(2) shares of Common Stock held in the name of Goodbody/PL LP, in Mr. Palmer's and Mr. Lashley's capacity as Managing Members of (A) Goodbody/PL LLC: the General Partner of Goodbody/PL LP; and (B) PL Capital Advisors: the investment advisor for Goodbody/PL LP.

The business address of Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, Focused Fund, PL Capital, PL Capital Advisors, Goodbody/PL LP, Goodbody/PL LLC, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley is: c/o PL Capital, 47 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 328, Naperville, Illinois 60540. Each of Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, Focused Fund, PL Capital, Goodbody/PL LP, PL Capital Advisors and Goodbody/PL LLC are engaged in various interests, including investments.

The principal employment of Messrs. Palmer and Lashley is investment management with each of PL Capital, PL Capital Advisors and Goodbody/PL LLC.

- (d) During the past five years, no member of the PL Capital Group has been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors).
- (e) During the past five years, no member of the PL Capital Group has been a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and, as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, Federal or State securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.
- (f) All of the individuals who are members of the PL Capital Group are citizens of the United States.

Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration

In aggregate, the PL Capital Group owns 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company acquired at an aggregate cost of \$4,530,080.

From time to time, members of the PL Capital Group may purchase Common Stock on margin provided by BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage Inc. ("BNP Paribas") on such firms' usual terms and conditions. All or part of the shares of Common Stock owned by members of the PL Capital Group may from time to time be pledged with one or more banking institutions or brokerage firms as collateral for loans made by such entities to members of the PL Capital Group. Such loans, if any, generally bear interest at a rate based upon the federal funds rate plus a margin. Such indebtedness, if any, may be refinanced with other banks or broker-dealers. As of the date of this filing, the Financial Edge Fund and Focused Fund both have margin loans from BNP Paribas secured by Common Stock.

The amount of funds expended by Financial Edge Fund to acquire the 488,000 shares of Common Stock it holds in its name is \$2,210,660. Such funds were provided from Financial Edge Fund's available capital and from time to time by margin loans provided by BNP Paribas.

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The amount of funds expended by Financial Edge Strategic to acquire the 204,000 shares of Common Stock it holds in its name is \$924,140. Such funds were provided from Financial Edge Strategic's available capital and from time to time by margin loans provided by BNP Paribas.

The amount of funds expended by Focused Fund to acquire the 94,000 shares of Common Stock it holds in its name is \$425,840. Such funds were provided from Focused Fund's available capital and from time to time by margin loans provided by BNP Paribas.

The amount of funds expended by Goodbody/PL LP to acquire the 214,000 shares of Common Stock it holds in its name is \$969,440. Such funds were provided from Goodbody/PL LP's available capital and from time to time by margin loans provided by BNP Paribas.

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

This is the PL Capital Group's initial Schedule 13D filing. In the aggregate, the PL Capital Group owns 6.4% of the Company's Common Stock, based upon the Company's outstanding shares as of May 1, 2015.

The PL Capital Group acquired the Common Stock because it believes the Common Stock is undervalued. The PL Capital Group intends to discuss with the management of the Company what their short and long term plans are to grow the franchise and improve profitability, and then monitor their progress at implementing those plans over time.

Unless otherwise noted in this Schedule 13D, no member of the PL Capital Group has any plans or proposals, which relate to, or would result in, any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (b) through (j), inclusive of Item (4) of Schedule 13D. Such individuals may, at any time and from time to time, review or reconsider their positions and formulate plans or proposals with respect thereto. Members of the PL Capital Group may make further purchases of shares of Common Stock, although the PL Capital Group has no present intention of increasing PL Capital Group's aggregate holdings above 9.999% of the Company's outstanding Common Stock. Members of the PL Capital Group may dispose of any or all the shares of Common Stock held by them.

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Company

The percentages used in this Schedule 13D are calculated based upon the number of outstanding shares of Common Stock, 15,509,061, reported as the number of outstanding shares as of May 1, 2015, in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on May 14, 2015.

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The PL Capital Group made transactions in the Common Stock within the past 60 days as noted below:

(A) Financial Edge Fund

- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Financial Edge Fund made the following purchases (and no sales) of Common Stock in the past 60 days:

	Number of Shares		Where and How
Trade Date	Purchased	Price per Share	Transaction Effected
			Open Market
07/30/2015	244,000	\$4.48	Purchase
			Open Market
07/31/2015	244,000	\$4.48	Purchase

(d) Because Messrs. Palmer and Lashley are the Managing Members of PL Capital, the general partner of Financial Edge Fund, they have the power to direct the affairs of Financial Edge Fund, including the voting and disposition of shares of Common Stock held in the name of Financial Edge Fund. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are also the Managing Members of PL Capital Advisors, the investment advisor of Financial Edge Fund. Therefore, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are deemed to share voting and disposition power with Financial Edge Fund with regard to those shares of Common Stock.

(B) Financial Edge Strategic

- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Financial Edge Strategic made the following purchases (and no sales) of Common Stock in the past 60 days:

Trade Date	Number of Shares	Price per Share	Where and How
	Purchased		Transaction Effected
			Open Market
07/30/2015	102,000	\$4.48	Purchase
			Open Market
07/31/2015	102,000	\$4.48	Purchase

(d) Because Messrs. Palmer and Lashley are the Managing Members of PL Capital, the general partner of Financial Edge Strategic, they have the power to direct the affairs of Financial Edge Strategic, including the voting and disposition of shares of Common Stock held in the name of Financial Edge Strategic. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are also the Managing Members of PL Capital Advisors, the investment advisor of Financial Edge Strategic. Therefore, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are deemed to share voting and disposition power with Financial Edge Strategic with regard to those shares of Common Stock.

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- (C) Focused Fund
- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Focused Fund made the following purchases (and no sales) of Common Stock in the past 60 days:

	Number of Shares		Where and How
Trade Date	Purchased	Price per Share	Transaction Effected
			Open Market
07/30/2015	47,000	\$4.48	Purchase
			Open Market
07/31/2015	47,000	\$4.48	Purchase

(d) Because Messrs. Palmer and Lashley are the Managing Members of PL Capital, the general partner of Focused Fund, they have the power to direct the affairs of Focused Fund, including the voting and disposition of shares of Common Stock held in the name of Focused Fund. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are also the Managing Members of PL Capital Advisors, the investment advisor of Focused Fund. Therefore, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are deemed to share voting and dispositive power with Focused Fund with regard to those shares of Common Stock.

(D) Goodbody/PL LP

- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Goodbody/PL LP made the following purchases (and no sales) of Common Stock in the past 60 days:

	Number of Shares		Where and How
Trade Date	Purchased	Price per Share	Transaction Effected
			Open Market
07/30/2015	107,000	\$4.48	Purchase
			Open Market
07/31/2015	107,000	\$4.48	Purchase

(d) Goodbody/PL LLC is the general partner of Goodbody/PL LP. Because Messrs. Palmer and Lashley are the Managing Members of Goodbody/PL LLC, they have the power to direct the affairs of Goodbody/PL LP. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley are also the Managing Members of PL Capital Advisors, the investment advisor of Goodbody/PL LP. Therefore, Goodbody/PL LLC may be deemed to share with Messrs. Palmer and Lashley voting and disposition power with regard to the shares of Common Stock held by Goodbody/PL LP.

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- (E) PL Capital
- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) PL Capital has made no purchases or sales of Common Stock directly.
- (d) PL Capital is the general partner of Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic and Focused Fund. Because Messrs. Palmer and Lashley are the Managing Members of PL Capital, they have the power to direct the affairs of PL Capital. Therefore, PL Capital may be deemed to share with Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley voting and dispositive power with regard to the shares of Common Stock held by Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic and Focused Fund.
- (F) PL Capital Advisors
- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) PL Capital Advisors has made no purchases or sales of Common Stock directly.
 - (d) PL Capital Advisors is the investment advisor to Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, Focused Fund and Goodbody/PL LP. Because they are the Managing Members of PL Capital Advisors, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley have the power to direct the affairs of PL Capital Advisors. Therefore, PL Capital Advisors may be deemed to share with Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lashley voting and dispositive power with regard to the shares of Common Stock held by Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, Focused Fund and Goodbody/PL LP.
- (G) Goodbody/PL LLC
- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Goodbody/PL LLC has made no purchases or sales of Common Stock directly.
- (d) Goodbody/PL LLC is the general partner of Goodbody/PL LP. Because Messrs. Palmer and Lashley are the Managing Members of Goodbody/PL LLC, they have the power to direct the affairs of Goodbody/PL LLC. Therefore, Goodbody/PL LLC may be deemed to share with Messrs. Palmer and Lashley voting and disposition power with regard to the shares of Common Stock held by Goodbody/PL LP.
- (H) Mr. John W. Palmer
- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Mr. Palmer did not purchase or sell shares of Common Stock during the past 60 days.

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- (I) Richard J. Lashley
- (a)-(b) See cover page.
 - (c) Mr. Lashley did not purchase or sell shares of Common Stock during the past 60 days.

Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships with Respect to Securities of the Company.

With respect to Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic and Focused Fund, PL Capital is entitled to an allocation of a portion of profits, if any. With respect to Financial Edge Fund, Financial Edge Strategic, Focused Fund and Goodbody/PL LP, PL Capital Advisors is entitled to a management fee based upon a percentage of total capital. With respect to Goodbody/PL LP, Goodbody/PL LLC is entitled to an allocation of a portion of profits, if any.

Other than the foregoing arrangements and relationships and the Joint Filing Agreement filed as Exhibit 1 to this initial Schedule 13D, there are no contracts, arrangements, understandings or relationships among the persons named in Item 2 hereof and between such persons and any person with respect to any securities of the Company.

Item 7.

Material to be Filed as Exhibits

Exhibit No. Description

1 Joint Filing Agreement

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SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: August 6, 2015

FINANCIAL EDGE FUND, L.P.

By: PL CAPITAL, LLC

General Partner

By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J.

Lashley

John W. Palmer Richard J. Lashley Managing Member Managing Member

FINANCIAL EDGE-STRATEGIC FUND, L.P.

By: PL CAPITAL, LLC

General Partner

By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J.

Lashley

John W. Palmer Richard J. Lashley Managing Member Managing Member

PL CAPITAL/FOCUSED FUND, L.P.

By: PL CAPITAL, LLC

General Partner

By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J.

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GOODBODY/PL CAPITAL, L.P.

By: GOODBODY/PL CAPITAL, LLC

General Partner

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By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J. Lashley John W. Palmer Richard J. Lashley Managing Member Managing Member

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GOODBODY/PL CAPITAL, LLC

By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J.

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PL CAPITAL ADVISORS, LLC

By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J.

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PL CAPITAL, LLC

By: /s/ John W. Palmer /s/ Richard J.

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By: /s/ John W.

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John W. Palmer

By: /s/ Richard J.

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Richard J. Lashley