

# 427587

INTER-OFFICE  
COMMUNICATION

COMPTROLLER OF FLORIDA  
DIVISION OF BANKING

DATE: September 18, 1997

TO: Louise Flemming-Jackson  
Department of State - Division of Corporations

000002299690--4  
-09/22/97--01105--032  
\*\*\*\*227.50 \*\*\*\*227.50

FROM: Bruce Ricca, Licensing and Chartering *BR*

SUBJ: Merger of First Federal Savings and Loan Association  
of Osceola County with and into Republic Bank and  
under the title of "Republic Bank"

Please file the attached "Plan and Agreement of Merger" for the above-referenced institutions, using 5:00 p.m., SEPTEMBER 19, 1997, as the effective date.

Please make the following distribution of certified copies:

- (1) One copy to: Division of Banking  
Office of Licensing and Chartering  
Fletcher Building, Suite 636
- (2) One copy to: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
One Atlantic Center, Suite 1600  
1201 West Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3449
- (3) One copy to: Mr. Christopher M. Hunter  
Republic Bank  
Post Office Box 33008  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-3008

FILED  
97 SEP 19 AM 9:05  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Also attached is a check which represents payment of the filing fees, charter tax and certified copies. If you have any questions, please call 414-8066.

BR:a:mergeart

Attachments

cc: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia  
Bureau of Financial Institutions - District I

*Merger*  
*LFT*  
*9-19-97*

FILING 70.00  
R. AGENT \_\_\_\_\_  
CERT. COPY 157.50  
CUS \_\_\_\_\_  
OVERPAYMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL 227.50

427587

**ARTICLES OF MERGER  
Merger Sheet**

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**MERGING:**

**FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OF OSCEOLA  
COUNTY, a savings and loan association organized under the laws of the United  
States**

**INTO**

**REPUBLIC BANK, a Florida corporation, 427587**

**File date: September 19, 1997**

**Corporate Specialist: Louise Flemming-Jackson**



**OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER**

**DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND FINANCE**

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

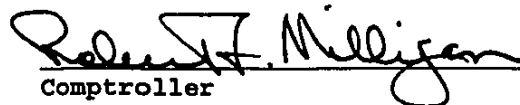
**TALLAHASSEE  
32399-0350**

**ROBERT F. MILLIGAN  
COMPTROLLER OF FLORIDA**

Having given my approval on June 25, 1997, to merge First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Osceola County, St. Cloud, Florida, with and into Republic Bank, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, and being satisfied that the conditions of my approval have been met, I hereby approve for filing with the Secretary of State, the attached "Plan and Agreement of Merger", which contains the Articles of Incorporation of Republic Bank (the resulting bank), so that effective at 5:00 p.m., September 19TH, 1997, they shall read as stated herein.

Signed on this 9TH

day of September, 1997.

  
Comptroller

**WRITTEN CONSENT IN LIEU OF  
A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOLE SHAREHOLDER OF  
REPUBLIC BANK**

The undersigned, Republic Bancshares, Inc. (Republic), being the sole shareholder of Republic Bank (Bank), by this Written Consent in Lieu of a Special Meeting of Shareholders of Bank, does hereby consent to, take, and adopt the following resolution, having the same force and effect as if adopted at a duly called Special Meeting of the Shareholders of Bank.

WHEREAS, Republic has entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of April 14, 1997 (the "Holding Company Merger Agreement") providing for the acquisition by Republic of all issued and outstanding capital stock of FFO Financial Group, Inc. ("FFO") pursuant to which FFO will merge with and into Republic; and

WHEREAS, the Bank has entered into a Plan and Agreement of Merger, dated as of April 14, 1997 (the "Financial Institution Merger Agreement") providing for the acquisition by Bank, immediately following the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement, of all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Osceola County ("First Federal"), of which FFO is the sole shareholder, pursuant to which First Federal will merge with and into Bank with Bank as the surviving entity; and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 1997 a majority of the shareholders of both Republic and FFO approved the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the effective date of the consummation of the transactions consummated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement and the Financial Institution Merger Agreement shall be September 19, 1997; and

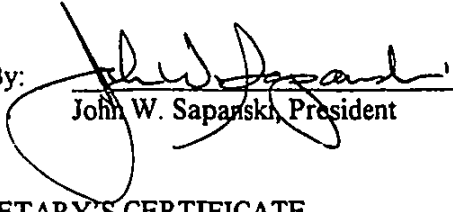
WHEREAS, as part of the application to be submitted for approval to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and The Florida Department of Banking and in connection with the Financial Institution Merger Agreement, Bank is required to provide evidence of the approval of the Financial Institution Merger Agreement by the holding company parent of Bank;

RESOLVED, that the merger of First Federal with and into Republic Bank, a bank organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, such merger to occur on the effective date of September 19, 1997, is hereby approved in accordance with the applicable requirements of Section 607.0704 of the Florida Statutes and the Florida Financial Institutions Code.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned, as of the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1997.

REPUBLIC BANCSHARES, INC.

By:

  
John W. Sapanski, President

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, the duly elected and appointed secretary of Republic Bancshares, Inc., certifies that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of a written consent in lieu of special shareholders meeting executed by the sole shareholder of Republic Bank on AUG 29, 1997, and that such resolution has not been amended, modified or repeated.

Dated: AUG 29, 1997

  
Secretary

[Corporate Seal]

**WRITTEN CONSENT IN LIEU OF  
A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOLE SHAREHOLDER OF  
FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION  
OF OSCEOLA COUNTY**

The undersigned, F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc. ("F.F.O."), being the sole shareholder of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Osceola County ("First Federal"), by this Written Consent in Lieu of a Special Meeting of Shareholders of First Federal does hereby consent to, take, and adopt the following resolution, having the same force and effect as if adopted at a duly called Special Meeting of Shareholders of First Federal.

WHEREAS, F.F.O. has entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of April 14, 1997 (the "Holding Company Merger Agreement") providing for the acquisition by Republic Bancshares, Inc. ("Republic") of all issued and outstanding capital stock of F.F.O. pursuant to which F.F.O. will merge with and into Republic; and

WHEREAS, First Federal has entered into a Plan and Agreement of Merger, dated as of April 14, 1997 (the "Financial Institution Merger Agreement") providing for the acquisition by Republic Bank ("Bank"), of which Republic is the sole shareholder, immediately following the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement, of all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of First Federal pursuant to which First Federal will merge with and into Bank with Bank as the surviving entity; and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 1997 a majority of the shareholders of both Republic and F.F.O. approved the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the effective date of the consummation of the transactions consummated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement and the Financial Institution Merger Agreement shall be September 19, 1997; and


WHEREAS, as part of the application to be submitted for approval to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and The Florida Department of Banking and in connection with the Financial Institution Merger Agreement, First Federal is required to provide evidence of the approval of the Financial Institution Merger Agreement by the holding company parent of First Federal;

RESOLVED, that the merger of First Federal with and into Republic Bank, a bank organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, such merger to occur on the effective date of September 19, 1997, is hereby approved in accordance with the applicable requirements of Section 607.0704 of the Florida Statutes and the Florida Financial Institutions Code.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned, as of the 29 day of August, 1997.

F.F.O. FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.


By:

  
James B. Davis, President

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, the duly elected and appointed secretary of F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc., certifies that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of a written consent in lieu of special shareholders meeting executed by the sole shareholder of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Osceola County on August 29, 1997, and that such resolution has not been amended, modified or repeated.

Dated: August 29, 1997

  
Secretary

[Corporate Seal]

**PLAN AND AGREEMENT OF MERGER**

original

This Plan and Agreement of Merger, ("Institutional Merger Agreement") is entered into this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1997 by and between REPUBLIC BANK ("Republic") and FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY ("First Federal")

(Effective at 5:00 p.m., EDT, September 19, 1997)

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Republic Bancshares, Inc. ("Bancshares"), a Florida corporation and sole shareholder of Republic, and F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc. ("FFO"), a Florida corporation and sole shareholder of First Federal, have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger of even date herewith, (the "Holding Company Merger Agreement"), a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Holding Company Merger Agreement provides for the merger of FFO with and into Bancshares, with Bancshares as the resulting entity, on the terms as are more specifically defined and set forth in the Holding Company Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Boards of Directors of the parties hereto deem it desirable and in the best business interests of the respective parties and their shareholders that First Federal be merged into Republic pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Business Corporation Act and the Florida Financial Institutions Codes on the terms as are hereinafter set forth; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon consummation of the transaction as contemplated by the Holding Company Merger Agreement, and simultaneously therewith, pursuant to Florida Statutes Sections 655.412 and Section 658.41 through 658.44 First Federal shall merge into and with Republic as provided herein (the "Merger"), and Republic shall be the surviving bank resulting therefrom.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth below, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

2. **Constituent Banks.** Republic is a commercial bank organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida with its principal office at 111 Second Avenue, N.E., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701. A listing of each branch office of Republic is set forth on Exhibit "B" attached hereto. First Federal is a savings and loan association organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, with its principal office at 2013 Live Oak Boulevard, St. Cloud, Florida 34771. A listing of each branch office of First Federal is set forth on Exhibit "C".

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



3 **Resulting State Bank** With respect to the resulting bank the parties hereto agree as follows

A **Name.** The name of the resulting state bank shall be Republic Bank and the specific location of the proposed main office is 111 Second Avenue, N E, St Petersburg, Florida 33701 A list of each existing and proposed branch office is attached hereto as Exhibit "D"

B **Directors.** The names and addresses of each of the directors of the resulting state bank who will serve until the next meeting of stockholders at which directors are elected is attached hereto as Exhibit "E"

C **Executive Officers.** The names and addresses of each of the executive officers of the resulting state bank is attached hereto as Exhibit "F"

D **Capital Stock.** On March 21, 1996 Republic and Bancshares completed a holding company reorganization and share exchange in which all of Republic's stockholders became stockholders of Bancshares. As of that date Republic had authorized the issuance of ten million (10,000,000) shares of two dollar (\$2.00) par value common stock of which four million one hundred eighty two thousand two hundred and fifty seven (4,182,257) shares were outstanding. In addition, Republic had authorized the issuance of one hundred thousand (100,000) shares of twenty dollar (\$20.00) par value non-cumulative convertible perpetual preferred stock of which seventy five thousand (75,000) shares were outstanding. Each share of preferred stock was convertible at any time into ten shares of common stock. Holders of preferred shares were entitled to receive, when and if declared by the Board of Directors of Republic, non-cumulative cash dividends payable quarterly in arrears at the rate of three dollars and fifty two cents (\$3.52) per share per annum. Unless full dividends on the preferred stock had been declared and paid no dividend or distribution could be declared or paid on any shares of common stock. In the event of any liquidation of Republic, voluntary or involuntary, the holders of preferred stock were entitled to receive out of the assets of Republic available for distribution to shareholders, before any distribution of assets to holders of common stock, liquidating distributions in the amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per share plus dividends declared but unpaid for the then current dividend period. The amount of the retained earnings of Republic as resulting bank will be unchanged (\$75,934,000 as of December 31, 1996).

E. **Trust Powers.** Republic, as the resulting state bank, will have trust powers. Currently Republic's trust powers are inactive with the Florida Department of Banking, subject to activation upon the filing of an appropriate application and notice therefore.

F. **Articles of Incorporation.** The Articles of Incorporation of Republic shall continue to be the Articles of Incorporation of the resulting bank following the effective date of the Merger A copy of the Articles of Incorporation is attached hereto as Exhibit "G"

4 **Terms and Conditions** On the effective date of the Merger, the separate existence of

First Federal shall cease, and, except as otherwise set forth in the Holding Company Merger Agreement, Republic shall succeed to all the rights, privileges, immunities and franchises and all the property real, personal and mixed of First Federal, without the necessity for any separate transfer. Except as otherwise set forth in the Holding Company Merger Agreement, Republic shall then be responsible and liable for all liabilities and obligations of First Federal, and neither the rights of creditors nor any liens on the property of First Federal shall be impaired by the Merger.

5. **Conversion of Shares.** The manner and basis of converting the shares of FFO stock shall be as described in Article 3 of the Holding Company Merger Agreement. Upon consummation of the transaction as outlined in the Holding Company Merger Agreement and immediately thereafter, upon consummation of the Merger, the shares of First Federal stock shall be canceled and no additional consideration shall be issued in exchange therefor.

6. **Bylaws.** The By-laws of Republic shall continue to be its By-laws following the effective date of the Merger.

7. **Directors and Officers.** The directors and officers of Republic, on the effective date of the Merger, shall continue as the directors and officers of Republic for the full unexpired terms of their offices and until their successors have been elected or appointed.

8. **Approval.** This Institutional Merger Agreement shall be submitted for the approval of the sole shareholder of each of the parties hereto in the manner provided by the applicable laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America and shall further be submitted for approval by the Florida Department of Banking, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and such other state or federal regulatory agencies as state or federal law shall require.

9. **Dissenting Stockholders.** In accordance with the provisions of Section 655.414(1)(e) of the Florida Statutes, dissenting stockholders of First Federal are entitled to the rights set forth in Section 658.44(4) and (5) of the Florida Statutes. Because First Federal is owned by a sole shareholder which acts as a holding company, it is not expected that there will be dissenting shareholders. The rights of dissenting shareholders of FFO, are described in Section 3.5 of the Holding Company Merger Agreement.

10. **Nonconforming Activities.** From and after the effective date of the Merger, Republic will not engage in any nonconforming activities, except to the extent necessary to fulfill obligations existing prior to the Merger pursuant to the provisions of Section 655.418(4) of the Florida Statutes.

11. **Effective Date of Merger.** It is the intent of the parties that the Merger be consummated on the Closing Date, as defined in the Holding Company Merger Agreement, immediately upon consummation of the merger of FFO with and into Bancshares and simultaneously therewith; provided however, that at the election of Republic, the Merger may be consummated at such date and time thereafter as it shall elect without the necessity of further

amendment of this Institutional Merger Agreement or additional approval or consent of First Federal, its directors or sole shareholder. It is not a condition precedent to the obligations of Bancshares as set forth in the Holding Company Merger Agreement that the Merger occur simultaneously therewith, but rather the Merger may occur at any time thereafter.

12. **Amendment and Termination.** This Institutional Merger Agreement may be amended or terminated in accordance with the provisions on amendment and termination as provided in the Holding Company Merger Agreement.

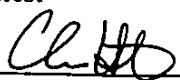
13. **Execution of Agreement.** This Institutional Merger Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart shall constitute an original instrument.

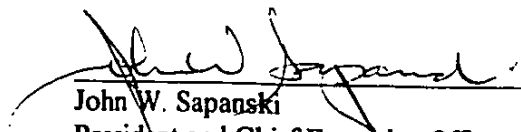
14. **Applicable Law.** This Institutional Merger Agreement shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** this Institutional Merger Agreement is executed on behalf of the parties hereto by their officers, sealed with their corporate seals, and attested by their respective Secretaries pursuant to the authorization of their respective Boards of Directors on the date first above written.

**REPUBLIC BANK**

Attest

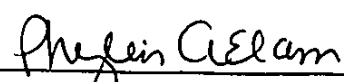
  
Secretary

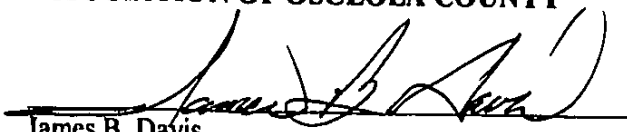
  
John W. Sapanski  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Corporate Seal:

**FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
ASSOCIATION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY**

Attest:

  
Secretary

  
James B. Davis  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Corporate Seal:

Exhibit "A"

**AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

THIS AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER (the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of April 14, 1997, by and between REPUBLIC BANCSHARES, INC. ("Republic"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal office located in St. Petersburg, Florida; and F.F.O. FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. ("FFO"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal office located in St. Cloud, Florida.

**PREAMBLE**

The Boards of Directors of Republic and FFO are of the opinion that the transactions described herein are in the best interests of the parties to this Agreement and their respective stockholders. This Agreement provides for the acquisition of FFO by Republic pursuant to the merger of FFO with and into Republic. At the effective time of such merger, the outstanding shares of the capital stock of FFO shall be converted into shares of the common stock of Republic (except as provided herein). As a result of the merger, FFO's wholly-owned subsidiary, First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Osceola County ("First Federal"), shall become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Republic. It is contemplated that, either simultaneously with or shortly following the merger of FFO into Republic, First Federal will be merged with and into Republic's wholly-owned subsidiary, Republic Bank (the "Bank"). The transactions described in this Agreement are subject to the approvals of the stockholders of Republic and FFO, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC, and the Florida Department of Banking and Finance, and the satisfaction of certain other conditions described in this Agreement. It is the intention of the parties to this Agreement that the Merger for federal income tax purposes shall qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Certain terms used in this Agreement are defined in Section 11.1 of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual warranties, representations, covenants and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

**ARTICLE 1  
TRANSACTIONS AND TERMS OF MERGER**

**1.1 Merger.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, at the Effective Time, FFO shall be merged with and into Republic in accordance with the provisions of Section 607.1101 of the Florida Business Corporation Act ("FBCA") and with the effect provided in Section 607.1106 of the FBCA (the "Merger"). Republic shall be the Surviving Corporation resulting from the Merger and shall continue to be governed by the Laws of the State of Florida. The Merger shall be consummated

pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, which has been approved and adopted by the respective Boards of Directors of FFO and Republic.

**1.2 Time and Place of Closing.** The closing for the Merger (the "Closing") will take place at 9:00 A.M. on the date that the Effective Time occurs (or the immediately preceding day if the Effective Time is earlier than 9:00 A.M.), or at such other time as the parties, acting through their duly authorized officers, may mutually agree. The place of Closing shall be at such location as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

**1.3 Effective Time.** The Merger contemplated by this Agreement shall become effective on the date and at the time the Florida Articles of Merger reflecting the Merger shall become effective with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida (the "Effective Time"). Subject to the terms and conditions hereof, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing by the duly authorized officers of each party, the parties shall use their reasonable efforts to cause the Effective Time to occur on or before the tenth business day (as designated by Republic) following the last to occur of (i) the effective date (including expiration of any applicable waiting period) of the last required Consent of any Regulatory Authority having authority over and approving or exempting the Merger; (ii) the date on which the stockholders of FFO approve the matters relating to this Agreement required to be approved by such stockholders by applicable law; or (iii) the date on which the stockholders of Republic approve the matters relating to this Agreement required to be approved by such stockholders by applicable law or such later date within 30 days thereof as may be specified by Republic.

## **ARTICLE 2 TERMS OF MERGER**

**2.1 Charter.** The Articles of Incorporation of Republic in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the Articles of Incorporation of the Surviving Corporation until otherwise amended or repealed.

**2.2 By-Laws.** The By-Laws of Republic in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the By-Laws of the Surviving Corporation until otherwise amended or repealed.

**2.3 Directors and Officers.** The directors of Republic in office immediately prior to the Effective Time, together with such additional persons as may thereafter be elected, shall serve as the directors of the Surviving Corporation from and after the Effective Time in accordance with the By-Laws of the Surviving Corporation. The officers of Republic in office immediately prior to the Effective Time, together with such additional persons as may thereafter be elected, shall serve as the officers of the

Surviving Corporation from and after the Effective Time in accordance with the By-Laws of the Surviving Corporation.

### **ARTICLE 3 MANNER OF CONVERTING SHARES**

**3.1 Conversion of Shares.** Subject to the provisions of this Article 3, at the Effective Time, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of Republic or FFO, or the stockholders of either of the foregoing, the shares of the constituent corporations shall be converted as follows:

(a) Each share of Republic Common Stock and Republic Preferred Stock and each of the options to purchase Republic Common Stock disclosed in Section 6.3 of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall remain issued and outstanding from and after the Effective Time.

(b) Each share of FFO Common Stock (excluding shares held by any FFO Company or any Republic Company, in each case other than in a fiduciary capacity or as a result of debts previously contracted or shares held by stockholders who perfect their dissenters' rights of appraisal) issued and outstanding at the Effective Time shall cease to be outstanding and shall be converted into and exchanged for 0.29 of a share of Republic Common Stock (the "Exchange Ratio"). In the event that, as of the Closing Date, the product of the Exchange Ratio and the Market Value of the Republic Common Stock is below \$4.10, then the Exchange Ratio will be increased to maintain such product at \$4.10. In no event, however, shall the Exchange Ratio be greater than 0.30.

(c) Each of the options to purchase FFO Common Stock issued and outstanding at the Effective Time, which options were granted pursuant to FFO's customary arrangements consistent with past practice and are disclosed in Section 3.1(c) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum (the "FFO options"), shall cease to be outstanding and shall be converted into and exchanged for the Right to acquire Republic Common Stock on substantially the same terms applicable to the FFO options. The number of shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the exercise of such options shall equal the number of shares of FFO Common Stock subject to such options multiplied by the Exchange Ratio, provided that no fractions of shares of Republic Common Stock shall be issued, and the number of shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued upon the exercise of the FFO options, if a fractional share exists, shall equal the number of whole shares obtained by rounding to the nearest whole number, giving account to such fraction. The exercise price for the acquisition of Republic Common Stock shall be the exercise price for each share of FFO Common Stock subject to such options divided by the Exchange Ratio, adjusted as appropriate

for any rounding to whole shares that may be done. As soon as reasonably practicable after the Effective Time, Republic shall file a registration statement on Form S-3 or Form S-8, or an amendment thereto, as the case may be (or any successor or other appropriate forms), with respect to the shares of Republic Common Stock subject to such options and shall use its reasonable efforts to maintain the effectiveness of such registration statements (and maintain the current status of the prospectus or prospectuses contained therein) for so long as such options remain outstanding. With respect to those individuals who subsequent to the Merger will be subject to the reporting requirements under Section 16(a) of the 1934 Act, where applicable, Republic shall administer the FFO stock option plan assumed pursuant to this Section in a manner that complies with Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act to the extent the FFO stock option plan complied with such rule prior to the Merger.

(d) Provided that the stock option plan pursuant to which the FFO options were issued permits such practice, holders of the FFO options will also have the right to convert their options directly into shares of Republic Common Stock. The number of shares of Republic Common Stock that will be issuable upon conversion of an FFO option will be (i) the difference between the Market Value of one share of FFO Common Stock and the exercise price of the FFO option divided by (ii) the Market Value of one share of Republic Common Stock, such quotient then multiplied by the number of shares of FFO Common Stock subject to the FFO option.

**3.2 Anti-Dilution Provisions.** In the event Republic changes the number of shares of Republic Common Stock issued and outstanding prior to the Effective Time as a result of a stock split, stock dividend or similar recapitalization with respect to such stock and the record date therefor (in the case of a stock dividend) or the effective date thereof (in the case of a stock split or similar recapitalization for which a record date is not established) shall be prior to the Effective Time, the Exchange Ratio and the amounts set forth in Sections 3.1(b) and 9.3(d) shall be proportionately adjusted.

**3.3 Shares Held by FFO or Republic.** Each of the shares of FFO Common Stock held by any FFO Company or by any Republic Company, in each case other than in a fiduciary capacity or as a result of debts previously contracted, shall be canceled and retired at the Effective Time and no consideration shall be issued in exchange therefor.

**3.4 Fractional Shares.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, each holder of shares of FFO Common Stock exchanged pursuant to the Merger who would otherwise have been entitled to receive a fraction of a share of Republic Common Stock (after taking into account all certificates delivered by such holder) shall receive, in lieu thereof, cash (without interest) in an amount equal to such fractional part of a share of Republic Common Stock multiplied by the Market Value of one share of Republic Common Stock at the Closing Date. The Market Value of one share of Republic Common Stock at the Closing Date shall be determined by calculating

the average of the closing prices of Republic Common Stock on the Nasdaq NMS (as reported by The Wall Street Journal or, if not reported thereby, any other authoritative source selected by Republic) on each of the twenty (20) consecutive trading days ending on the third business day immediately preceding the Closing Date. No such holder will be entitled to dividends, voting rights or any other rights as a stockholder in respect of any fractional shares.

**3.5 Dissenting Stockholders.** Any holder of shares of FFO Common Stock who perfects such holder's dissenters' rights of appraisal in accordance with and as contemplated by Section 607.1302 of the FBCA shall be entitled to receive the value of such shares in cash as determined pursuant to such provision of Law; provided, that no such payment shall be made to any dissenting stockholder unless and until such dissenting stockholder has complied with the applicable provisions of the FCBA and has surrendered to FFO or Republic the certificate or certificates representing the shares for which payment is being made. In the event that after the Effective Time a dissenting stockholder of FFO fails to perfect, or effectively withdraws or loses, such holder's right to appraisal and of payment for such holder's shares, Republic shall issue and deliver the consideration to which such holder of shares of FFO Common Stock is entitled under this Article 3 (without interest) upon surrender by such holder of the certificate or certificates representing the shares of FFO Common Stock held by such holder.

#### **ARTICLE 4 EXCHANGE OF SHARES**

**4.1 Exchange Procedures.** Promptly after the Effective Time, Republic and FFO shall cause the exchange agent selected by Republic (the "Exchange Agent") to mail to the former stockholders of FFO appropriate transmittal materials (which shall specify that delivery shall be effected, and risk of loss and title to the certificates theretofore representing shares of FFO Common Stock shall pass, only upon proper delivery of such certificates to the Exchange Agent). After the Effective Time, each holder of shares of FFO Common Stock (other than shares to be canceled pursuant to Section 3.3 of this Agreement or as to which dissenters' rights have been perfected as provided in Section 3.5 of this Agreement) issued and outstanding at the Effective Time shall surrender the certificate or certificates representing such shares to the Exchange Agent and shall promptly upon surrender thereof receive in exchange therefor the consideration provided in Section 3.1 of this Agreement, together with all undelivered dividends or distributions in respect of such shares (without interest thereon) pursuant to Section 4.2 of this Agreement. To the extent required by Section 3.4 of this Agreement, each holder of shares of FFO Common Stock issued and outstanding at the Effective Time also shall receive, upon surrender of the certificate or certificates representing such shares, cash in lieu of any fractional share of Republic Common Stock to which such holder may be otherwise entitled (without interest). Republic shall not be obligated to deliver the consideration to which any former holder of FFO



Common Stock is entitled as a result of the Merger until such holder surrenders such holder's certificate or certificates representing the shares of FFO Common Stock for exchange as provided in this Section 4.1, or otherwise complies with the procedures of the Exchange Agent with respect to lost, stolen or destroyed certificates. The certificate or certificates of FFO Common Stock so surrendered shall be duly endorsed as the Exchange Agent may require. Any other provision of this Agreement notwithstanding, neither Republic, FFO nor the Exchange Agent shall be liable to a holder of FFO Common Stock for any amounts paid or property delivered in good faith to a public official pursuant to any applicable abandoned property law.

**4.2 Rights of Former FFO Stockholders.** At the Effective Time, the stock transfer books of FFO shall be closed as to holders of FFO Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time and no transfer of FFO Common Stock by any such holder shall thereafter be made or recognized. Until surrendered for exchange in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.1 of this Agreement, each certificate theretofore representing shares of FFO Common Stock (other than shares to be canceled pursuant to Section 3.3 of this Agreement or as to which dissenters' rights have been perfected as provided in Section 3.5 of this Agreement) shall from and after the Effective Time represent for all purposes only the right to receive the consideration provided in Sections 3.1 and 3.4 of this Agreement in exchange therefor. To the extent permitted by law, former stockholders of record of FFO shall be entitled to vote after the Effective Time at any meeting of Republic stockholders the number of whole shares of Republic Common Stock into which their respective shares of FFO Common Stock are converted, regardless of whether such holders have exchanged their certificates representing FFO Common Stock for certificates representing Republic Common Stock in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. Whenever a dividend or other distribution is declared by Republic on the Republic Common Stock, the record date for which is at or after the Effective Time, the declaration shall include dividends or other distributions on all shares issuable pursuant to this Agreement, but no dividend or other distribution payable to the holders of record of Republic Common Stock as of any time subsequent to the Effective Time shall be delivered to the holder of any certificate representing shares of FFO Common Stock issued and outstanding at the Effective Time until such holder surrenders such certificate for exchange as provided in Section 4.1 of the Agreement. However, upon surrender of such FFO Common Stock certificate, both the Republic Common Stock certificate (together with all such undelivered dividends or other distributions without interest) and cash payments to be paid for fractional share interests (without interest) shall be delivered and paid with respect to each share represented by such certificate.

## **ARTICLE 5 REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF FFO**

FFO hereby represents and warrants to Republic:

**5.1 Organization, Standing and Power.** FFO is a corporation duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under the Laws of the State of Florida, and has the corporate power and authority to carry on its business as now conducted and to own, lease and operate its material Assets. FFO is duly qualified or licensed to transact business as a foreign corporation in good standing in the states of the United States and foreign jurisdictions where the character of its Assets or the nature or conduct of its business requires it to be so qualified or licensed, except for such jurisdictions in which the failure to be so qualified or licensed is not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

**5.2 Authority; No Breach by Agreement.**

(a) FFO has the corporate power and authority necessary to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein, including the Merger, have been duly and validly authorized by all necessary corporate action in respect thereof on the part of FFO, subject to the approval of this Agreement by the required vote of the holders of outstanding shares of FFO Common Stock, which is the only stockholder vote required for approval of this Agreement and consummation of the Merger by FFO. Subject to such requisite stockholder approval, this Agreement represents a legal, valid and binding obligation of FFO, enforceable against FFO in accordance with its terms (except in all cases as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and except that the availability of the equitable remedy of specific performance or injunctive relief is subject to the discretion of the court before which any proceeding may be brought).

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by FFO, nor the consummation by FFO of the transactions contemplated hereby, nor compliance by FFO with any of the provisions hereof, will (i) conflict with or result in a breach of any provision of FFO's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; or (ii) constitute or result in a Default under, or require any Consent pursuant to, or result in the creation of any Lien on any Asset of any FFO Company under, any Contract or Permit of any FFO Company, where such Default or Lien, or any failure to obtain such Consent, is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; or (iii) subject to receipt of the requisite Consents referred to in Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement, violate any Law or Order applicable to any FFO Company or any of their respective material Assets.

(c) Other than in connection or compliance with the provisions of the Securities Laws, applicable state corporate and securities laws, and rules of the NASD, and other than Consents required from Regulatory Authorities, and other than notices to or filings with the Internal Revenue Service or the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to any employee benefit plans, or under the HSR Act, and other than Consents, filings or notifications which, if not obtained or made, are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, no notice to, filing with, or Consent of, any public body or authority is necessary for the consummation by FFO of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated in this Agreement.

### **5.3 Capital Stock.**

(a) The authorized capital stock of FFO consists of (i) 20,000,000 shares of FFO Common Stock, of which 8,446,266 shares are issued and outstanding as of the date of this Agreement and not more than 8,623,816 shares will be issued and outstanding at the Effective Time and (ii) 2,500,000 shares of FFO preferred stock, none of which are issued and outstanding as of the date of this Agreement. All of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of FFO are duly and validly issued and outstanding and are fully paid and nonassessable under the FBCA. None of the outstanding shares of capital stock of FFO has been issued in violation of any preemptive rights of the current or past stockholders of FFO.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 5.3(a) of this Agreement and Section 3.1(c) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, there are no shares of capital stock or other equity securities of FFO outstanding and no outstanding Rights relating to the capital stock of FFO.

**5.4 FFO Subsidiaries.** FFO has disclosed in Section 5.4 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum all of the FFO Subsidiaries as of the date of this Agreement. FFO or one of its Subsidiaries owns all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of each FFO Subsidiary. No equity securities of any FFO Subsidiary are or may become required to be issued (other than to another FFO Company) by reason of any Rights, and there are no Contracts by which any FFO Subsidiary is bound to issue (other than to another FFO Company) additional shares of its capital stock or Rights or by which any FFO Company is or may be bound to transfer any shares of the capital stock of any FFO Subsidiary (other than to another FFO Company). There are no Contracts relating to the rights of any FFO Company to vote or to dispose of any shares of the capital stock of any FFO Subsidiary. All of the shares of capital stock of each FFO Subsidiary held by an FFO Company are fully paid and nonassessable under the applicable corporation law of the jurisdiction in which such Subsidiary is incorporated or organized and are owned by the FFO Company free and clear of any Lien. Each FFO Subsidiary is either a Federal savings association or a corporation, and is duly organized, validly existing and (as to corporations) in good standing under

the Laws of the jurisdiction in which it is incorporated or organized, and has the corporate power and authority necessary for it to own, lease and operate its Assets and to carry on its business as now conducted. Each FFO Subsidiary is duly qualified or licensed to transact business as a foreign corporation in good standing in the states of the United States and foreign jurisdictions where the character of its Assets or the nature or conduct of its business requires it to be so qualified or licensed, except for such jurisdictions in which the failure to be so qualified or licensed is not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO. Each FFO Subsidiary that is a depository institution is an "insured institution" as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and applicable regulations thereunder, and the deposits in which are insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

#### **5.5 SEC Filings; Financial Statements.**

(a) FFO and First Federal have filed and made available to Republic all forms, reports and documents required to be filed by FFO and First Federal with the SEC and/or the Office of Thrift Supervision since December 31, 1992 (collectively, the "FFO SEC Reports"). The FFO SEC Reports (i) at the time filed, complied in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act, as the case may be; and (ii) did not at the time they were filed (or if amended or superseded by a filing prior to the date of this Agreement, then on the date of such filing) contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated in such FFO SEC Reports or necessary in order to make the statements in such FFO SEC Reports, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. None of FFO's Subsidiaries is required to file any forms, reports or other documents with the SEC.

(b) Each of the FFO Financial Statements (including, in each case, any related notes) contained in the FFO SEC Reports, including any FFO SEC Reports filed after the date of this Agreement until the Effective Time, complied as to form in all material respects with the applicable published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto, was prepared in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except as may be indicated in the notes to such financial statements, or in the case of unaudited statements, as permitted by Form 10-Q of the SEC), and fairly presented the consolidated financial position of FFO and its Subsidiaries as at the respective dates and the consolidated results of its operations and cash flows for the periods indicated, except that the unaudited interim financial statements were or are subject to normal and recurring year-end adjustments which were not or are not expected to be material in amount.

**5.6 Absence of Undisclosed Liabilities.** No FFO Company has any Liabilities that are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, except Liabilities which are accrued or reserved against in the consolidated balance sheets of FFO as of December 31, 1996 included in

the FFO Financial Statements or reflected in the notes thereto. No FFO Company has incurred or paid any Liability since December 31, 1996, except for such Liabilities incurred or paid in the ordinary course of business consistent with past business practice and which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

**5.7 Absence of Certain Changes or Events.** Since December 31, 1996, except as disclosed in the FFO Financial Statements delivered prior to the date of this Agreement or in Section 5.7 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, (i) there have been no events, changes or occurrences which have had, or are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; and (ii) the FFO Companies have not taken any action, or failed to take any action, prior to the date of this Agreement, which action or failure, if taken after the date of this Agreement, would represent or result in a material breach or violation of any of the covenants and agreements of FFO provided in Article 7 of this Agreement.

**5.8 Tax Matters.**

(a) All tax returns required to be filed by or on behalf of any of the FFO Companies have been timely filed or requests for extensions have been timely filed and granted and have not expired for periods ended on or before December 31, 1995, and on or before the date of the most recent fiscal year end immediately preceding the Effective Time, except to the extent that all such failures to file, taken together, are not reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, and all Tax Returns filed are complete and accurate in all material respects. All Taxes shown on filed Tax Returns have been paid. There is no audit examination, deficiency or refund Litigation with respect to any Taxes that is reasonably likely to result in a determination that would have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, except as reserved against in the FFO Financial Statements delivered prior to the date of this Agreement. All Taxes and other Liabilities due with respect to completed and settled examinations or concluded Litigation have been paid.

(b) None of the FFO Companies has executed an extension or waiver of any statute of limitations on the assessment or collection of any Tax due that is currently in effect.

(c) Adequate provision for any Taxes due or to become due for any of the FFO Companies for the period or periods through and including the date of the respective FFO Financial Statements has been made and is reflected on such FFO Financial Statements.

(d) Deferred Taxes of the FFO Companies have been adequately provided for in the FFO Financial Statements.

(e) Each of the FFO Companies is in compliance with, and its records contain all information and documents (including properly completed IRS Forms W-9) necessary to comply with, all applicable information reporting and tax withholding requirements under federal, state and local tax laws, and such records identify with specificity all accounts subject to backup withholding under Section 3406 of the Internal Revenue Code, except for such instances of noncompliance and such omissions as are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(f) None of the FFO Companies has made any payments, is obligated to make any payments, or is a party to any contract, agreement or other arrangement that could obligate it to make any payments that would be disallowed as a deduction under Section 280G or 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(g) There are no Liens with respect to Taxes upon any of the Assets of the FFO Companies.

(h) There has not been an ownership change, as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 382(g), of the FFO Companies that occurred during or after any taxable period after December 31, 1994 in which the FFO Companies incurred a net operating loss that carries over to any Taxable Period ending after December 31, 1994.

(i) No FFO Company has filed any consent under Section 341(f) of the Internal Revenue Code concerning collapsible corporations.

(j) All material elections with respect to Taxes affecting the FFO Companies as of the date of this Agreement have been or will be timely made as set forth in Section 5.8(j) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum. After the date hereof, no election with respect to Taxes will be made without the prior written consent of Republic, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

(k) No FFO Company has or has had a permanent establishment in any foreign country, as defined in any applicable tax treaty or convention between the United States and such foreign country.

(l) Except as set forth in Section 5.8(l) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, to the Knowledge of FFO, no FFO Company has received any notice, oral or written, of any substantial increase or proposed substantial increase in the assessed valuation of or Tax rates applicable to any of its Assets from the assessed values or tax rates in effect as of the date hereof.

## **5.9 Assets.**

(a) Except as disclosed in Section 5.9(a) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, the FFO Companies have good and marketable title, free and clear of all Liens, to all of their respective Assets. All tangible properties used in the businesses of the FFO Companies are in good condition, reasonable wear and tear excepted, and are usable in the ordinary course of business consistent with FFO's past practices. All Assets which are material to FFO's business on a consolidated basis, held under leases or subleases by any of the FFO Companies, are held under valid contracts enforceable in accordance with their respective terms (except as enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and except that the availability of the equitable remedy of specific performance or injunctive relief is subject to the discretion of the court before which any proceedings may be brought), and each such Contract is in full force and effect.

(b) Set forth in Section 5.9(b) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum is a list of the insurance policies for each of the FFO Companies ("Policies"). Each of the Policies constitutes a valid contract enforceable in accordance with its terms (except as enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and except that the availability of the equitable remedy of specific performance or injunctive relief is subject to the discretion of the court before which any proceedings may be brought), and each such Policy is in full force and effect. None of the FFO Companies has received notice from any insurance carrier that (i) any such Policy will be canceled or that coverage thereunder will be reduced or eliminated; or (ii) premium costs with respect to such Policies will be substantially increased. Except as set forth in Section 5.9(b) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, there are presently no claims pending under such Policies and no notices have been given by an FFO Company under such Policies. The Assets of the FFO Companies include all assets required to operate the business of the FFO Companies as presently conducted.

## **5.10 Environmental Matters.**

(a) Except as disclosed in Section 5.10(a) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, to the Knowledge of FFO, each FFO Company, its Participation Facilities and its Loan Properties are and have been in compliance with all Environmental Laws, except for violations which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(b) Except as disclosed in Section 5.10(b) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, there is no Litigation pending or, to the Knowledge of FFO, threatened before any court, governmental agency or authority or other forum in which any FFO Company or any of its Loan Properties or Participation Facilities (or any FFO

Company in respect of any such Loan Property or Participation Facility) has been or, with respect to threatened Litigation, may be named as a defendant or potentially responsible party (i) for alleged noncompliance (including by any predecessor) with any Environmental Law; or (ii) relating to the release into the environment of any Hazardous Material, whether or not occurring at, on, under or involving any of its Loan Properties or Participation Facilities, except for such Litigation pending or threatened that is not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(c) Except as disclosed in Section 5.10(c) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, to the Knowledge of FFO, there have been no releases of Hazardous Material in, on, under or affecting any Participation Facility or Loan Property of an FFO Company, except such as are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

**5.11 Compliance with Laws.** FFO is duly registered as a savings and loan holding company under the HOLA. Each FFO Company has in effect all Permits necessary for it to own, lease or operate its material Assets and to carry on its business as now conducted, except for those Permits the absence of which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, and there has occurred no Default under any such Permit, other than Defaults which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO. None of the FFO Companies:

(a) is in violation of any Laws, Orders or Permits applicable to its business or employees conducting its business, except for violations which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; and

(b) has received any notification or communication from any agency or department of federal, state or local government or any Regulatory Authority or the staff thereof (i) asserting that any FFO Company is not in compliance with any of the Laws or Orders which such governmental authority or Regulatory Authority enforces, where such noncompliance is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; (ii) threatening to revoke any Permits, the revocation of which is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; or (iii) requiring any FFO Company to enter into or consent to the issuance of a cease and desist order, formal agreement, directive, commitment or memorandum of understanding, or to adopt any Board resolution or similar undertaking, which restricts materially the conduct of its business, or in any manner relates to its capital adequacy, its credit or reserve policies, its management or the payment of dividends.



**5.12 Labor Relations.** Except as disclosed in Section 5.12 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, no FFO Company is the subject of any Litigation asserting that it or any other FFO Company has committed an unfair labor practice (within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act or comparable state law) or seeking to compel it or any other FFO Company to bargain with any labor organization as to wages or conditions of employment, nor is there any strike or other labor dispute involving any FFO Company, pending or threatened, or to the knowledge of FFO, is there any activity involving any FFO Company's employees seeking to certify a collective bargaining unit or engaging in any other organization activity.

**5.13 Employee Benefit Plans.**

(a) FFO has disclosed in Section 5.13 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, and has delivered or made available to Republic prior to the execution of this Agreement copies and summary plan descriptions in each case of all pension, retirement, profit-sharing, deferred compensation, stock option, employee stock ownership, severance pay, vacation, bonus or other incentive plans, all other written employee programs, arrangements or agreements, all medical, vision, dental or other health plans, all life insurance plans and all other employee benefit plans or fringe benefit plans, including "employee benefit plans" as that term is defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA, currently adopted, maintained by, sponsored in whole or in part by, or contributed to by any FFO Company or an ERISA Affiliate (as defined below) thereof for the benefit of employees, retirees, dependents, spouses, directors, independent contractors or other beneficiaries and under which employees, retirees, dependents, spouses, directors, independent contractors or other beneficiaries are eligible to participate (collectively, the "FFO Benefit Plans"). Any of the FFO Benefit Plans which is an "employee pension benefit plan," as that term is defined in Section 3(2) of ERISA, is referred to herein as an "FFO ERISA Plan." Each FFO ERISA Plan which is also a "defined benefit plan" (as defined in Section 414(j) of the Internal Revenue Code) is referred to herein as an "FFO Pension Plan." No FFO Pension Plan is or has been a multiemployer plan within the meaning of Section 3(37) of ERISA.

(b) All FFO Benefit Plans are in compliance with the applicable terms of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code, and any other applicable laws the breach or violation of which are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, and each FFO ERISA Plan which is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code has received a favorable determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service, and FFO is not aware of any circumstances likely to result in revocation of any such favorable determination letter. To the knowledge of FFO, no FFO Company has engaged in a transaction with respect to any FFO Benefit Plan that, assuming the taxable period of such transaction expired as of the date hereof, would subject any FFO Company to a tax imposed by either Section 4975 or 4976 of the Internal Revenue Code or Section 502(i) of ERISA in

amounts which are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(c) No FFO Pension Plan has any "unfunded current liability," as that term is defined in Section 302(d)(8)(A) of ERISA, and the fair market value of the assets of any such plan exceeds the plan's "benefit liabilities," as that term is defined in Section 4001(a)(16) of ERISA, when determined under actuarial factors that would apply if the plan terminated in accordance with all applicable legal requirements. Since the date of the most recent actuarial valuation, there has been (i) no material change in the financial position of any FFO Pension Plan; (ii) no change in the actuarial assumptions with respect to any FFO Pension Plan; and (iii) no increase in benefits under any FFO Pension Plan as a result of plan amendments or changes in applicable law which is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO or materially adversely affect the funding status of any such plan. Neither any FFO Pension Plan nor any "single-employer plan," within the meaning of Section 4001(a)(15) of ERISA, currently or formerly maintained by any FFO Company, or the single-employer plan of any entity which is considered one employer with FFO under Section 4001 of ERISA or Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code or Section 302 of ERISA (whether or not waived) (an "ERISA Affiliate") has an "accumulated funding deficiency" within the meaning of Section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or Section 302 of ERISA, which is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on FFO. No FFO Company has provided or is required to provide security to any FFO Pension Plan or to any single-employer plan of an ERISA Affiliate pursuant to Section 401(a)(29) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(d) Within the six-year period preceding the Effective Time, no liability under Subtitle C or D of Title IV of ERISA has been or is expected to be incurred by any FFO Company with respect to any ongoing, frozen or terminated single-employer plan or the single-employer plan of any ERISA Affiliate, which liability is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on FFO. No FFO Company has incurred any withdrawal liability with respect to a multiemployer plan under Subtitle B of Title IV of ERISA (regardless of whether based on contributions of an ERISA Affiliate), which liability is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on FFO. No notice of a "reportable event," within the meaning of Section 4043 of ERISA for which the 30-day reporting requirement has not been waived, has been required to be filed for any FFO Pension Plan or by any ERISA Affiliate within the 12-month period ending on the date hereof.

(e) Other than those disclosed in Section 5.13(e) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, no FFO Company has any liability for retiree health and life benefits under any of the FFO Benefit Plans and there are no restrictions on the rights of such FFO Company to amend or terminate any such Plan without incurring any liability thereunder, which liability is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(f) Except for the acceleration of vesting of FFO options under the FFO stock option plan as disclosed in Section 5.13(f) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will (i) result in any payment (including severance, unemployment compensation, golden parachute or otherwise) becoming due to any director or any employee of any FFO Company from any FFO Company under any FFO Benefit Plan or otherwise; (ii) increase any benefits otherwise payable under any FFO Benefit Plan; or (iii) result in any acceleration of the time of payment or vesting of any such benefit, where such payment, increase or acceleration is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(g) The actuarial present values of all accrued deferred compensation entitlements (including entitlements under any executive compensation, supplemental retirement or employment agreement) of employees and former employees of any FFO Company and their respective beneficiaries, other than entitlements accrued pursuant to funded retirement plans subject to the provisions of Section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or Section 302 of ERISA, have been fully reflected on the FFO Financial Statements to the extent required by and in accordance with GAAP.

(h) There are no Material claims pending (or, to the Knowledge of FFO, threatened in a writing which is under review, or has been reviewed within twelve (12) months prior to the date of this Agreement, by counsel to FFO or FFO's Director of Human Resources) by or on behalf of any FFO Benefit Plan, by any employee or beneficiary covered under any FFO Benefit Plan, or otherwise concerning the operation or administration of any FFO Benefit Plan (other than routine claims for benefits).

**5.14 Material Contracts.** Except as otherwise reflected in the FFO Financial Statements or as disclosed in Section 5.14 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, none of the FFO Companies, nor any of their respective Assets, businesses or operations is a party to or is bound or affected by or receives benefits under (i) any employment, severance, terminating, consulting or retirement contract providing for aggregate payments to any Person in any calendar year in excess of \$100,000; (ii) any contract relating to the borrowing of money by any FFO Company or the guarantee by any FFO Company of any such obligation (other than contracts evidencing deposit liabilities, purchases of federal funds, fully-secured repurchase agreements and Federal Home Loan Bank advances of depository institution subsidiaries, trade payables and contracts relating to borrowings or guarantees made in the ordinary course of business); and (iii) any other contract or amendment thereto that would be required to be filed as an exhibit to a Form 10-K filed by FFO with the SEC as of the date of this Agreement that has not been filed as an exhibit to FFO's Form 10-K filed for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995, or in another SEC document and identified to Republic (together with all contracts referred to in Section 5.9 and 5.13(a) of this Agreement, the "FFO Contracts"). With respect to each FFO Contract: (i) the contract is in full force and

effect; (ii) no FFO Company is in default thereunder, other than defaults which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; (iii) no FFO Company has repudiated or waived any material provision of any such contract; and (iv) no other party to any such contract is, to the knowledge of FFO, in default in any respect, other than defaults which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO or has repudiated or waived any material provision thereunder. Except for Federal Home Loan Bank advances, all of the indebtedness of any FFO Company for money borrowed is prepayable at any time by such FFO Company without penalty or premium.

#### **5.15 Legal Proceedings.**

(a) Except as disclosed in Section 5.15(a) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, there is no Litigation instituted or pending or, to the Knowledge of FFO, threatened (or unasserted but considered probable of assertion and which if asserted would have at least a reasonable probability of an unfavorable outcome) against any FFO Company, or against any Asset, employee benefit plan, interest or right of any of them, that is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO, nor are there any Orders of any Regulatory Authorities, other governmental authorities, or arbitrators outstanding against any FFO Company, that are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO.

(b) Section 5.15(b) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum includes a summary report of all Litigation as of the date of this Agreement to which any FFO Company is a party and which names an FFO Company as a defendant or cross-defendant and where the maximum exposure is estimated to be \$100,000 or more.

**5.16 Reports.** Since January 1, 1992, or the date of organization if later, each FFO Company has timely filed all reports and statements, together with any amendments required to be made with respect thereto, that it was required to file with any Regulatory Authorities (except, in the case of state securities authorities, failures to file which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO). As of their respective dates, each of such reports and documents, including the financial statements, exhibits and schedules thereto, complied in all material respects with all applicable Laws. As of its respective date, each such report and document did not, in all material respects, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements made therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

**5.17 Statements True and Correct.** None of the information supplied or to be supplied by any FFO Company or any Affiliate thereof for inclusion in the Registration Statement to be filed by Republic with the SEC will, when the Registration

Statement becomes effective, be false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. None of the information supplied or to be supplied by any FFO Company or any Affiliate thereof for inclusion in the Proxy Statements to be mailed to Republic's and FFO's stockholders in connection with their respective Stockholders' Meetings, and any other documents to be filed by an FFO Company or any Affiliate thereof with the SEC or any other Regulatory Authority in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, will, at the respective time such documents are filed, and with respect to the Proxy Statements, when first mailed to the stockholders of Republic and FFO, be false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading or, in the case of the Proxy Statements or any amendment thereof or supplement thereto, at the time of the Stockholders' Meetings, be false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or omit to state any material fact necessary to correct any statement in any earlier communication with respect to the solicitation of any proxy for the Stockholders' Meetings. All documents that any FFO Company or any Affiliate thereof is responsible for filing with any Regulatory Authority in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby will comply as to form in all material respects with the provisions of applicable Law.

**5.18 Tax and Regulatory Matters.** Except as specifically contemplated by this Agreement, no FFO Company or any Affiliate thereof has taken or agreed to take any action or has any Knowledge of any fact or circumstance that is reasonably likely to (i) prevent the transactions contemplated hereby, including the Merger, from qualifying as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; or (ii) materially impede or delay receipt of any Consents of Regulatory Authorities referred to in Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement or result in the imposition of a condition or restriction of the type referred to in the last sentence of such Section.

**5.19 Charter Provisions.** Each FFO Company has taken all action so that the entering into of this Agreement and the consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement do not and will not result in the grant of any Rights to any person under the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or other governing instruments of any FFO Company or restrict or impair the ability of Republic or any of its Subsidiaries to vote or otherwise to exercise the rights of a stockholder with respect to shares of any FFO Company that may be directly or indirectly acquired or controlled by it.

**5.20 Derivatives Contracts.** Except as disclosed in Section 5.20 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum, neither FFO nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or has agreed to enter into an exchange-traded or over-the-counter swap, forward, future, option, cap, floor or collar financial contract, or any other interest rate or foreign currency protection contract not included on its balance sheet which is a financial derivative contract (including various combinations thereof).

## ARTICLE 6

### REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF REPUBLIC

Republic hereby represents and warrants to FFO as follows:

**6.1 Organization, Standing and Power.** Republic is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Florida and has the corporate power and authority to carry on its business as now conducted and to own, lease and operate its material Assets. Republic is duly qualified or licensed to transact business as a foreign corporation in good standing in the states of the United States and foreign jurisdictions where the character of its Assets or the nature or conduct of its business requires it to be so qualified or licensed, except for such jurisdictions in which the failure to be so qualified or licensed is not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic.

**6.2 Authority; No Breach by Agreement.**

(a) Republic has the corporate power and authority necessary to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein, including the Merger, have been duly and validly authorized by all necessary corporate action in respect thereof on the part of Republic. This Agreement represents a legal, valid and binding obligation of Republic, enforceable against Republic in accordance with its terms (except in all cases as such enforceability may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and except that the availability of the equitable remedy of specific performance or injunctive relief is subject to the discretion of the court before which any proceeding may be brought).

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by Republic nor the consummation by Republic of the transactions contemplated hereby nor compliance by Republic with any of the provisions hereof will (i) conflict with or result in a breach of any provision of Republic's Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws; or (ii) constitute or result in a Default under, or require any Consent pursuant to or result in the creation of any Lien on any Asset of any Republic Company under any Contract or Permit of any Republic Company, where such Default or Lien or any failure to obtain such Consent is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic; or (iii) subject to receipt of the requisite Consents referred to in Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement, violate any Law or Order applicable to any Republic Company or any of their respective material Assets.

(c) Other than in connection or compliance with the provisions of the Securities Laws, applicable state corporate and securities laws and rules of the NASD and other than Consents required from Regulatory Authorities, and other than notices to or filings with the Internal Revenue Service or the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to any employee benefit plans, or under the HSR Act and other than Consents filings or notifications which, if not obtained or made, are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic, no notice to, filing with or Consent of any public body or authority is necessary for the consummation by Republic of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated in this Agreement.

**6.3 Capital Stock.** The authorized capital stock of Republic consists of 20,000,000 shares of Republic Common Stock, of which 4,183,507 shares were issued and outstanding as of the date of this Agreement, and 100,000 shares of Republic Preferred Stock, of which 75,000 shares were issued and outstanding as of the date of this Agreement. All of the issued and outstanding shares of Republic Common Stock and Republic Preferred Stock are, and all of the shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued in exchange for shares of FFO Common Stock upon consummation of the Merger, when issued in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, will be, duly and validly issued and outstanding and fully paid and nonassessable under the FBCA. None of the outstanding shares of Republic Common Stock has been, and none of the shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued in exchange for shares of FFO Common Stock upon consummation of the Merger will be, issued in violation of any preemptive rights of the current or past stockholders of Republic. Except as set forth above in this section or as disclosed in Section 6.3 of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum, there are no shares of capital stock or other equity securities of Republic outstanding and no outstanding Rights relating to the capital stock of Republic.

**6.4 Republic Subsidiaries.** Republic or one of its Subsidiaries owns all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of each Republic Subsidiary. No equity securities of any Republic Subsidiary are or may become required to be issued (other than to another Republic Company) by reason of any Rights, and there are no Contracts by which any Republic Subsidiary is bound to issue (other than to another Republic Company) additional shares of its capital stock or Rights or by which any Republic Company is or may be bound to transfer any shares of the capital stock of any Republic Subsidiary (other than to another Republic Company). There are no Contracts relating to the rights of any Republic Company to vote or to dispose of any shares of the capital stock of any Republic Subsidiary. All of the shares of capital stock of each Republic Subsidiary held by a Republic Company are fully paid and nonassessable under the applicable corporation law of the jurisdiction in which such Subsidiary is incorporated or organized and are owned by the Republic Company free and clear of any Lien. Each Republic Subsidiary is either a bank or a corporation, and is duly organized, validly existing, and (as to corporations) in good standing under the Laws of the jurisdiction in which it is incorporated or organized, and has the corporate

power and authority necessary for it to own, lease and operate its Assets and to carry on its business as now conducted. Each Republic Subsidiary is duly qualified or licensed to transact business as a foreign corporation in good standing in the States of the United States and foreign jurisdictions where the character of its Assets or the nature or conduct of its business requires it to be so qualified or licensed, except for such jurisdictions in which the failure to be so qualified or licensed is not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic. Each Republic Subsidiary that is a depository institution is an "insured institution" as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and applicable regulations thereunder, and the deposits in which are insured by the Bank Insurance Fund or Savings Association Insurance Fund.

#### **6.5 SEC Filings; Financial Statements.**

(a) Republic and the Bank have filed and made available to FFO all forms, reports and documents required to be filed by Republic and the Bank with the FDIC and/or the SEC since December 31, 1993 (collectively, the "Republic SEC Reports"). The Republic SEC Reports (i) at the time filed, complied in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act, as the case may be; and (ii) did not at the time they were filed (or if amended or superseded by a filing prior to the date of this Agreement, then on the date of such filing) contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated in such Republic SEC Reports or necessary in order to make the statements in such Republic SEC Reports, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. None of Republic's Subsidiaries is required to file any forms, reports or other documents with the SEC.

(b) Each of the Republic Financial Statements (including, in each case, any related notes) contained in the Republic SEC Reports, including any Republic SEC Reports filed after the date of this Agreement until the Effective Time, complied as to form in all material respects with the applicable published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto, was prepared in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except as may be indicated in the notes to such financial statements or, in the case of unaudited statements, as permitted by Form 10-Q of the SEC), and fairly presented the consolidated financial position of Republic and its Subsidiaries as at the respective dates and the consolidated results of its operations and cash flows for the periods indicated, except that the unaudited interim financial statements were or are subject to normal and recurring year-end adjustments which were not or are not expected to be material in amount.

**6.6 Absence of Undisclosed Liabilities.** No Republic Company has any Liabilities that are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic, except Liabilities which are accrued or reserved against in the consolidated balance sheets of Republic as of December 31, 1996 included



in the Republic Financial Statements or reflected in the notes thereto. Except as disclosed in Section 6.6 of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum, no Republic Company has incurred or paid any Liability since December 31, 1996, except for such Liabilities incurred or paid in the ordinary course of business consistent with past business practice and which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic.

**6.7 Absence of Certain Changes or Events.** Since December 31, 1996, except as disclosed in the Republic Financial Statements delivered prior to the date of this Agreement or in Section 6.7 of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum, (i) there have been no events, changes or occurrences which have had, or are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic; and (ii) the Republic Companies have not taken any action, or failed to take any action, prior to the date of this Agreement, which action or failure, if taken after the date of this Agreement, would represent or result in a material breach or violation of any of the covenants and agreements of Republic provided in Article 7 of this Agreement.

**6.8 Tax Matters.**

(a) All Tax Returns required to be filed by or on behalf of any of the Republic Companies have been timely filed or requests for extensions have been timely filed and granted and have not expired for periods ended on or before December 31, 1995, and on or before the date of the most recent fiscal year end immediately preceding the Effective Time, except to the extent that all such failures to file, taken together, are not reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Republic, and all Tax Returns filed are complete and accurate in all material respects. All Taxes shown on filed Tax Returns have been paid. There is no audit examination, deficiency or refund Litigation with respect to any Taxes that is reasonably likely to result in a determination that would have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic, except as reserved against in the Republic Financial Statements delivered prior to the date of this Agreement. All Taxes and other Liabilities due with respect to completed and settled examinations or concluded Litigation have been paid.

(b) Adequate provision for any Taxes due or to become due for any of the Republic Companies for the period or periods through and including the date of the respective Republic Financial Statements has been made and is reflected on such Republic Financial Statements.

(c) Deferred Taxes of the Republic Companies have been adequately provided for in the Republic Financial Statements.

## **6.9 Environmental Matters.**

(a) To the Knowledge of Republic, each Republic Company, its Participation Facilities and its Loan Properties are and have been in compliance with all Environmental Laws, except for violations which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic.

(b) There is no Litigation pending or, to the Knowledge of Republic, threatened before any court, governmental agency or authority or other forum in which any Republic Company or any of its Loan Properties or Participation Facilities (or any Republic Company in respect of any such Loan Property or Participation Facility) has been or, with respect to threatened Litigation, may be named as a defendant or potentially responsible party (i) for alleged noncompliance (including by any predecessor) with any Environmental Law; or (ii) relating to the release into the environment of any Hazardous Material, whether or not occurring at, on, under or involving any of its Loan Properties or Participation Facilities, except for such Litigation pending or threatened that is not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic.

(c) To the Knowledge of Republic, there have been no releases of Hazardous Material in, on, under or affecting any Participation Facility or Loan Property of a Republic Company, except such as are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic.

**6.10 Compliance with Laws.** Republic is duly registered as a bank holding company under the BHC Act. Each Republic Company has in effect all Permits necessary for it to own, lease or operate its material Assets and to carry on its business as now conducted, except for those Permits the absence of which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic, and there has occurred no Default under any such Permit, other than Defaults which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic. No Republic Company:

(a) is in violation of any Laws, Orders or Permits applicable to its business or employees conducting its business, except for violations which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic; and

(b) has received any notification or communication from any agency or department of federal, state or local government or any Regulatory Authority or the staff thereof (i) asserting that any Republic Company is not in compliance with any of the Laws or Orders which such governmental authority or Regulatory Authority enforces, where such noncompliance is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the

aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic; (ii) threatening to revoke any Permits, the revocation of which is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic; or (iii) requiring any Republic Company to enter into or consent to the issuance of a cease and desist order, formal agreement, directive, commitment or memorandum of understanding, or to adopt any Board resolution or similar undertaking, which restricts materially the conduct of its business, or in any manner relates to its capital adequacy, its credit or reserve policies, its management or the payment of dividends.

#### **6.11 Legal Proceedings.**

(a) Except as set forth in Section 6.11 of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum, there is no Litigation instituted or pending or, to the Knowledge of Republic, threatened (or unasserted but considered probable of assertion and which if asserted would have at least a reasonable probability of an unfavorable outcome) against any Republic Company, or against any Asset, employee benefit plan, interest or right of any of them, that is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic, nor are there any Orders of any Regulatory Authorities, other governmental authorities or arbitrators outstanding against any Republic Company, that are reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic.

(b) Section 6.11(b) of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum includes a summary report of all Litigation as of the date of this Agreement to which any Republic Company is a party and which names a Republic Company as a defendant or cross-defendant and where the maximum exposure is estimated to be \$250,000 or more.

**6.12 Reports.** Since January 1, 1992, or the date of organization if later, each Republic Company has timely filed all reports and statements, together with any amendments required to be made with respect thereto, that it was required to file with Regulatory Authorities (except, in the case of state securities authorities, failures to file which are not reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic). As of their respective dates, each of such reports and documents, including the financial statements, exhibits and schedules thereto, complied in all material respects with all applicable Laws. As of its respective date, each such report and document did not, in all material respects, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements made therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

**6.13 Statements True and Correct.** None of the information supplied or to be supplied by any Republic Company or any Affiliate thereof for inclusion in the Registration Statement to be filed by Republic with the SEC will, when the Registration

Statement becomes effective, be false or misleading with respect to any material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. None of the information supplied or to be supplied by any Republic Company or any Affiliate thereof for inclusion in the Proxy Statements to be mailed to Republic's and FFO's stockholders in connection with their respective Stockholders' Meetings, and any other documents to be filed by any Republic Company or any Affiliate thereof with the SEC or any other Regulatory Authority in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby will, at the respective times such documents are filed, and with respect to the Proxy Statements, when first mailed to the stockholders of Republic and FFO, be false or misleading with respect to any material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading or, in the case of the Proxy Statements or any amendment thereof or supplement thereto, at the time of the Stockholders' Meetings, be false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or omit to state any material fact necessary to correct any statement in any earlier communication with respect to the solicitation of any proxy for the Stockholders' Meetings. All documents that any Republic Company or any Affiliate thereof is responsible for filing with any Regulatory Authority in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby will comply as to form in all material respects with the provisions of applicable Law.

**6.14 Tax and Regulatory Matters.** Except as specifically contemplated by this Agreement, no Republic Company or any Affiliate thereof has taken or agreed to take any action or has any Knowledge of any fact or circumstance that is reasonably likely to (i) prevent the transactions contemplated hereby, including the Merger, from qualifying for treatment as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; or (ii) materially impede or delay receipt of any Consents of Regulatory Authorities referred to in Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement or result in the imposition of a condition or restriction of the type referred to in the last sentence of such Section.

**6.15 Derivatives Contracts.** Except as disclosed in Section 6.15 of the Republic Disclosure Memorandum, neither Republic nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or has agreed to enter into an exchange-traded or over-the-counter swap, forward, future, option, cap, floor or collar financial contract, or any other interest rate or foreign currency protection contract not included on its balance sheet which is a financial derivative contract (including various combinations thereof).

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS PENDING CONSUMMATION**

**7.1 Affirmative Covenants of FFO.** Unless the prior written consent of Republic shall have been obtained and, except as otherwise expressly contemplated

herein, FFO shall and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries to (i) operate its business only in the usual, regular and ordinary course; (ii) preserve intact its business organization and Assets and maintain its rights and franchises; (iii) use its reasonable efforts to maintain its current employee relationships; and (iv) take no action which would (a) adversely affect the ability of any Party to obtain any Consents required for the transactions contemplated hereby without imposition of a condition or restriction of the type referred to in the last sentence of Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement; or (b) adversely affect the ability of any Party to perform its covenants and agreements under this Agreement.

**7.2 Negative Covenants of FFO.** From the date of this Agreement until the earlier of the Effective Time or the termination of this Agreement, FFO covenants and agrees that it will not do or agree or commit to do, or permit any of its Subsidiaries to do or agree or commit to do, any of the following without the prior written consent of an authorized officer of Republic:

(a) amend the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or other governing instruments of any FFO Company; or

(b) incur any additional debt obligation or other obligation for borrowed money (other than indebtedness of an FFO Company to another FFO Company) in excess of an aggregate of \$50,000 (for the FFO Companies on a consolidated basis) except in the ordinary course of the business of FFO Subsidiaries consistent with past practices (which shall include, for FFO Subsidiaries that are depository institutions, creation of deposit liabilities, purchases of federal funds, advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank, and entry into repurchase agreements fully secured by U.S. government or agency securities), or impose or suffer the imposition on any Asset of any FFO Company of any Lien or permit any such Lien to exist (other than in connection with deposits, repurchase agreements, bankers acceptances, "treasury tax and loan" accounts established in the ordinary course of business, the satisfaction of legal requirements in the exercise of trust powers, and Liens in effect as of the date hereof that are disclosed in the FFO Disclosure Memorandum); or

(c) repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire or exchange (other than exchanges in the ordinary course under employee benefit plans), directly or indirectly, any shares, or any securities convertible into any shares, of the capital stock of any FFO Company, or declare or pay any dividend or make any other distribution in respect of FFO's capital stock; or

(d) except for this Agreement or pursuant to the exercise of outstanding FFO options set forth in Section 3.1(c) of the FFO Disclosure

Memorandum, issue, sell, pledge, encumber, authorize the issuance of, enter into any Contract to issue, sell, pledge, encumber or authorize the issuance of, or otherwise permit to become outstanding, any additional shares of FFO Common Stock or any other capital stock of any FFO Company, or any stock appreciation rights, or any option, warrant, conversion or other Right to acquire any such stock or any security convertible into any such stock; or

(e) adjust, split, combine or reclassify any capital stock of any FFO Company or issue or authorize the issuance of any other securities in respect of or in substitution for shares of FFO Common Stock, or sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or otherwise encumber (x) any shares of capital stock of any FFO Subsidiary (unless any such shares of stock are sold or otherwise transferred to another FFO Company) or (y) any Asset other than in the ordinary course of business for reasonable and adequate consideration; or

(f) except for purchases of U.S. Treasury securities or U.S. Government agency securities, which in either case have maturities or average lives of five years or less or are variable rate in nature, purchase any securities or make any material investment, either by purchase of stock or securities, contributions to capital, Asset transfers, or purchase of any Assets, in any Person other than a wholly-owned FFO Subsidiary, or otherwise acquire direct or indirect control over any Person, other than in connection with (i) foreclosures in the ordinary course of business; (ii) acquisitions of control by a depository institution Subsidiary in its fiduciary capacity; or (iii) the creation of new wholly-owned Subsidiaries organized to conduct or continue activities otherwise permitted by this Agreement; or

(g) grant any increase in compensation or benefits to the employees or officers of any FFO Company, except in accordance with past practice disclosed in Section 7.2(g) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum or as required by Law; pay any severance or termination pay or any bonus other than pursuant to written policies or written Contracts in effect on the date of this Agreement; except as authorized by Section 8.13 of this Agreement, enter into or amend any severance agreements with officers of any FFO Company; grant any material increase in fees or other increases in compensation or other benefits to directors of any FFO Company except in accordance with past practice disclosed in Section 7.2(g) of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum; or voluntarily accelerate the vesting of any stock options or other stock-based compensation or employee benefits; or

(h) except as authorized by Section 8.13 of this Agreement, enter into or amend any employment Contract between any FFO Company and any Person (unless such amendment is required by Law) that the FFO Company does not have the unconditional right to terminate without Liability (other than Liability for services already rendered), at any time on or after the Effective Time; or

(i) adopt any new employee benefit plan of any FFO Company or make any material change in or to any existing employee benefit plans of any FFO Company other than any such change that it required by Law or that, in the opinion of counsel, is necessary or advisable to maintain the tax qualified status of any such plan; or

(j) make any significant change in any Tax or accounting methods or systems of internal accounting controls, except as may be appropriate to conform to changes in Tax Laws or regulatory accounting requirements or GAAP; or

(k) commence any Litigation other than in accordance with past practice or settle any Litigation involving any Liability of any FFO Company for material money damages or restrictions upon the operations of any FFO Company; or

(l) except in the ordinary course of business, modify, amend or terminate any material Contract or waive, release, compromise or assign any material Contract or waive, release, compromise or assign any material rights or claims.

**7.3 Covenants of Republic.** From the date of this Agreement until the earlier of the Effective Time or the termination of this Agreement, Republic covenants and agrees that it shall (i) continue to conduct its business and the business of its Subsidiaries in a manner designed in its reasonable judgment, to enhance the long-term value of the Republic Common Stock and the business prospects of the Republic Companies; and (ii) take no action which would (a) materially adversely affect the ability of any Party to obtain any Consents required for the transactions contemplated hereby without imposition of a condition or restriction of the type referred to in the last sentence of Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement; or (b) materially adversely affect the ability of any Party to perform its covenants and agreements under this Agreement; provided, that the foregoing shall not prevent any Republic Company from discontinuing or disposing of any of its Assets or business which, in the aggregate, are not Material to the financial condition or results of operations of Republic and if such action is, in the judgment of Republic, desirable in the conduct of the business of Republic and its Subsidiaries. In addition, within 60 days following the date of this

Agreement, Republic shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that its financial press releases are released to and available on the Dow Jones News Wire.

**7.4 Adverse Changes in Condition.** Each party agrees to give written notice promptly to the other party upon becoming aware of the occurrence or impending occurrence of any event or circumstance relating to it or any of its Subsidiaries which (i) is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on it; or (ii) would cause or constitute a material breach of any of its representations, warranties or covenants contained herein, and to use its reasonable efforts to prevent or promptly to remedy the same.

**7.5 Reports.** Each Party and its Subsidiaries shall file all reports required to be filed by it with Regulatory Authorities between the date of this Agreement and the Effective Time and shall deliver to the other Party copies of all such reports promptly after the same are filed. If financial statements are contained in any such reports filed with the SEC, such financial statements will fairly present the consolidated financial position of the entity filing such statements as of the dates indicated and the consolidated results of operations, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows for the periods then ended in accordance with GAAP (subject in the case of interim financial statements to normal recurring year-end adjustments that are not material). As of their respective dates, such reports filed with the SEC will comply in all material respects with the Securities Laws and will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. Any financial statements contained in any other reports to another Regulatory Authority shall be prepared in accordance with Laws applicable to such reports.

## **ARTICLE 8 ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS**

**8.1 Registration Statement; Proxy Statement; Stockholder Approval.** As soon as reasonably practicable after execution of this Agreement, Republic shall file the Registration Statement with the SEC and shall use its reasonable efforts to cause the Registration Statement to become effective under the 1933 Act and take any action required to be taken under the applicable state Blue Sky or Securities Laws in connection with the issuance of the shares of Republic Common Stock upon consummation of the Merger. FFO shall furnish all information concerning it and the holders of its capital stock as Republic may reasonably request in connection with such action. The Parties shall call Stockholders' Meetings, to be held as soon as reasonably practicable after the Registration Statement is declared effective by the SEC, for the purpose of voting upon approval of this Agreement and such other related matters as they deem appropriate. In connection with the Stockholders' Meetings, (i) the Parties shall mail the Proxy Statements to their respective stockholders; (ii) the Parties shall



furnish to each other all information concerning them that they may reasonably request in connection with such Proxy Statements; (iii) the Boards of Directors of the Parties shall recommend (subject to compliance with their fiduciary duties as advised by counsel and as to FFO, provided the Market Value (substituting, for purposes of this section, the phrase "date of the Proxy Statement" for the phrase "Closing Date" in the calculation of Market Value as defined in Section 11.1 of this Agreement) of the Republic Common Stock as of the date of FFO's Proxy Statement is not less than \$13.50) to their respective stockholders the approval of the matters submitted for approval; and (iv) the Boards of Directors and officers of the Parties shall (subject to compliance with their fiduciary duties as advised by counsel and, as to FFO, provided the Market Value of the Republic Common Stock as of the date of FFO's Proxy Statement is not less than \$13.50) use their reasonable efforts to obtain such stockholders' approval.

**8.2 Exchange Listing.** Republic shall use its reasonable efforts to list, prior to the Effective Time, on the Nasdaq NMS, subject to official notice of issuance, the shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued to the holders of FFO Common Stock pursuant to the Merger.

**8.3 Applications.** Republic shall promptly prepare and file, and FFO shall cooperate in the preparation and, where appropriate, filing of, applications with all Regulatory Authorities having jurisdiction over the transactions contemplated by this Agreement seeking the requisite Consents necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Republic shall provide FFO with an opportunity to review drafts of all such applications and with copies of all such applications filed and all correspondence to and from the Regulatory Authorities with respect to the applications.

**8.4 Filings with State Offices.** Upon the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement, Republic and FFO shall execute and file the Florida Articles of Merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida in connection with the Closing.

**8.5 Agreement as to Efforts to Consummate.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, each Party agrees to use, and to cause its Subsidiaries to use, its reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions and to do or cause to be done all things necessary, proper or advisable under applicable Laws to consummate and make effective, as soon as reasonably practicable after the date of this Agreement, the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including using its reasonable best efforts to lift or rescind any Order adversely affecting its ability to consummate the transactions contemplated herein and to cause to be satisfied the conditions referred to in Article 9 of this Agreement; provided that nothing herein shall preclude either Party from exercising its rights under this Agreement. Each Party shall use, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries to use, its reasonable best efforts to obtain

all Consents necessary or desirable for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

#### **8.6 Investigation and Confidentiality.**

(a) Prior to the Effective Time, each Party shall keep the other Party advised of all material developments relevant to its business and to consummation of the Merger and shall permit the other Party to make or cause to be made such investigation of the business and properties of its and its Subsidiaries and of their respective financial and legal conditions as the other Party reasonably requests, provided that such investigation shall be reasonably related to the transactions contemplated hereby and shall not interfere unnecessarily with normal operation. No investigation by a Party shall affect the representations and warranties of the other Party.

(b) Each Party shall, and shall cause its advisers and agents to, maintain the confidentiality of all confidential information furnished to it by the other Party concerning its and its Subsidiaries' businesses, operations and financial positions ("Confidential Information") and shall not use such information for any purpose except in furtherance of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Each Party shall maintain the confidentiality of all Confidential Information obtained in connection with this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby unless (i) such information becomes publicly available through no fault of such Party, or was, is or becomes available to that Party from a source other than the other Party or its Representatives, which source was itself not bound by a confidentiality agreement with, or other contractual, legal or fiduciary obligation of confidentiality with respect to that information; or (ii) the furnishing or use of such information is required by proper judicial, administrative or other legal proceeding, provided that the other Party is promptly notified in writing of such request, unless such notification is not, in the opinion of counsel, permitted by Law. Each Party and its Representatives will hold and maintain all Confidential Information in confidence and will not disclose to any third Party or permit any third Party access to any Confidential Information or the substance thereof; provided that a Party may disclose Confidential Information to such of its Representatives who need to know such information in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby. If this Agreement is terminated prior to the Effective Time, each Party shall promptly return or certify the destruction of all documents and copies thereof, and all work papers containing Confidential Information received from the other Party.

(c) Each Party agrees to give the other Party notice as soon as practicable after any determination by it of any fact or occurrence relating to the other Party which it has discovered through the course of its investigation and which represents, or is reasonably likely to represent, either a material breach of any

representation, warranty, covenant or agreement of the other Party or which has had or is reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on the other Party.

**8.7 Press Releases.** Prior to the Effective Time, Republic and FFO shall mutually agree upon and jointly issue any press release or other public disclosure materially related to this Agreement or any other transaction contemplated hereby; provided that nothing in this Section 8.7 shall be deemed to prohibit any Party from making any disclosure which its counsel deems necessary or advisable in order to satisfy such Party's disclosure obligations imposed by Law.

**8.8 Certain Actions.** Except with respect to this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, no FFO Company nor any Affiliate thereof nor any Representatives thereof retained by any FFO Company shall directly or indirectly solicit any Acquisition Proposal by any Person. Except to the extent necessary to comply with the fiduciary duties of FFO's Board of Directors as advised by counsel, no FFO Company or any Affiliate or Representative thereof shall furnish any non-public information that it is not legally obligated to furnish, negotiate with respect to, or enter into any Contract with respect to, any Acquisition Proposal, but FFO may communicate information about such an Acquisition Proposal to its stockholders if and to the extent that it is required to do so in order to comply with its legal obligations as advised by counsel. FFO shall promptly notify Republic orally and in writing in the event that it receives any inquiry or proposal relating to any such transaction. FFO shall (i) immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing activities, discussions or negotiations with any Persons conducted heretofore with respect to any of the foregoing; and (ii) direct and use its reasonable efforts to cause all of its Representatives not to engage in any of the foregoing.

**8.9 Tax Treatment.** Each of the Parties undertakes and agrees to use its reasonable efforts to cause the Merger to, and to take no action which would cause the Merger not to, qualify for treatment as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code for federal income tax purposes.

**8.10 State Takeover Laws.** Each FFO Company shall take all necessary steps to exempt the transactions contemplated by this Agreement from any applicable state or federal "moratorium", "control share", "fair price", "business combination" or other anti-takeover statute or regulation.

**8.11 Charter Provisions.** Each FFO Company shall take all necessary action to ensure that the entering into of this Agreement and the consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby do not and will not result in the grant of any Rights to any Person under the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or other governing instruments of any FFO Company or restrict or impair the ability of Republic or any of its Subsidiaries to vote, or otherwise to exercise the rights of a

stockholder with respect to, shares of any FFO Company that may be directly or indirectly acquired or controlled by it.

**8.12 Agreement of Affiliates.** FFO has disclosed in Section 8.12 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum each Person whom it reasonably believes is an "affiliate" of FFO for purposes of Rule 145 under the 1933 Act. FFO shall use its reasonable efforts to cause each such Person to deliver to Republic not later than 30 days prior to the Effective Time, a written agreement, in substantially the form of Exhibit A, providing that such Person will not sell, pledge, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the shares of FFO Common Stock held by such Person except as contemplated by such agreement or by this Agreement and will not sell, pledge, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the shares of Republic Common Stock to be received by such Person upon consummation of the Merger except in compliance with applicable provisions of the 1933 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, and Republic shall be entitled to place restrictive legends upon certificates for shares of Republic Common Stock issued to affiliates of FFO pursuant to this Agreement to enforce the provisions of this Section 8.12. Republic shall not be required to maintain the effectiveness of the Registration Statement under the 1933 Act for the purposes of resale of Republic Common Stock by such affiliates.

**8.13 Employee Benefits and Contracts.**

(a) Following the Effective Time, Republic shall provide generally to officers and employees of the FFO Companies, who at or after the Effective Time become employees of a Republic Company, employee benefits under employee benefit plans (other than stock option or other plans involving the potential issuance of Republic Common Stock except as set forth in this Section 8.13), on terms and conditions which when taken as a whole are substantially similar to those currently provided by the Republic Companies to their similarly situated officers and employees. For purposes of participation and vesting (but not accrual of benefits) under such employee benefit plans, (i) service under any qualified defined benefit plans of FFO shall be treated as service under Republic's qualified defined benefit plans, (ii) service under any qualified defined contribution plans of FFO shall be treated as service under Republic's qualified defined contribution plans, and (iii) service under any other employee benefit plans maintained by FFO shall be treated as service under the corresponding Republic employee benefit plan, if any.

(b) Immediately following the Effective Time, Republic shall enter into an employment agreement with Mr. James B. Davis, President of FFO, designating Mr. Davis "President, Central Florida Division" of the Bank. Such agreement shall be in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit B. In addition, FFO and First Federal shall be authorized to enter into stay agreements, the form of which is attached to this Agreement as Exhibit C, with up to 12 employees of FFO and First Federal. Such stay

agreements shall be assumed by Republic in accordance with the terms thereof immediately following the Effective Time.

(c) Republic shall honor on terms reasonably agreed upon by the Parties all employment, severance, consulting, and other compensation Contracts either authorized by Section 8.13(b) of this Agreement or disclosed in Section 8.13 of the FFO Disclosure Memorandum between any FFO Company and any current or former director, officer or employee thereof, and all provisions for vested benefits or other vested amounts earned or accrued through the Effective Time under the FFO Benefit Plans.

#### **8.14 Indemnification.**

(a) Republic shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the present and former directors, officers, employees, and agents of the FFO Companies (each, an "Indemnified Party") against all Liabilities arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or prior to the Effective Time (including the transactions contemplated by this Agreement) to the full extent permitted under Florida Law and by FFO's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as in effect on the date hereof, including provisions relating to advances of expenses incurred in the defense of any Litigation. Without limiting the foregoing, in any case in which approval by Republic is required to effectuate any indemnification, Republic shall direct, at the election of the Indemnified Party, that the determination of any such approval shall be made by independent counsel mutually agreed upon between Republic and the Indemnified Party.

(b) If Republic or any of its successors or assigns shall consolidate with or merge into any other Person and shall not be the continuing or surviving Person of such consolidation or merger or shall transfer all or substantially all of its Assets to any Person, then and in each case, proper provision shall be made so that the successors and assigns of Republic shall assume the obligations set forth in this Section 8.14.

(c) The provisions of this Section 8.14 are intended to be for the benefit of, and shall be enforceable by, each Indemnified Party and his or her heirs and representatives.

**8.15 Certain Modifications.** Republic and FFO shall consult with respect to their loan, litigation, and real estate valuation policies and practices (including loan classifications and levels of reserves) and FFO shall make such modifications or changes to its policies and practices, if any, prior to the Effective Time, as may be mutually agreed upon. Republic and FFO also shall consult with respect to the character, amount, and timing of restructuring and Merger-related expense charges to be taken by each of the Parties in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and shall take such charges in accordance with GAAP, prior to the Effective Time, as may be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. Neither Party's representations,

warranties, and covenants contained in this Agreement shall be deemed to be inaccurate or breached in any respect as a consequence of any modifications or charges undertaken solely on account of this Section 8.15.

## ARTICLE 9

### CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO OBLIGATIONS TO CONSUMMATE

**9.1 Conditions to Obligations of Each Party.** The respective obligations of each Party to perform this Agreement and to consummate the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby are subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions, unless waived by both Parties pursuant to Section 11.6 of this Agreement:

(a) **Stockholder Approval.** The stockholders of FFO and Republic, respectively, shall have approved this Agreement, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby, including the Merger, as and to the extent required by Law, by the provisions of any governing instruments or by the rules of the NASD.

(b) **Regulatory Approvals.** All Consents of, filings and registration with and notifications to all Regulatory Authorities required for consummation of the Merger shall have been obtained or made and shall be in full force and effect and all waiting periods required by Law shall have expired. No Consent obtained from any Regulatory Authority which is necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby shall be conditioned or restricted in a manner (including requirements relating to the raising of additional capital or the disposition of Assets) which in the reasonable judgment of the Board of Directors of Republic or FFO would so materially adversely impact the economic or business benefits of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement that, had such condition or requirement been known, Republic or FFO would not, in its reasonable judgement, have entered into this Agreement.

(c) **Consents and Approvals.** Each Party shall have obtained any and all Consents required for consummation of the Merger (other than those referred to in Section 9.1(b) of this Agreement) or for the preventing of any Default under any Contract or Permit of such Party which, if not obtained or made, is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on such Party. No Consent so obtained which is necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby shall be conditioned or restricted in a manner which in the reasonable judgment of the Board of Directors of Republic or FFO would so materially adversely impact the economic or business benefits of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement so as to render inadvisable the consummation of the Merger.

(d) **Legal Proceedings.** No court or governmental or Regulatory Authority of competent jurisdiction shall have enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced, or entered any Law or Order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent) or taken

any other action which prohibits, restricts or makes illegal consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(e) **Registration Statement.** The Registration Statement shall have become effective under the 1933 Act, no stop orders suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall have been issued, no action, suit, proceeding or investigation by the SEC to suspend the effectiveness thereof shall have been initiated and be continuing, and all necessary approvals under state Securities Laws or the 1933 Act relating to the issuance or trading of the shares of Republic Common Stock issuable pursuant to the Merger shall have been received.

(f) **Tax Matters.** Each Party shall have received a written opinion or opinions from Holland & Knight LLP in a form reasonably satisfactory to such Parties (the "Tax Opinion"), to the effect that (i) the Merger will constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and (ii) the exchange in the Merger of FFO Common Stock for Republic Common Stock will not give rise to gain or loss to the stockholders of FFO with respect to such exchange (except to the extent of any cash received). In rendering such Tax Opinion, such counsel shall be entitled to rely upon representations of officers of FFO and Republic reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to such counsel.

**9.2 Conditions to Obligations of Republic.** The obligations of Republic to perform this Agreement and consummate the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby are subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions, unless waived by Republic pursuant to Section 11.6(a) of this Agreement:

(a) **Representations and Warranties.** For purposes of this Section 9.2(a), the accuracy of the representations and warranties of FFO set forth in this Agreement shall be assessed as of the date of this Agreement and as of the Effective Time with the same effect as though all such representations and warranties had been made on and as of the Closing Date (provided that representations and warranties which are confined to a specified date shall speak only as of such date). The representations and warranties of FFO set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement shall be true and correct (except for inaccuracies which are de minimis in amount). The representations and warranties of FFO set forth in Sections 5.18, 5.19, and 5.20 of this Agreement shall be true and correct in all Material respects. There shall not exist in this Agreement (including the representations and warranties set forth in Sections 5.3, 5.18, 5.19, and 5.20) any inaccuracies such that the aggregate effect of such inaccuracies has, or is reasonably likely to have, a Material Adverse Effect on FFO; provided that, for purposes of this sentence only, those representations and warranties which are qualified by reference to "Material" or "Material Adverse Effect" or to the "Knowledge" of FFO or to a matter being "known" by FFO shall be deemed not to include such qualifications.

(b) **Performance of Agreements and Covenants.** Each and all of the agreements and covenants of FFO to be performed and complied with pursuant to this Agreement and the other agreements contemplated hereby prior to the Effective Time shall have been duly performed and complied with in all material respects.

(c) **Certificates.** FFO shall have delivered to Republic (i) a certificate, dated as of the Closing Date and signed on its behalf by its duly authorized officers, to the effect that the conditions of its obligations set forth in Sections 9.2(a) and 9.2(b) of this Agreement have been satisfied, and (ii) certified copies of resolutions duly adopted by FFO's Board of Directors and stockholders evidencing the taking of all corporate action necessary to authorize the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby, all in such reasonable detail as Republic and its counsel shall request.

(d) **Legal Opinion.** Republic shall have received the opinions of Smith, Mackinnon, Greeley, Bowdoin & Edwards, P.A., counsel to FFO, dated as of the Closing Date or such earlier date as may be agreed to by the Parties, with respect to such matters related to FFO and the Merger as Republic may reasonably request. As to certain matters of fact, such counsel may rely on certificates of public officials and senior officers of FFO knowledgeable and having responsibility with respect to the matters covered by such certificate.

**9.3 Conditions to Obligations of FFO.** The obligations of FFO to perform this Agreement and consummate the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby are subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions, unless waived by FFO pursuant to Section 11.6(b) of this Agreement.

(a) **Representations and Warranties.** For purposes of this Section 9.3(a), the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Republic set forth in this Agreement shall be assessed as of the date of this Agreement and as of the Effective Time with the same effect as though all such representations and warranties had been made on and as of the Closing Date (provided that representations and warranties which are confined to a specified date shall speak only as of such date). The representations and warranties of Republic set forth in Section 6.3 of this Agreement shall be true and correct (except for inaccuracies which are de minimus in amount). The representations and warranties of Republic set forth in Sections 6.14 and 6.15 of this Agreement shall be true and correct in all Material respects. There shall not exist in this Agreement any inaccuracies such that the aggregate effect of such inaccuracies has, or is reasonably likely to have, a Material Adverse Effect on Republic; provided that, for purposes of this sentence only, those representations and warranties which are qualified by references or "Material" to "Material Adverse Effect" or to the "Knowledge" of Republic or to a matter being "known" by Republic shall be deemed not to include such qualifications.



(b) **Performance of Agreements and Covenants.** Each and all of the agreements and covenants of Republic to be performed and complied with pursuant to this Agreement and the other agreements contemplated hereby prior to the Effective Time, including but not limited to Republic's covenant set forth in Section 7.3 hereof to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that its financial press releases are released to and available on the Dow Jones News Wire, shall have been duly performed and complied with in all material respects.

(c) **Certificates.** Republic shall have delivered to FFO (i) a certificate, dated as of the Closing Date and signed on its behalf by its duly authorized officers, to the effect that the conditions of its obligations set forth in Sections 9.3(a) and 9.3(b) of this Agreement have been satisfied, and (ii) certified copies of resolutions duly adopted by Republic's Board of Directors and stockholders evidencing the taking of all corporate action necessary to authorize the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby, all in such reasonable detail as FFO and its counsel shall request.

(d) **Market Value.** The Market Value of the Republic Common Stock as of the Closing Date shall be not less than \$13.50.

(e) **Legal Opinion.** FFO shall have received the opinions of Holland & Knight LLP, special counsel to Republic, dated as of the Closing Date or such earlier date as may be agreed to by the Parties, with respect to such matters related to Republic and the Merger as FFO may reasonably request. As to certain matters of fact, such counsel may rely on certificates of public officials and senior officers of Republic knowledgeable and having responsibility with respect to the matters covered by such certificate.

(f) **Nasdaq NMS Listing.** Republic shall have received notification that the shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued to the holders of FFO Common Stock pursuant to the Merger shall be listed on the Nasdaq NMS upon their issuance.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **TERMINATION**

**10.1 Termination.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, and notwithstanding the approval of this Agreement by the stockholders of FFO, this Agreement may be terminated and the Merger abandoned at any time prior to the Effective Time:

(a) By mutual consent of the Board of Directors of Republic and the Board of Directors of FFO; or

(b) By the Board of Directors of either Party (provided that (i) the terminating Party is not then in breach of any representation or warranty contained in this Agreement under the applicable standard set forth in Section 9.2(a) of this Agreement in the case of FFO and Section 9.3(a) of this Agreement in the case of Republic or in material breach of any covenant or other agreement contained in this Agreement, and (ii) in the case of a termination by the Board of Directors of Republic, the Market Value (substituting, for purposes of this Section 10.1, the phrase "on the date of termination" for the phrase "Closing Date" in the calculation of "Market Value" as defined in Section 11.1 of this Agreement) of the Republic Common Stock is not less than \$13.50) in the event of an inaccuracy of any representation or warranty of the other Party contained in this Agreement which cannot be or has not been cured within 30 days after the giving of written notice to the breaching Party of such inaccuracy and which inaccuracy would provide the terminating Party the ability to refuse to consummate the Merger under the applicable standard set forth in Section 9.2(a) of this Agreement in the case of FFO and Section 9.3(a) of this Agreement in the case of Republic; or

(c) By the Board of Directors of either Party in the event of a material breach by the other Party of any covenant or agreement contained in this Agreement which cannot be or has not been cured within 30 days after the giving of written notice to the breaching Party of such breach (provided that, in the case a termination by the Board of Directors of Republic, the Market Value of the Republic Common Stock is not less than \$13.50); or

(d) By the Board of Directors of either Party in the event (i) any Consent of any Regulatory Authority required for consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby shall have been denied by final nonappealable action of such authority or if any action taken by such authority is not appealed within the time limit for appeal, or (ii) the stockholders of FFO or Republic fail to vote their approval of the matters submitted for the approval by such stockholders at the Stockholders' Meetings where the transactions were presented to such stockholders for approval and voted upon (provided that such denial or failure, as the case may be, is not caused by any willful breach of this Agreement by the Party electing to terminate pursuant to this Section 10.1(d)); or

(e) By the Board of Directors of either Party in the event that the Merger shall not have been consummated by November 1, 1997 (provided that the failure to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby on or before such date is not caused by any willful breach of this Agreement by the Party electing to terminate pursuant to this Section 10.1(e)); or

(f) By the Board of Directors of either Party (provided that (i) the terminating Party is not then in breach of any representation or warranty contained

in this Agreement under the applicable standard set forth in Section 9.2(a) of this Agreement in the case of FFO and Section 9.3(a) of this Agreement in the case of Republic or in material breach of any covenant or other agreement contained in this Agreement, and (ii) in the case of a termination by the Board of Directors of Republic, the Market Value of the Republic Common Stock is not less than \$13.50) in the event that any of the conditions precedent to the obligations of such Party to consummate the Merger cannot be satisfied or fulfilled by the date specified in Section 10.1(e) of this Agreement.

**10.2 Effect of Termination.** In the event of the termination and abandonment of this Agreement pursuant to Section 10.1 of this Agreement, this Agreement shall become void and have no effect, except that (i) the provisions of this Section 10.2 and Article 11 and Section 8.6(b) of this Agreement shall survive any such termination and abandonment, and (ii) a termination pursuant to Section 10.1(b), 10.1(c), 10.1(d), 10.1(e) or 10.1(f) of this Agreement shall not relieve the breaching Party from Liability for an uncured willful breach of a representation, warranty, covenant, or agreement giving rise to such termination.

**10.3 Non-Survival of Representations and Covenants.** The respective representations, warranties, obligations, covenants, and agreements of the Parties shall not survive the Effective Time except this Section 10.3 and Articles 2, 3, 4, and 11 and Sections 8.12, 8.13 and 8.14 of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **11.1 Definitions.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided herein, the capitalized terms set forth below shall have the following meanings:

"Acquisition Proposal" with respect to a Party shall mean any tender offer or exchange offer or any proposal for a merger, acquisition of all of the stock or assets of, or other business combination involving such Party or any of its Subsidiaries or the acquisition of a substantial equity interest in, or a substantial portion of the assets of, such Party or any of its Subsidiaries.

"Affiliate" of a Person shall mean: (i) any other Person directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controlling, controlled by or under common control with such Person; (ii) any officer, director, partner, employee or direct or indirect beneficial owner of any 10% or greater equity or voting interest of such

Person; or (iii) any other Person for which a Person described in clause (ii) acts in any such a capacity.

"Agreement" shall mean this Agreement and Plan of Merger, including the Exhibits delivered pursuant hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

"Assets" of a Person shall mean all of the assets, properties, businesses and rights of such Person of every kind, nature, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible, accrued or contingent or otherwise relating to or utilized in such Person's business, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, whether or not carried on the books and records of such Person, and whether or not owned in the name of such Person or any Affiliate of such Person and wherever located.

"BHC Act" shall mean the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

"Closing Date" shall mean the date on which the Closing occurs.

"Consent" shall mean any consent, approval, authorization, clearance, exemption, waiver or similar affirmation by any Person pursuant to any Contract, Law, Order or Permit.

"Contract" shall mean any written or oral agreement, arrangement, authorization, commitment, contract, indenture, instrument, lease, obligation, plan, practice, restriction, understanding or undertaking of any kind or character, or other document to which any Person is a Party or that is binding on any Person or its capital stock, assets or business.

"Default" shall mean (i) any breach or violation of or default under any Contract, Order or Permit, (ii) any occurrence of any event that with the passage of time or the giving of notice or both would constitute a breach or violation of or default under any Contract, Order or Permit, or (iii) any occurrence of any event that with or without the passage of time or the giving of notice would give rise to a right to terminate or revoke, change the current terms of or renegotiate, or to accelerate, increase or impose any Liability under, any Contract, Order or Permit, where, in any such event, such Default is reasonably likely to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on a Party.

"Environmental Laws" shall mean all Laws relating to pollution or protection of human health or the environment (including ambient air, surface water, ground water, land surface or subsurface strata) and which are administered, interpreted or enforced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and state and local agencies with jurisdiction over, and including common law in respect of, pollution or protection of the environment, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq. U.S.C. 6901 et seq. ("RCRA"), and other Laws relating to emissions, discharges, releases or threatened releases of any Hazardous Material, or otherwise relating to the manufacture, processing, distribution, use, treatment, storage, disposal, transport or handling of any Hazardous Material.

"ERISA" shall mean the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

"Exhibits A, B and C", inclusive, shall mean the Exhibits so marked, copies of which are attached to this Agreement. Such Exhibits are hereby incorporated by reference herein and made a part hereof, and may be referred to in this Agreement and any other related instrument or document without being attached hereto.

"FBCA" shall mean the Florida Business Corporation Act.

"FDIC" shall mean the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"FFO Common Stock" shall mean the \$.10 par value common stock of FFO.

"FFO Companies" shall mean, collectively, FFO and all FFO Subsidiaries.

"FFO Disclosure Memorandum" shall mean the written information entitled "F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc. Disclosure Memorandum" delivered prior to the date of this Agreement, to Republic describing in reasonable detail the matters contained therein and, with respect to each disclosure made therein, specifically referencing each Section or subsection of this Agreement under which such disclosure is being made. Information disclosed with respect to one Section or subsection shall not be deemed to be

"FFO Financial Statements" shall mean (i) the consolidated balance sheets (including related notes and schedules, if any) of FFO as of December 31, 1996, 1995, 1994 and the related statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows (including related notes and schedules, if any) for each year in the three year period ended December 31, 1996, as filed by FFO in SEC Documents, and (ii) the consolidated balance sheets of FFO (including related notes and schedules, if any) and related statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows (including related notes and schedules, if any) included in SEC Documents filed with respect to periods ended subsequent to December 31, 1996.

"FFO Subsidiaries" shall mean the Subsidiaries of FFO, which shall include the FFO Subsidiaries described in Section 5.4 of this Agreement and any corporation, bank, savings association or other organization acquired as a Subsidiary of FFO in the future and owned by FFO at the Effective Time.

"Florida Articles of Merger" shall mean the Articles of Merger to be executed by Republic and FFO and filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida relating to the Merger as contemplated by Section 1.1 of this Agreement.

"GAAP" shall mean generally accepted accounting principles, consistently applied during the periods involved.

"Hazardous Material" shall mean (i) any hazardous substance, hazardous material, hazardous waste, regulated substance or toxic substance (as those terms are defined by any applicable Environmental Laws) and (ii) any chemicals, pollutants, contaminants, petroleum, petroleum products or oil (and specifically shall include asbestos requiring abatement, removal or encapsulation pursuant to the requirements of governmental authorities and any polychlorinated biphenyls).

"HOLA" shall mean the Home Owners' Loan Act of 1933, as amended.

"HSR Act" shall mean Section 7A of the Clayton Act, as added by Title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

"Internal Revenue Code" shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

"Knowledge" as used with respect to a Person (including references to such Person being aware of a particular matter) shall mean the personal knowledge of the chairman, president, chief financial officer, chief accounting officer, chief credit officer, general counsel, and any assistant or deputy general counsel, or any senior or executive vice president of such Person and the knowledge of any such persons obtained or which would have been obtained from a reasonable investigation.

"Law" shall mean any code, law, ordinance, regulation, reporting or licensing requirement, rule or statute applicable to a Person or its Assets, Liabilities or business, including those promulgated, interpreted or enforced by any Regulatory Authority.

"Liability" shall mean any direct or indirect, primary or secondary, liability, indebtedness, obligation, penalty, cost or expense (including costs of investigation, collection, and defense), claim, deficiency, guaranty or endorsement of or by any Person (other than endorsements of notes, bills, checks and drafts presented for collection or deposit in the ordinary course of business) of any type, whether accrued, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, matured or unmatured, or otherwise.

"Lien" shall mean any conditional sale agreement, default of title, easement, encroachment, encumbrance, hypothecation, infringement, lien, mortgage, pledge, reservation, restriction, security interest, title retention or other security arrangement, or any adverse right or interest, charge or claim of any nature whatsoever of, on, or with respect to any property or property interest, other than (i) Liens for current property Taxes not yet due and payable, and (ii) for depository institution Subsidiaries of a Party, pledges to secure deposits, and other Liens incurred in the ordinary course of the banking business.

"Litigation" shall mean any action, arbitration, cause of action, claim, complaint, criminal prosecution, demand letter, governmental or other examination or investigation, hearing, inquiry, administrative or other proceeding or notice (written or oral) by any person alleging potential Liability or requesting information relating to or affecting a Party, its business, its Assets

(including Contracts related to it) or the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, but shall not include regular, periodic examinations of depository institutions and their Affiliates by Regulatory Authorities.

"Loan Property" shall mean any property owned, leased or operated by the Party in question or by any of its Subsidiaries or in which such Party or Subsidiary holds a security or other interest (including an interest in fiduciary capacity), and, where required by the context, includes the owner or operator of such property, but only with respect to such property.

"Market Value" shall mean the per share market value of either FFO Common Stock or Republic Common Stock, as appropriate, at the Closing Date, which shall be determined by calculating the average of the closing prices of such common stock as reported by the Nasdaq NMS in the case of Republic or the Nasdaq Small Cap Market in the case of FFO on each of the twenty (20) consecutive trading days ending on the third business day immediately preceding the Closing Date.

"Material" for purposes of this Agreement shall be determined in light of the facts and circumstances of the matter in question; provided that any specific monetary amount stated in this Agreement shall determine materiality in that instance.

"Material Adverse Effect" on a Party shall mean an event, change or occurrence which, individually or together with any other event, change or occurrence, has a material adverse impact on (i) the financial position, business, or results of operations of such Party and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or (ii) the ability of such Party to perform its obligations under this Agreement or to consummate the Merger or the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement, provided that "Material Adverse Effect" shall not be deemed to include the impact of (a) changes in banking and similar Laws of general applicability or interpretations thereof by courts or governmental authorities, (b) changes in GAAP or regulatory accounting principles generally applicable to banks, savings and loan associations, and their holding companies, (c) actions and omissions of a Party (or any of its Subsidiaries) taken with the prior informed consent of the other Party in contemplation of the transactions contemplated hereby, and (d) the Merger and compliance with the provisions of this Agreement on the operating performance of the Parties.



"NASD" shall mean the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.

"Nasdaq NMS" shall mean the Nasdaq National Market System.

"1933 Act" shall mean the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

"1934 Act" shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

"Order" shall mean any administrative decision or award, decree, injunction, judgment, order, quasi-judicial decision or award, ruling or writ of any federal, state, local or foreign or other court, arbitrator, mediator, tribunal, administrative agency or Regulatory Authority.

"Participation Facility" shall mean any facility or property in which the Party in question or any of its Subsidiaries participates in the management and, where required by the context, said term means the owner or operator of such facility or property, but only with respect to such facility or property.

"Party" shall mean either Republic or FFO, and "Parties" shall mean both Republic and FFO.

"Permit" shall mean any federal, state, local and foreign governmental approval, authorization, certificate, easement, filing, franchise, license, notice, permit or right to which any Person is a Party or that is or may be binding upon or inure to the benefit of any Person or its securities, Assets or business.

"Person" shall mean a natural person or any legal, commercial or governmental entity, such as, but not limited to, a corporation, general partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability company, trust, business association, group acting in concert or any person acting in a representative capacity.

"Proxy Statement(s)" shall mean the proxy statement(s) used by Republic and FFO to solicit the approval of their respective stockholders of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, which shall include the prospectus of Republic relating to the issuance of the Republic Common Stock to holders of FFO Common Stock.

"Republic Common Stock" shall mean the \$2.00 par value common stock of Republic.

"Republic Companies" shall mean, collectively, Republic and all Republic Subsidiaries.

"Republic Disclosure Memorandum" shall mean the written information entitled "Republic Bancshares, Inc. Disclosure Memorandum" delivered prior to the date of this Agreement to FFO describing in reasonable detail the matters contained therein and, with respect to each disclosure made therein, specifically referencing each Section or subsection of this Agreement under which such disclosure is being made. Information disclosed with respect to one Section or subsection shall not be deemed to be disclosed for purposes of any other Section or subsection not specifically referenced with respect thereto.

"Republic Financial Statements" shall mean (i) the consolidated statements of condition (including related notes and schedules, if any) of Republic as of December 31, 1996, and the consolidated statements of condition (including related notes and schedules, if any) of the Bank as of December 31, 1995 and 1994, and the related restated statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows (including related notes and schedules, if any) for each of the three years ended December 31, 1996, 1995 and 1994, as filed by Republic or the Bank in SEC Documents and (ii) the consolidated statements of condition of Republic (including related notes and schedules, if any) and related statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows (including related notes and schedules, if any) included in SEC Documents filed with respect to periods ended subsequent to December 31, 1996.

"Republic Preferred Stock" shall mean the \$20.00 par value noncumulative convertible perpetual preferred stock of Republic.

"Republic Subsidiaries" shall mean the Subsidiaries of Republic and any corporation, bank, savings association or other organization acquired as a Subsidiary of Republic in the future and owned by Republic at the Effective Time.

"Registration Statement" shall mean the Registration Statement on Form S-4, or other appropriate form, including any pre-effective or post-effective amendments or supplements thereto, filed with the

SEC by Republic under the 1933 Act with respect to the shares of Republic Common Stock to be issued to the stockholders of FFO in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

"Regulatory Authorities" shall mean, collectively, the Federal Trade Commission, the United States Department of Justice, the Board of the Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, all state regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the Parties and their respective Subsidiaries, the NASD and the SEC.

"Representative" shall mean any investment banker, financial advisor, attorney, accountant, consultant or other representative of a Person.

"Rights" shall mean all arrangements, calls, commitments, Contracts, options, rights to subscribe to, scrip, understandings, warrants or other binding obligations of any character whatsoever relating to, or securities or rights convertible into or exchangeable for, shares of the capital stock of a Person or by which a Person is or may be bound to issue additional shares of its capital stock or other Rights.

"SEC" shall mean the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

"SEC Documents" shall mean all forms, proxy statements, registration statements, reports, schedules and other documents filed or required to be filed by a Party or any of its Subsidiaries with any Regulatory Authority pursuant to the Securities Laws.

"Securities Laws" shall mean the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act, the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, as amended, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and the rules and regulations of any Regulatory Authority promulgated thereunder.

"Stockholders' Meetings" shall mean the meetings of the stockholders of Republic and FFO to be held pursuant to Section 8.1 of this Agreement, including any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

"Subsidiaries" shall mean all those corporations, banks, associations or other entities of which the entity in question owns or controls

50% or more of the outstanding equity securities either directly or through an unbroken chain of entities as to each of which 5% or more of the outstanding equity securities is owned directly or indirectly by its parent; provided, there shall not be included any such entity acquired through foreclosure or any such entity the equity securities of which are owned or controlled in a fiduciary capacity.

"Surviving Corporation" shall mean Republic as the surviving corporation resulting from the Merger.

"Tax" or "Taxes" shall mean all federal, state, local and foreign taxes, charges, fees, levies, imposts, duties or other assessments, including income, gross receipts, excise, employment, sales, use, transfer, license, payroll, franchise, severance, stamp, occupation, windfall profits, environmental, federal highway use, commercial rent, customs duties, capital stock, paid-up capital, profits, withholding, Social Security, single business and unemployment, disability, real property, personal property, registration, ad valorem, value added, alternative or add-on minimum, estimated or other tax or governmental fee of any kind whatsoever, imposed or required to be withheld by the United States or any state, local or foreign government or subdivision or agency thereof, including any interest, penalties or additions thereto.

"Taxable Period" shall mean any period prescribed by any governmental authority, including the United States or any state, local or foreign government or subdivision or agency thereof for which a Tax Return is required to be filed or Tax is required to be paid.

"Tax Return" shall mean any report, return, information return or other information required to be supplied to a taxing authority in connection with Taxes, including any return of an affiliated or combined or unitary group that includes a Party or its Subsidiaries.

(b) The terms set forth below shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the referenced sections:

Closing	Section 1.2
Effective Time	Section 1.3
ERISA Affiliate	Section 5.13(c)
Exchange Agent	Section 4.1
Exchange Ratio	Section 3.1(b)

FFO Benefit Plans	Section 5.13(a)
FFO Contracts	Section 5.14
FFO ERISA Plan	Section 5.13(a)
FFO options	Section 3.1(c)
FFO Pension Plan	Section 5.13(a)
FFO SEC Reports	Section 5.5(a)
Indemnified Party	Section 8.14
Merger	Section 1.1
Policies	Section 5.9(b)
Republic SEC Reports	Section 6.5(a)
Tax Opinion	Section 9.1(f)

(c) Any singular term in this Agreement shall be deemed to include the plural, and any plural term the singular. Whenever the words "include," "includes," or "including" are used in this Agreement, they shall be deemed followed by the words "without limitation."

## **11.2 Expenses.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section 11.2, each of the Parties shall bear and pay all direct costs and expenses incurred by it or on its behalf in connection with the transactions contemplated hereunder, including filing, registration and application fees, printing fees and fees and expenses of its own financial or other consultants, investment brokers, accountants and counsel, except that each of the Parties shall bear and pay one-half of the printing costs incurred in connection with the printing of the Registration Statement and common sections of the Proxy Statement.

(b) Nothing contained in this Section 11.2 shall constitute or shall be deemed to constitute liquidated damages for the willful breach by a Party of the terms of this Agreement or otherwise limit the rights of the nonbreaching Party.

**11.3 Brokers and Finders.** Except for Allen C. Ewing & Co. as to FFO and The Carson Medlin Company as to Republic, each of the Parties represents and warrants that neither it nor any of its officers, directors, employees or Affiliates has employed any broker or finder or incurred any Liability for any financial advisory fees, investment bankers' fees, brokerage fees, commissions or finders' fees in connection with this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby. In the event of a claim by any broker or finder based upon his, her or its representing or being retained by or allegedly representing or being retained by FFO or Republic, each of FFO and Republic, as the case may be, agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless of and from any Liability in respect of any such claim.

**11.4 Entire Agreement.** Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, this Agreement (including the documents and instruments referred to herein) constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the transactions contemplated hereunder and supersedes all prior arrangements or understandings with respect thereto, written or oral (except for the Confidentiality Agreements). Nothing in this Agreement, expressed or implied, is intended to confer upon any Person, other than the Parties or their respective successors, any rights, remedies, obligations or Liabilities under or by reason of this Agreement, other than as provided in Sections 8.12, 8.13 and 8.14 of this Agreement.

**11.5 Amendments.** To the extent permitted by Law, this Agreement may be amended by a subsequent writing signed by each of the Parties upon the approval of the Boards of Directors of each of the Parties, whether before or after stockholder approval of this Agreement has been obtained; provided, that the provisions of this Agreement relating to the manner or basis in which shares of FFO Common Stock will be exchanged for Republic Common Stock shall not be amended after the Stockholder's Meetings without the requisite approval of the holders of the issued and outstanding shares of FFO Common Stock and Republic Common Stock entitled to vote thereon.

**11.6 Waivers.**

(a) Prior to or at the Effective Time, Republic, acting through its Board of Directors, chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other authorized officer, shall have the right to waive any Default in the performance of any term of this Agreement by FFO, to waive or extend the time for the compliance or fulfillment by FFO of any and all of its obligations under this Agreement, and to waive any or all of the conditions precedent to the obligations of Republic under this Agreement, except any condition which, if not satisfied, would result in the violation of any Law. No such waiver shall be effective unless in writing signed by a duly authorized officer of Republic.

(b) Prior to or at the Effective Time, FFO, acting through its Board of Directors, chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other authorized officer, shall have the right to waive any Default in the performance of any term of this Agreement by Republic, to waive or extend the time for the compliance or fulfillment by Republic of any and all of its obligations under this Agreement, and to waive any or all of the conditions precedent to the obligations of FFO under this Agreement, except any condition which, if not satisfied, would result in the violation of any Law. No such waiver shall be effective unless in writing signed by a duly authorized officer of FFO.

(c) The failure of any Party at any time to require performance of any provision hereof shall in no manner affect the right of such Party at a later time to enforce the same or any other provision of this Agreement. No waiver of any condition or of the breach of any term contained in this Agreement in one or more instances shall

be deemed to be or construed as a further or continuing waiver of such condition or breach or a waiver of any other condition or of the breach of any other term of this Agreement.

**11.7 Assignment.** Except as expressly contemplated hereby, neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations hereunder shall be assigned by any Party hereto (whether by operation of Law or otherwise) without the prior written consent of the other Party. Subject to the preceding sentence, this Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Parties and their respective successors and assigns.

**11.8 Notices.** All notices or other communications which are required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and sufficient if delivered by hand, by facsimile transmission, by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid or by courier or overnight carrier, to the persons at the addresses set forth below (or at such other address as may be provided hereunder), and shall be deemed to have been delivered as of the date so delivered:

FFO: F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc.  
2013 Live Oak Boulevard  
St. Cloud, Florida 34771-8462  
Telecopy No.: (407) 957-5300  
Attention: James B. Davis  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Copy to Counsel:  
Smith, Mackinnon, Greeley,  
Bowdoin & Edwards, P.A.  
Citrus Center, Suite 800  
255 South Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
Telecopy No.: (407) 843-2448  
Attention: John P. Greeley, Esq.

Republic: Republic Bancshares, Inc.  
111 Second Avenue, N.E., Suite 300  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
Telecopy No.: (813) 825-0269  
Attention: John W. Sapanski Chairman of the  
Board, Chief Executive Officer and  
President

Copy to Counsel:

Republic Bancshares, Inc.  
111 Second Avenue, N.E., Suite 300  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
Telecopy No.: (813) 895-5791  
Attention: Christopher M. Hunter, Esq.  
General Counsel

**11.9 Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of the State of Florida, without regard to any applicable conflicts of Laws.

**11.10 Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**11.11 Captions.** The captions contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and are part of this Agreement.

**11.12 Interpretations.** Neither this Agreement nor any uncertainty or ambiguity herein shall be construed or resolved against any Party, whether under any rule of construction or otherwise. No Party to this Agreement shall be considered the draftsman. The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement has been reviewed, negotiated and accepted by all Parties and their attorneys and shall be construed and interpreted according to the ordinary meaning of the words used so as fairly to accomplish the purposes and intentions of the Parties.

**11.13 Enforcement of Agreement.** The Parties hereto agree that irreparable damage would occur in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement was not performed in accordance with its specific terms or was otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the Parties shall be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions hereof in any court of the United States or any state having jurisdiction, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity.

**11.14 Severability.** Any term or provision of this Agreement which is invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction shall, as to that jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such invalidity or unenforceability without rendering invalid or unenforceable the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement in any jurisdiction. If any provision of this Agreement is so broad as to be unenforceable, the provision shall be interpreted to be only so broad as is enforceable.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the Parties has caused this Agreement to be executed on its behalf and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed and attested by officers thereunto as of the day and year first above written.

ATTEST:

F.F.O. FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

By: Phyllis A. Elam  
Phyllis A. Elam  
Corporate Secretary

By: James B. Davis  
James B. Davis  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer

[CORPORATE SEAL]

ATTEST

REPUBLIC BANCSHARES, INC.

By: Christopher M. Hunter  
Christopher M. Hunter  
Corporate Secretary

By: John W. Sapanski  
John W. Sapanski  
Chairman of the Board,  
Chief Executive Officer  
and President

[CORPORATE SEAL]

## EXHIBIT "B"

Northwood Office  
3024 Enterprise Road  
Clearwater, Florida 34619

Highland Avenue Office  
1831 Highland Avenue N  
Clearwater, Florida 34615

Missouri Avenue Office  
1235 S. Missouri Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 34616

Belleair Bluffs Office  
401 N. Indian Rocks Road  
Belleair Bluffs, Florida 34640

Caladesi Office  
2678 Bayshore Blvd.  
Dunedin, Florida 34698

East Lake Woodlands  
3412 East Lake Road  
Palm Harbor, Florida 34685

Countryside Office  
28050 U.S. Highway 19 N  
Clearwater, Florida 34621

Oldsmar Office  
3711 Tampa Road, Suite 101  
Oldsmar, Florida 34677

Dunedin Office  
1478 Main Street  
Dunedin, Florida 34698

Northeast Office  
250 37th Avenue N.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

St. Petersburg Office  
100 34th Street N  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Gulfview Square Office  
9501 U.S. 19 N  
Port Richey, Florida 34668

New Port Richey Office  
6500 Massachusetts Avenue  
New Port Richey, Florida 34653

Holiday Office  
4649 Sunray Drive  
Holiday, Florida 34690

Palm Harbor Office  
11920 U.S. Highway 19 N  
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

Walsingham Office  
14141 Walsingham Road  
Largo, Florida 34644

Largo Mall Office  
10500 Ulmerton Road East  
Largo, Florida 34641

ICOT Office  
5801 Ulmerton Road  
Clearwater, Florida 34620

Seminole Office  
800 113th St. N.  
Seminole, Florida 33772

Pinellas Park Office  
7600 66th Street N.  
Pinellas Park, Florida 34666

Tyrone Office  
6900 22nd Avenue N  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

Main Office  
111 Second Avenue, N.E., Ste. 211  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Downtown St. Pete Drive-In  
201 Second Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Ellenton Office  
3510 U.S. Highway 301  
Ellenton, Florida 34222

Pavillion Office  
1301 6th Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Ironwood Office  
4702 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210

53rd Avenue Office  
415 53rd Avenue  
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Venice Office  
400 Venice By-Pass North  
Venice, Florida 34292

Pinellas Point Office  
1000 54th Avenue S  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

Westside Office  
5905 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34209

Mt. Vernon Office  
9819 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210

Bayshore Office  
6204 14th Street West  
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Sarasota Office  
1100 S. Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Spring Hill Office  
5335 Spring Hill Drive  
Spring Hill, Florida 34606

St. Petersburg, Florida 33713  
Downtown St. Pete Drive-In  
201 Second Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Ellenton Office  
3510 U. S. Highway 301  
Ellenton, Florida 34222

Pavillion Office  
1301 6th Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Ironwood Office  
4302 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210

53rd Avenue Office  
415 53rd Avenue  
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Venice Office  
400 Venice By-Pass North  
Venice, Florida 34292

Tower Office  
255 S. Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
Pinellas Point Office  
3000 54th Avenue S.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

Westside Office  
5905 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34209

Mt. Vernon Office  
9819 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210

Bayshore Office  
6204 14th Street West  
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Sarasota Office  
1100 S. Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Spring Hill Office  
5335 Spring Hill Drive  
Spring Hill, Florida 34606

Winter Park Office  
1980 Howell Branch Road  
Winter Park, Florida 32792

Osceola County

Broadway  
200 East Broadway  
Kissimmee, FL 34742-1708

Bermuda Office  
1115 North Bermuda Avenue  
Kissimmee, FL 34741-4209

Mill Creek Office  
1300 East Vine Street  
Kissimmee, FL 34744-3620

Ninth Street Office  
1220 Ninth Street  
St. Cloud, FL 34769-3376

Oak Park Office  
4291 13th Street  
St. Cloud, FL 34769-6730

Orange County

Winter Garden Office  
232 South Dillard Street  
Winter Garden, FL 32787-3510

Brevard County

Melbourne Office  
1300 Babcock Street  
Melbourne, FL 32901-3097

Imperial Plaza Office  
Building B, Suite 100  
6769 North Wickham Road  
Melbourne, FL 32940-4207

Causeway Office  
450 East Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937-4207

Palm Bay Office  
6000 Babcock Street, S.E.  
Palm Bay, FL 32909-3921

Melbourne Beach Office  
401 Ocean Avenue  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-2567

EXHIBIT A

**AFFILIATE AGREEMENT**

Gentlemen:

I have been advised that as of the date hereof I may be deemed to be an "affiliate" of F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc., a Florida corporation ("FFO"), as the term "affiliate" is defined in paragraphs (c) and (d) of Rule 145 of the Rules and Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"). Pursuant to Section 8.12 of the Agreement and Plan of Merger ("Agreement"), dated April 14, 1997, by and between FFO and Republic Bancshares, Inc., a Florida corporation ("Republic"), FFO will be merged (the "Merger") with and into Republic and the name of the surviving corporation will be "Republic Bancshares, Inc.", a Florida corporation (the "Surviving Corporation").

As used herein, "FFO Common Stock" means the \$.10 par value common stock of FFO and "Surviving Corporation Common Stock" means the \$2.00 par value common stock of the Surviving Corporation.

I represent, warrant and covenant to FFO and the Surviving Corporation that I will not, within the 30 days prior to the "Effective Time" (as defined in the Agreement), sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any shares of FFO Common Stock except as contemplated by this Affiliate Agreement or the Agreement, and that I will not sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any shares of the Surviving Corporation Common Stock acquired by me in the Merger except in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Act and the Commission's Rules and Regulations thereunder.

I understand that the Surviving Corporation is under no obligation to maintain the effectiveness of the "Registration Statement" (as defined in the Agreement) under the Act for the purpose of my resale of the Surviving Corporation Common Stock, and that the Surviving Corporation is under no obligation to register under the Act the sale, transfer, or other disposition by me or on my behalf of any Surviving Corporation Common Stock acquired by me in the Merger or to take any other action necessary in order to make an exemption from such registration available.

I further understand that the Surviving Corporation shall be entitled to place restrictive legends upon certificates for shares of Surviving Corporation Common Stock acquired by me in the Merger in order to enforce the provisions of this Affiliate Agreement and Section 8.12 of the Agreement, stating in substance:

"The shares represented by this certificate were issued in a transaction to which Rule 145 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933 applies. The shares represented by this certificate may only be transferred in accordance with the terms of an agreement dated \_\_\_\_\_, 1997 between the registered holder hereof and the issuer of the certificate, a copy of which agreement will be mailed to the holder hereof without charge within five days after receipt of a written request therefor."

I also understand that unless the transfer by me of my Surviving Corporation Common Stock has been registered under the Act or is a sale made in conformity with the provisions of Rule 145, the Surviving Corporation reserves the right to put the following legend on the certificate(s) issued to my transferee:

"The shares represented by this certificate have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and were acquired from a person who received such shares in a transaction to which Rule 145 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933 applies. The shares may not be sold or otherwise transferred except in accordance with an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933."

I further understand and agree that either legend set forth above shall be removed by delivery of substitute certificates without such legend if I or my transferee shall have delivered to the Surviving Corporation a copy of a letter from the staff of the Commission or an opinion of counsel in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Surviving Corporation to the effect that such legend is not required for purposes of the Act.

Very truly yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:

Accepted this \_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 1997

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

## **EXHIBIT B**

### **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

This Employment Agreement (the "Agreement") is made as of the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997, by and between Republic Bank ("Republic"), and James B. Davis (the "Executive").

#### **WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, Republic desires to retain the services of and employ the Executive, and the Executive desires to provide services to Republic, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and of the covenants and agreements herein contained, Republic and the Executive covenant and agree as follows:

1. **Employment.** Pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Republic agrees to employ the Executive and the Executive agrees to render services to Republic as set forth herein.

2. **Position and Duties.** During the term of this Agreement, the Executive shall serve as President, Central Florida Division of Republic, and shall undertake such duties consistent with such title as may be assigned to Executive from time to time by the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Republic (referred to as the "Chairman").

3. **Term.** The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date first above written and shall terminate on December 31, 1998, which date shall be referred to as the "Expiration Date."

4. **Compensation.** During the term of this Agreement, Republic shall pay or provide to the Executive as compensation for the services of the Executive set forth in Section 2 hereof:

(a) A base annual salary of \$150,020 payable in such periodic installments as salary is paid to other employees of Republic (such base salary to be subject to increase by Republic in its discretion); and

(b) Such individual bonuses and other compensation to the Executive as may be authorized by Republic from time to time.



5. Benefits. Republic shall provide to the Executive such medical insurance, health insurance, life insurance, stock options and all other employee benefits provided by Republic and Republic Bank to their executive officers, in the same scope, amount and terms as such benefits are provided to such executive officers. At its expense, Republic shall provide to the Executive an automobile, to be replaced on the earlier of two years or 50,000 miles, with the model, type and specifications comparable to that provided to the Executive by F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc. or First Federal. Republic shall pay for all insurance, maintenance, repair and other expenses incurred by the Executive in connection with such automobile.

6. Reimbursement of Expenses. Republic shall reimburse the Executive for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with his employment hereunder subject to guidelines issued from time to time by the Board and upon submission of documentation in conformity with applicable requirements of federal income tax laws and regulations supporting reimbursement of such expenses. Republic also understands that during the term of this Agreement, the Executive shall continue his service as a director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, as well as a representative to the Florida Bankers Association and the Community Bankers of Florida. Republic shall reimburse the Executive for expenses incurred in connection with such endeavors, except to the extent that the Executive is separately reimbursed by such organization for expenses incurred.

7. Vacation. The Executive shall take up to four weeks vacation time at such periods during each year as the Chairman and the Executive shall determine from time to time. The Executive shall be entitled to full compensation during such vacation periods.

8. Termination. The employment of the Executive may be terminated:

(a) By Republic at any time and immediately upon written notice to the Executive if said discharge is for cause. In the notice of termination furnished to the Executive under this Section 8(a), the reason or reasons for said termination shall be given and, if no reason or reasons are given for said termination, said termination shall be deemed to be without cause and not permitted under this Section 8(a). For purposes of this Agreement, "cause" shall mean termination because the Executive willfully failed to substantially perform the duties of his employment or is convicted of a felony (other than traffic violations or similar offenses).

In the event of termination for cause, Republic shall pay the Executive only accrued salary and vacation, and bonus amounts approved by the Board and unpaid as of the effective date of such termination.

(b) By Republic without cause. If the Executive's employment is terminated without cause or if the Executive is relocated or reassigned to any office or location other than at 2013 Live Oak Boulevard, St. Cloud, Florida, or 200 East Broadway, Kissimmee, Florida, Republic shall for a period ending on the Expiration Date:

(i) continue to pay to the Executive the base annual salary in effect under Section 4(a) on the date of said termination;

(ii) continue to provide to the Executive all benefits set forth in Section 5, and all other benefits provided to the Executive prior to termination; and

(iii) reimburse the Executive for continued coverage in accordance with the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act under Republic's medical insurance plan.

(c) By the Executive upon the Executive's resignation. If the Executive's employment is terminated because of the Executive's resignation, Republic shall be obligated to pay to the Executive any salary, vacation, and bonus amounts accrued and unpaid as of the effective date of such termination.

(d) As a result of the death of the Executive. If the Executive's employment is terminated by the death of the Executive, this Agreement shall automatically terminate, and Republic shall be obligated to pay to the Executive's estate any accrued salary and vacation, and bonus amounts approved by the Board and unpaid at the date of death.

9. Notice. All notices permitted or required to be given to either party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given (a) in the case of delivery, when addressed to the other party as set forth at the end of this Agreement and delivered to said address, (b) in the case of mailing, three days after the same has been mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, and deposited postage prepaid in the U.S. Mails, addressed to the other party at the address as set forth at the end of this Agreement, and (c) in any other case, when actually received by the other party. Either party may change the address at which said notice is to be given by delivering notice of such to the other party to this Agreement in the manner set forth herein.

10. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

11. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. In the event a dispute arises between the parties under this Agreement and suit is instituted, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees. As used herein, costs and attorneys' fees include any costs and attorneys' fees in any appellate proceeding.

12. No Third Party Beneficiary. This Agreement is solely between the parties hereto, and no person not a party to this Agreement shall have any rights hereunder, either as a third party beneficiary or otherwise. The rights and obligations of the parties under this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon their respective successors and legal representatives.

13. Effect on Other Agreements. This Agreement and the termination thereof shall not affect any other agreement between the Executive and Republic, and the receipt by the Executive of benefits thereunder.

14. Miscellaneous. The rights and duties of the parties hereunder are personal and may not be assigned or delegated without the prior written consent of the other party to this Agreement. The captions used herein are solely for the convenience of the parties and are not used in construing this Agreement. Time is of the essence of this Agreement and the performance by each party of its or his duties and obligations hereunder.

15. Complete Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between the parties hereto and incorporates all prior discussions, agreements and representations made in regard to the matters set forth herein. This Agreement may not be amended, modified or changed except by a writing signed by the party to be charged by said amendment, change or modification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

"EXECUTIVE"

REPUBLIC BANK

---

James B. Davis  
Address:  
Post Office Box 701299  
St. Cloud, FL 34770-1299

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Sapanski  
Chairman of the Board, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

## **EXHIBIT C**

### **AGREEMENT**

This Agreement (the "Agreement") is made as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997, by and between F.F.O. Financial Group, Inc. ("FFO") and First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Osceola County ("First Federal"), and \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Employee").

#### **WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, FFO has entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger with Republic Bancshares, Inc. ("Republic"), providing for the acquisition (the "Acquisition") by Republic of FFO and First Federal in accordance with the terms of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, FFO desires to provide to the Employee the benefits set forth in this Agreement, subject to the terms and conditions hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and of the covenants and agreements herein contained, FFO and the Employee covenant and agree as follows:

1. **Payment Amount.** If the closing of the Acquisition (the date thereof is referred to as the "Closing Date") occurs and the Employee remains an employee of FFO or First Federal through the Closing Date and does not voluntarily resign the Employee's employment within thirty days after the Closing Date, the Employee shall be entitled to receive the Payment Amount (as hereinafter defined) if the Employee (a) is relocated or reassigned without the Employee's consent to any office or location greater than thirty miles from that at which the Employee is based as of the date of this Agreement, or (b) the employment of the Employee is terminated without cause, in either case within twelve months after the Closing Date. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "Payment Amount" shall mean (i) an amount equal to six months base annual salary at the rate in effect as of the date of this Agreement (payable in a lump sum); (ii) the provision to the Employee of the life insurance benefits provided to the Employee prior to such termination for a period equal to six months following the date of such termination; (iii) an amount equal to the employer's portion of the cost for continued coverage under the employer's medical insurance plan for the six month period following the date of such termination in accordance with the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act; and (iv) an amount equal to vacation and bonus amounts accrued and unpaid as of the date of such termination.

2. **Termination.** The employment of the Employee may be terminated:

(a) By FFO at any time and immediately upon written notice to the Employee if said discharge is for cause. In the notice of termination furnished to the Employee under this Section 2(a), the reason or reasons for said termination shall be given and, if no reason or reasons are given for said termination, said termination shall be deemed to be without cause and not permitted under this Section 2(a). Any one or more of the following conditions shall be deemed to be grounds for termination of the employment of the Employee for cause under this Section 2(a):

(i) If the Employee shall expressly fail or refuse to perform the obligations of employment required of the Employee or comply with the policies of employer established by the employer from time to time; provided, however, that for the first two such failures or refusals, the Employee shall be given written warnings (each providing at least a 10 day period for an opportunity to cure), and the third failure or refusal shall be grounds for termination for cause; or

(ii) If the Employee shall have engaged in conduct involving fraud, deceit, personal dishonesty, or breach of fiduciary duty involving personal profit.

In the event of termination for cause, the Employee shall be entitled to receive only salary, vacation, and bonus amounts accrued and unpaid as of the effective date of termination.

(b) By FFO without cause. If the Employee's employment is terminated without cause, the Employee shall be entitled to receive the Payment Amount.

(c) By the Employee upon the Employee's resignation. If the Employee's employment is terminated because of the Employee's resignation, the Employee shall be entitled to receive any salary, vacation, and bonus amounts accrued and unpaid as of the effective date of such resignation.

(d) As a result of the death of the Employee. If the Employee's employment is terminated by the death of the Employee, this Agreement shall automatically terminate, and the Employee's estate shall be entitled to receive any salary, vacation, and bonus amounts accrued and unpaid at the date of death.

3. **Notice.** All notices permitted or required to be given to either party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given (a) in the case of delivery, when addressed to the other party as set forth at the end of this Agreement and delivered to said address, (b) in the case of mailing, three days after the same has been mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, and deposited postage prepaid in the U.S. Mails, addressed to the other party at the address as set forth at the end of this Agreement, and (c) in any other case, when actually received by the other party. Either party may change the address at which said notice is

to be given by delivering notice of such to the other party to this Agreement in the manner set forth herein.

4. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

5. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. In the event a dispute arises between the parties under this Agreement and suit is instituted, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover his or its costs and attorneys' fees from the nonprevailing party. As used herein, costs and attorneys' fees include any costs and attorneys' fees in any appellate proceeding.

6. No Third Party Beneficiary. This Agreement is solely between the parties hereto, and no person not a party to this Agreement shall have any rights hereunder, either as a third party beneficiary or otherwise. The rights and obligations of the parties under this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon their respective successors and legal representatives.

7. Miscellaneous. The rights and duties of the parties hereunder are personal and may not be assigned or delegated without the prior written consent of the other party to this Agreement. The captions used herein are solely for the convenience of the parties and are not used in construing this Agreement. Time is of the essence of this Agreement and the performance by each party of its or his duties and obligations hereunder.

8. Complete Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between the parties hereto and incorporates all prior discussions, agreements and representations made in regard to the matters set forth herein. This Agreement may not be amended, modified or changed except by a writing signed by the party to be charged by said amendment, change or modification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

"EMPLOYEE"

F.F.O. FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.  
FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
ASSOCIATION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James B. Davis  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## EXHIBIT C

### Osceola County

Broadway  
200 East Broadway  
Kissimmee, FL 34742-1708

Bermuda Office  
1115 North Bermuda Avenue  
Kissimmee, FL 34741-4209

Mill Creek Office  
1300 East Vine Street  
Kissimmee, FL 34744-3620

Ninth Street Office  
1220 Ninth Street  
St. Cloud, FL 34769-3376

Oak Park Office  
4291 13th Street  
St. Cloud, FL 34769-6730

### Orange County

Winter Garden Office  
232 South Dillard Street  
Winter Garden, FL 32787-3510

### Brevard County

Melbourne Office  
1300 Babcock Street  
Melbourne, FL 32901-3097

Imperial Plaza Office  
Building B, Suite 100  
6769 North Wickham Road  
Melbourne, FL 32940-4207

Causeway Office  
450 East Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937-4207

Palm Bay Office  
6000 Babcock Street, S.E.  
Palm Bay, FL 32909-3921

Melbourne Beach Office  
401 Ocean Avenue  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-2567

## **EXHIBIT "D"**

Northwood Office  
3024 Enterprise Road  
Clearwater, Florida 34619

Highland Avenue Office  
1831 Highland Avenue N.  
Clearwater, Florida 34615

Missouri Avenue Office  
1235 S. Missouri Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 34616

Belleair Bluffs Office  
401 N. Indian Rocks Road  
Belleair Bluffs, Florida 34640

Caladesi Office  
2678 Bayshore Blvd.  
Dunedin, Florida 34698

East Lake Woodlands  
3412 East Lake Road

Palm Harbor, Florida 34685

Countryside Office  
28050 U.S. Highway 19 N.  
Clearwater, Florida 34621

Oldsmar Office  
3711 Tampa Road, Suite 101  
Oldsmar, Florida 34677

Dunedin Office  
1478 Main Street  
Dunedin, Florida 34698

Northeast Office  
250 37th Avenue N.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

St. Petersburg Office  
100 34th Street N.

Gulfview Square Office  
9501 U.S. 19 N.  
Port Richey, Florida 34668

New Port Richey Office  
6500 Massachusetts Avenue  
New Port Richey, Florida 34653

Holiday Office  
4649 Sunray Drive  
Holiday, Florida 34690

Palm Harbor Office  
33920 U.S. Highway 19 N.  
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

Walsingham Office  
14141 Walsingham Road  
Largo, Florida 34644

Largo Mall Office  
10500 Ulmerton Road East

Largo, Florida 34641

ICOT Office  
5801 Ulmerton Road  
Clearwater, Florida 34620

Seminole Office  
800 113th St. N.  
Seminole, Florida 33772

Pinellas Park Office  
7600 66th Street N.  
Pinellas Park, Florida 34666

Tyrone Office  
6900 22nd Avenue N.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710

Main Office  
111 Second Avenue, N.E., Ste. 211



St. Petersburg, Florida 33713  
Downtown St. Pete Drive-In  
201 Second Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Ellenton Office  
3510 U. S. Highway 301  
Ellenton, Florida 34222

Pavillion Office  
1301 6th Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Ironwood Office  
4302 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210

53rd Avenue Office  
415 53rd Avenue  
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Venice Office  
400 Venice By-Pass North  
Venice, Florida 34292

Tower Office  
255 S. Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
Pinellas Point Office  
3000 54th Avenue S.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

Westside Office  
5905 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida 34209

Mt. Vernon Office  
9819 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, Florida 34210

Bayshore Office  
6204 14th Street West  
Bradenton, Florida 34207

Sarasota Office  
1100 S. Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Spring Hill Office  
5335 Spring Hill Drive  
Spring Hill, Florida 34606

Winter Park Office  
1980 Howell Branch Road  
Winter Park, Florida 32792

Osceola County

Broadway  
200 East Broadway  
Kissimmee, FL 34742-1708

Bermuda Office  
1115 North Bermuda Avenue  
Kissimmee, FL 34741-4209

Mill Creek Office  
1300 East Vine Street  
Kissimmee, FL 34744-3620

Ninth Street Office  
1220 Ninth Street  
St. Cloud, FL 34769-3376

Oak Park Office  
4291 13th Street  
St. Cloud, FL 34769-6730

Orange County

Winter Garden Office  
232 South Dillard Street  
Winter Garden, FL 32787-3510

Brevard County

Melbourne Office  
1300 Babcock Street  
Melbourne, FL 32901-3097

Imperial Plaza Office  
Building B, Suite 100  
6769 North Wickham Road  
Melbourne, FL 32940-4207

Causeway Office  
450 East Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937-4207

Palm Bay Office  
6000 Babcock Street, S.E.  
Palm Bay, FL 32909-3921

Melbourne Beach Office  
401 Ocean Avenue  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-2567

**EXHIBIT "E"**  
**DIRECTORS**

Mr. John W. Sapanski, Chairman  
440 Coffee Pot Riviera NE  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

Mr. Fred Hemmer  
11970 7th Street E  
Treasure Island, Florida 33706

Mr. Alfred T. May  
6600 Sunset Way, B-304  
St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706

Mr. William R. Hough  
1 Beach Drive SE  
Bayfront Towers, #1002  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Mr. William J. Morrison  
1660 Gulf Blvd., #404  
Clearwater, Florida 34630

Ms. Marla M. Hough  
1826 Meadowood Street  
Sarasota, Florida 34231

**EXHIBIT "F"**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. John W. Sapanski, Chairman  
Chairman, President  
and Chief Executive Officer  
440 Coffee Pot Riviera N.E.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

Mr. William R. Falzone  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer  
8961 Baywood Park  
Seminole, Florida 34647

Mr. John W. Fischer, Jr.  
Executive Vice President  
Chief, Consumer Banking  
11712 Camphor Way  
Seminole, Florida 34642

Steven McWhorter  
Director Flagship Mortgage Services  
111 Second Avenue N.E.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Mr. Fred Hemmer  
Senior Executive Vice President  
And Chief Lending Officer  
11970 7th Street E.  
Treasure Island, Florida 33706

Mr. Richard Gleitsman  
Executive Vice President  
And Chief Administrative Officer  
8818 12th Avenue North  
Bradenton, Florida 34209

Ms. Kathleen A. Reinagel  
Executive Vice President  
Credit and Loan Administration  
6100 29th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg Florida 33710

James B. Davis  
President Central Florida Division  
2013 Live Oak Boulevard  
St. Cloud, Florida 34771

EXHIBIT "G"  
REPUBLIC BANK

FILED

94 JAN 27 PM 12:45

AMENDED AND RESTATED  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Republic Bank, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, in accordance with §607.1007, Florida Statutes, 1993, hereby adopts the following amended and restated Articles of Incorporation:

Article I

The name of the corporation shall be Republic Bank and its principal place of business shall be at 28059 U.S. Highway 19 North, in the City of Clearwater, County of Pinellas, State of Florida.

Article II

The general nature of the business to be transacted by this corporation shall be: That of a general banking and trust business with all rights, powers and privileges granted and conferred by the banking laws of the State of Florida, regulating the organization, powers and management of banking corporations.

Article III

The authorized capital stock of the corporation shall consist of 10,000,000 shares (when fully issued) of \$2 par value common stock and 100,000 (when fully issued) shares of \$20 par value Series A preferred stock to be issued at a price of not less than \$88.00 per share. The Series A preferred stock shall pay a noncumulative annual dividend of \$3.52 payable in quarterly increments from legally available funds prior to payment of any dividend on common shares for the dividend period. No dividend shall be payable on common shares in any quarter unless the Series A preferred shall have received its dividend for that quarter.

Each share of Series A preferred shall have a vote on all matters to be voted on by the holders of the common stock and shall vote with the common stock as a single class except as may be otherwise required by this Article and the Florida General Corporation Act. Each share of Series A preferred shall have a number of votes equal to the number of shares of common stock into which such share could be converted on the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote. Initially each share of Series A preferred stock will be entitled to ten votes.

The Series A preferred shall be convertible one year after issuance into ten shares of common stock for each share of Series A preferred and shall be redeemable by the corporation, subject to any required bank regulatory approval, by the corporation at any time three years after date of original issue at a price of \$96.80. The holders of Series A preferred shares shall be entitled to thirty days written notice of the corporation's intent to redeem prior to the effective date of redemption. Holders of Series A preferred shares may exercise conversion rights at any time prior to the effective date of redemption.

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Bank, voluntary or involuntary, the holders of Series A preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of the assets of the Bank available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of assets is made to the holders of the common stock or any other shares of stock of the Bank ranking junior to the Series A preferred stock as to such distribution, liquidating distributions in the amount of \$88.00 per share plus dividends declared but unpaid for the then current dividend period (without accumulation of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods) to the date fixed for such liquidation, dissolution or winding up. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of the Series A preferred stock will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets of the Bank. All distributions made with respect to the Series A preferred stock in connection with such liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Bank shall be made pro rata to the holders entitled thereto.

The Series A preferred stock shall be protected against dilution by way of common stock splits, dividends or options (excluding options granted on or before November 16, 1993). If a stock dividend or split is declared with respect to the common stock, the number of shares of common stock into which a share of Series A preferred stock may be converted shall be adjusted proportionately.

The shares of Series A preferred stock may not be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of during the first year after their issuance. Thereafter such shares of Series A preferred stock will not be subject to any restriction on transfer other than as may be imposed by federal or state securities laws.

So long as any shares of Series A preferred stock are outstanding, the corporation shall not, without first obtaining the approval by vote or written consent, in the manner provided by law, of the holders of at least a majority of the total number of shares of Series A preferred stock outstanding, voting separately as a class, (1) alter or change any of the powers, preferences, privileges, or rights of the Series A preferred stock; or (2) amend the provisions of this paragraph (g); or (3) create any new class

or series of shares having preferences prior to or being on a parity with the Series A preferred stock as to dividends or assets; or (4) sell, lease, convey, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its assets (other than for the purposes of securing payment of any contract or obligation); or (5) merge or consolidate with or into any other corporation except into or with a wholly owned subsidiary.

#### Article IV

The term for which this corporation shall exist shall be perpetual.

#### Article V

The business and affairs of this corporation shall be managed and conducted by a Board of not less than five nor more than twenty-five Directors who shall be elected annually by the stockholders at their annual meeting to be held at its place of business in the City of Clearwater, in the County of Pinellas, and State of Florida, during the month of April each year; provided, however, that if ~~no~~ authorized by a majority of the stockholders by appropriate action of the stockholders at the next preceding annual meeting, a majority of the full board of directors may, at any time during the year following the annual meeting of stockholders in which such action has been authorized, increase the number of directors within the limits specified above, and appoint persons to fill the resulting vacancies, provided further, that in any one year not more than two such additional directors shall be authorized pursuant to this provision; and by a President, who shall be a Director, and one or more Vice Presidents and a Cashier and such other officers as may be designated in the by-laws of the corporation, who shall be elected by the Board of Directors, at the same place, on the same day and immediately after said Board of Directors shall be elected by the stockholders; provided, that the offices of Vice President and Cashier may be combined in one and the same person.

#### Article VI

The incorporators of this Corporation who subscribed for stock in excess of the minimum requirements of Section 608.03(2), Florida Statutes 1973, were:

Doyle L. Carlton  
4759 Melody Lane  
Merritt Island, FL

John W. Irwin  
2341 Glenmoor Road North  
Clearwater, FL

Morris A. Rowe  
1605 Newfound Harbor Drive  
Merritt Island, FL

Herbert C. Sigvartsen  
259 Albert Street  
Dunedin, FL

Howard M. Smith  
1671 Bayshore Boulevard  
Dunedin, FL

#### Article VII

Holders of common stock shall have no preemptive rights. Holders of Series A Preferred Stock shall have such protection against dilution as is provided in Article III hereinabove.

#### Article VIII

The registered office of the corporation shall be at 28059 U.S. Highway 19 North, Clearwater, Florida 34618 and the registered agent thereat shall be John W. Sapanski.

The foregoing Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation contain amendments to the Articles requiring shareholder approval. They were recommended to the shareholders by resolution adopted by unanimous consent of the directors December 14TH, 1993, and by written consent of the common shareholders of the Corporation, which shareholders are the only shareholders entitled to vote on the amendment and restatement, and the number of votes cast for the Amended and Restated Articles by the common shareholders, through action of shareholders taken without a meeting pursuant to Section 607.0704 Florida Statutes, was sufficient for approval of the Amended and Restated Articles.

These Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation shall become effective upon filing with the Florida Secretary of State.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed these Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation on behalf of the Corporation, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1993.

REPUBLIC BANK

By.

John W. Sapanski  
John W. Sapanski, President

ATTEST:

Wayne B. Bard  
Wayne B. Bard, Secretary

-----  
Tallahassee, Florida

Approved by the Department of Banking and Finance this 26<sup>th</sup> day of

January, 19 94.

Gerald Lewis  
GERALD LEWIS

Comptroller of Florida and Head of  
the Department of Banking and Finance

FILED

93 OCT 13 PM 1:31

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT  
OF  
REPUBLIC BANK

REPUBLIC BANK  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

The undersigned corporation (the "Corporation"), in accordance with the Florida General Corporation Act and its Articles of Incorporation, hereby adopts the following Articles of Amendment:

1. Corporation Name: The name of the Corporation is: Republic Bank.
2. Amendment: Article III of this Corporation's Articles of Incorporation is hereby amended in its entirety so as to read, after amendment, as follows:

Article III

The authorized capital stock of the corporation shall consist of 10,000,000 shares (when fully issued) of \$2 par value common stock.

3. Adoption: This Amendment was recommended to the shareholders by resolution of the board of directors adopted September 21, 1993, and by written consent of the common shareholders of the Corporation, which shareholders are the only shareholders entitled to a vote on the Amendment, and the number of votes cast for the Amendment by the common shareholders, through action of shareholders taken without a meeting pursuant to §607.0704 Florida Statutes, was sufficient for approval of the Amendment.

4. Effective Date. This Amendment shall become effective upon filing with the Florida Secretary of State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed and signed these Articles of Amendment on behalf of the Corporation this 30<sup>TH</sup> day of SEPTEMBER, 1993.

REPUBLIC BANK

By:

John W. Sapanski  
John W. Sapanski, President

ATTEST:

Wayne B. Bard  
Wayne B. Bard, Cashier

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT  
OF  
REPUBLIC BANK

The undersigned corporation (the "Corporation"), in accordance with the Florida General Corporation Act and its Articles of Incorporation, hereby adopts the following Articles of Amendment:

1. Corporation Name: The name of the Corporation is: Republic Bank.
2. Amendments:
  - A. The text of Article I is deleted in its entirety and the following language substituted therefor:

The name of the corporation shall be Republic Bank and its principal office, to be known as the initial principal office, shall be located at 111 Second Avenue N.E., in the City of St. Petersburg, County of Pinellas, State of Florida.
  - B. The text of Article V shall be deleted in its entirety and following substituted thereof:

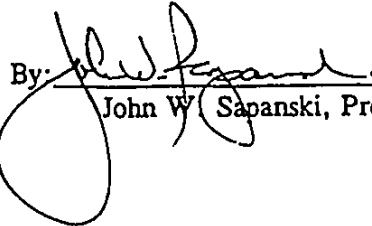
The business and affairs of this corporation shall be managed and conducted by a Board of not less than five nor more than twenty-five Directors who shall be elected annually by the stockholders at their meeting to be held at such time and place as may be fixed in accordance with the bylaws; provided, however, that if authorized by a majority of the stockholders by appropriate action of the stockholders at the next preceding annual meeting, a majority of the full Board of Directors may, at any time during the year following the annual meeting of the stockholders in which such action has been authorized, increase the number of directors within the limits specified above, and appoint persons to fill the resulting vacancies, provided further, that in any one year not more than two such additional directors shall be authorized pursuant to this provision.
  - C. The text of Article VIII shall be deleted in its entirety and the following substituted therefor:

The registered office of the corporation shall be at 111 Second Avenue N.E., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 and the registered agent thereat is John W. Sapanski.


3. Adoption: This Amendment was recommended to the stockholders by resolution of the board of directors adopted February 21, 1995, and was presented at its annual meeting of stockholders held on April 18, 1995, notice thereof having been given pursuant to section 607.07056 of the Florida Statutes. The resolution was adopted by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast, a quorum being present.
4. Effective Date. This Amendment shall become effective upon filing with the Florida Secretary of State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed and signed these Articles of Amendment on behalf of the Corporation this 24th day of April, 1995.

REPUBLIC BANK

By:   
John W. Sapanski, President

ATTEST:

  
Wayne B. Bard, Secretary