

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Sean Lydon  
Vice President  
Washington Savings Bank  
30 Middlesex Street  
Lowell, MA 01853  
(978) 569-1650  
[slydon@washingtonsavings.com](mailto:slydon@washingtonsavings.com)

Karen L. Dorway  
President  
BauerFinancial, Inc.  
2655 LeJeune Road  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
(800) 388-6686  
[kdorway@bauerfinancial.com](mailto:kdorway@bauerfinancial.com)

**WASHINGTON SAVINGS BANK AWARDED ITS 73rd CONSECUTIVE 5-STAR SAFETY RATING, ALSO EARNS “EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE BANK” STATUS**

Lowell, MA – Oct 2009: Washington Savings Bank is proud to announce it has once again achieved a 5-Star rating from Bauer Financial, Inc., the nation’s leading independent bank rating and research firm. Based on the financial condition of the bank, the 5-Star rating indicates that Washington Savings Bank is one of the strongest banks in the country and the only 5-Star rated bank in Lowell, MA. This quarter represents the 74<sup>rd</sup> consecutive quarter that Washington Savings Bank has earned this highest rating, which earns it the added prestige of being an “Exceptional Performance Bank” (for earning this highest honor for ten years or longer). Fewer than 6% of the nation’s banks can claim this distinction.

“There’s an old adage that says no press is bad press, but if you’ve seen the banking news over the past year or two, you know that isn’t always true,” notes Karen L. Dorway, president of BauerFinancial. That’s why it’s so important today to share some good banking news, and Washington Savings Bank makes it easy. Washington Savings Bank is a model community bank. You should be proud to call it Your Bank.”

"The bank is pleased to be recognized for its safe and sound practices", said Jim Hogan, CEO of Washington Savings Bank. "This recognition, combined with the fact the all deposits are insured in full through the FDIC and DIF organizations, should let customers know that Washington Savings Bank is one of the safest banks to have deposits."

Bauer Financial, Inc., Coral Gables Florida, the nation’s leading independent bank rating and research firm, has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983. No institution pays for it’s rating, nor can they elude it. Consumers may obtain free star-ratings by calling (800) 388-6686 or visiting [www.bauerfinancial.com](http://www.bauerfinancial.com).

Washington Savings Bank was established in Lowell in 1892 and has since served the Northern Middlesex County through branches in Lowell, Dracut, and Tyngsboro. The Bank offers a wide range of products and services to consumers and businesses while maintaining prompt, friendly, and professional customer service. More information about the bank may be found at the website [washingtonsavings.com](http://washingtonsavings.com) or by contacting the bank at (978) 458-7999.