

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## U.S. CENTURY BANK OPENS FIRST HIALEAH BRANCH

## Bank Focused on Serving Business Community Set to Open Second Hialeah Office in the Fall

HIALEAH, August 5, 2003 – U.S. Century Bank, a Miami-based community bank, today announced it has opened a branch in West Hialeah, located at 2750 W. 68 Street. The bank also reported that its planned branch in East Hialeah located at 1100 E. 4th Avenue is scheduled to by the end of the year.

U.S. Century Bank opened for business last November with a record-setting \$22 million in equity capital, the largest capitalization effort ever by a banking institution in Florida. U.S. Century caters to the tri-country's business community, a segment the bank's founders consider largely underserved by the mega banks that dominate South Florida's landscape.

"Building a strong base in Hialeah represents an important step in our plans for growth," said Octavio Hernández, President and CEO of U.S. Century Bank. "We feel we can leverage our familiarity with the Hialeah community and entrepreneur-focused approach to capture a chunk of the city's high concentration of independently-owned businesses."

"The fact that we are a profitable bank with over \$100 million in assets in only our second full quarter of operations demonstrates that we are effectively filling a void in the market for traditional service-oriented community banking," said Ramon E. Rasco, U.S. Century Bank's Chairman and one of the former founders of the old Hialeah-based Ready State Bank. "Hialeah will be a key market in our efforts to expand our customer base. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to serving the city's strong business and entrepreneurial community."

Henry Lezama has been named Branch Manager of the new West Hialeah office. He joins U.S. Century from First Bank of Miami and is a former Vice President of Ready State Bank where he served at their executive offices for 10 years.

The 7,000-square-foot Hialeah branch has a 24-hour ATM machine and drive-thru service. The bank is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays. Drive-thru service is available Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays. The phone number is (305) 826-6335.

U.S. Century Bank year to date has \$115 million in total assets, \$30 million in capital, \$85 million in deposits and \$44 million in loans. Its main office is located at 7575 West Flagler in Miami, Florida. For additional information, please call (305) 260-9400 or visit their web site at <a href="https://www.uscentury.com">www.uscentury.com</a>.

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