

bcpbank has launched a new product designed to help homeowners take full advantage of the equity in their homes to gain access to money when they need it.

"Home Equity lending gives an affordable solution when it comes to borrowing money, and we want to help customers access this equity specifically during this period when holiday bills are coming due," stated Pedro Belo, bcpbank chairman and chief executive officer.

The new Home Equity Line offers Customers a fast, simple and affordable channel of acquiring extra funds using the equity of their homes as collateral. Offering extremely low rates, and an introductory rate of 4.99 percent for six months, this product gives homeowners a great way to pay for renovations to their homes, new car purchases, pay college tuition or consolidate high interest credit card debt into one affordable monthly payment. This Home Equity Line is also very convenient since customers pay only for the money they use.

To increase the value of this lending product bcpbank offers rate reductions to customers who currently hold, or open, a checking account with the bank and opt for automatic deduction of monthly payments. By eliminating the need to write another check, the Customer doesn't have to bother with another bill.

Building on a tradition of providing innovative products and services to its

bcpbank Offers Home Equity Lending Line

customers, bcpbank through the Home Equity Line provides yet another way goes beyond the expected to maximize customer satisfaction and convenience.

"Providing help and advice for customers' financial obligations is a building block for all our lending options. This new Home Equity Line is yet another way we uphold our promise to put our Customers' needs at the top of our priorities" Belo concluded.

bcpbank is a community bank headquartered in the Ironbound section of Newark, New Jersey. bcpbank has 18 branches in the United States in New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts, and is actively driving expansion into other states as well. bcpbank also has eight branches in Canada in the province of Ontario. bcpbank provides comprehensive banking services and solutions to its customer base, servicing individual and corporate customers through a combination of personal and business banking products

and services. bcpbank is wholly owned by the Millennium bcp Group, a successful international financial group with resources available worldwide.

Founded in 1985 and with total assets of EUR 74.6 billion, net income of EUR 513 million in 2004 and EUR 325 million in the first half of 2005, and total market capitalization of EUR 8 billion (ordinary shares plus mandatory convertible securities), the Millennium bcp group is the leading financial group in Portugal and one of the top 100 in the world, and is listed on the Lisbon, Frankfurt, London and Amsterdam Stock Exchanges. The bank's major activities include consumer and corporate banking, credit, custody of securities, treasury services, foreign-exchange transactions and money-market operations. Through its various subsidiaries, the Millennium bcp Group is also involved in related financial services, including insurance, asset management, private banking, investment and pension fund manage-

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ment, medium and long-term credit, specialized credit (leasing and factoring), mortgage loans, consumer credit, organization of capital market operations, corporate finance, factoring, company valuations, venture capital financing, brokerage and property management.

Over the years, the Millennium bcp Group expanded its global reach through operations in international markets, namely in European markets of high growth potential, such as Poland (Bank Millennium), Greece (NovaBank) and Turkey (Bank Europa). At the same time, the Millennium bcp Group carries on the development of autonomous operations in diversified geographic markets either with strong historical relations with Portugal or in ethnic markets with relevant presence of Portuguese communities, namely through BCM (Macao), BIM Group (Mozambique) and bcpbank (USA and Canada).

Millennium bcp was distinguished in 2005 as the "Bank of the Year" in Portugal by *The Banker* magazine, a publication of the Financial Times Group. Millennium bcp was recognized for its strong performance and efforts. *The Banker* magazine, promotes excellence among financial institutions that are leaders within the commercial banking sector, as well as acknowledgement of the international financial community.

Astoria Civic Association, Inc.

The next meeting of our Association will be held on Tuesday, February 7th, 2006, promptly at 8:00P.M. at Riccardo's located at 21-01 24th Avenue, Astoria with coffee and cake served no later than 9:00P.M.

QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY- RICHARD A. BROWN

We are delighted that Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown has graciously accepted our invitation to address our Association. He will speak to us concerning the prosecution of graffiti criminals by him and his office as well as other matters of interest in our neighborhood and in all of Queens.



Another speaker will be our own, Councilmember Peter F. Vallone Jr., Chair of the Public Safety Committee, who will address us on the new laws he passed to combat graffiti.