

**For release:
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ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the notification by First Banks, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, and its subsidiary bank holding company, The San Francisco Company, San Francisco, California, to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Continental Mortgage Corporation, Aurora, Illinois, thereby indirectly acquiring its subsidiary bank, Continental Community Bank and Trust Company, Aurora, Illinois. Also, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the notification by First Banks, Inc.'s subsidiary bank, First Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, to merge with Continental Community Bank and Trust Company, and to retain the acquired facilities as full service branch offices.

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