

OCEAN BANK PROMOTES CONSUMER PROTECTION AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL – June 6, 2008 – Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti and other officials joined Ocean Bank executives recently to promote consumer awareness of identity theft as the bank hosted a Shred-a-Thon at its downtown Fort Lauderdale office. According to the Federal Trade Commission, Florida ranks fifth in the nation for identity theft.

McCullom and Lamberti stressed the need for consumers to be vigilant against those who would steal their credit card numbers, social security numbers and bank account information. They cautioned residents, particularly senior citizens, to not give personal information over the telephone or online and to shred receipts and other papers with personal financial information.

McCollum noted that today's tech-savvy criminals are frequently using the internet and other computer resources to invade people's privacy and steal their names, financial, medical and other personal information.

Also on hand were Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle and State Rep. Elyn Bogdanoff. Ocean Bank provided a mobile shredding unit at its parking lot for anyone wishing to have documents shredded.

“As a bank, we have the added responsibility of educating our clients about identity theft and providing them with the tools to protect themselves against this crime,” said Cheryl Rees, Ocean Bank Senior Vice President and Marketing Director. “Shredding all important documents and protecting your bank account and social security numbers are very important steps in this fight.”

Ocean Bank is the largest independent commercial bank chartered and headquartered in Florida, with \$5.6 billion in assets. Chartered in 1982, Ocean Bank operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The community bank has received numerous awards and accolades from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, The Beacon Council and the Florida Department of Education, among others, for its support of our South Florida communities. For more information, log on to www.oceanbank.com.