



United States Department of State

*Office of Foreign Missions  
Washington, D.C. 20520*

April 19, 2012

## NOTICE

### *WashingtonFirst Bank's Pending Closure of Foreign Mission Bank Accounts*

The Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) understands that effective **April 30, 2012**, *WashingtonFirst Bank* will close all accounts it holds for foreign missions in the United States. Therefore, the following information is being shared in an effort to ensure that the impacted foreign missions are prepared to the extent possible for this pending action.

Despite the Department's efforts and requests, *WashingtonFirst Bank* has once again confirmed to OFM that it is **not/not** able to further extend the aforementioned deadline for any of foreign missions that continue to have accounts with this institution.

1. All debit cards linked to accounts held by foreign missions at *WashingtonFirst Bank* will be deactivated on **April 23, 2012**. This action will allow for any pending transactions associated with such cards to be fully processed prior to the April 30 account closure date.
2. A cashier's check in the amount of the account's balance on April 30 will be issued and mailed directly to the foreign mission, unless the affected foreign missions make prior arrangements with *WashingtonFirst Bank* that would allow such missions to retrieve in person the cashier's check issued for their account. Such arrangements must be communicated to *WashingtonFirst Bank* no later than noon on **April 27, 2012**.

3. If requested by the affected foreign missions no later than close of business on **April 24, 2012**, *WashingtonFirst Bank* will issue a limited number of cashier's checks to specific vendors and service providers to cover at least one month's worth of the mission's expenses.

The Department continues to express its serious regret for the difficulties some foreign missions are having with respect to establishing and maintaining banking services in the United States. Further, the Department remains committed to working with other U.S. agencies at the highest levels to develop a systemic solution to this issue. However, as previously communicated, the Department cannot require private banks to provide services to foreign missions in the United States.

The Department strongly encourages the foreign missions impacted by the action outlined above to continue to reach out to other banking establishments and to keep OFM apprised of any developments with regard to securing a new financial institution.

Should foreign missions need to contact OFM concerning this matter, they are encouraged to do so by telephone at (202) 647-3417 or by electronic mail at [OFM-PTSB@state.gov](mailto:OFM-PTSB@state.gov).

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