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FIRST RELIANCE BANK WINS SMALL LENDER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2004

January 28, 2005 Florence, SC- First Reliance Bank has been chosen as the Small Lender of the Year for 2004 by the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority.

Competing against 120 Lenders and Brokers throughout the state, the award is given based on several criteria including overall production, underwriting quality, delinquency and foreclosure rates, and the number of complaints lodged against a financial institution. This information is obtained through the use of a survey and correspondence to the agency.

The Small Lender of the Year is one of five awards given by the SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority. First Reliance also placed second in the Lender/Broker of the Year category narrowly missing another first place finish by .6. Their overall score was 95.4 out of a possible 100.

The bank along with the other recipients received their award at the 2005 Palmetto Affordable Housing Forum that was held at the Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia in late January.

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