

CAPITAL CITY BANK GROUP INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 08, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**(Rule 14a-101)**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant  x  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  o

Check the appropriate box:

- o Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o **Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14A-6(E)(2))**
- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240-14a-12

**CAPITAL CITY BANK GROUP, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its  
charter)

Edgar Filing: CAPITAL CITY BANK GROUP INC - Form DEF 14A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy  
Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Total fee paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials: \_\_\_\_\_

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing and registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Filing Party: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice of  
2016 Annual Meeting of Shareowners  
and Proxy Statement**



217 North Monroe  
Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

**Please note that we have moved the location of our Shareowners' Meeting this year.  
We will host our shareowners in Gainesville, Florida, one of our largest banking markets.**

**Phillips Center for the Performing Arts**

**University of Florida**

**3201 Hull Road**

**Gainesville, Florida 32611**



LETTER TO SHAREOWNERS

217 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

March 8, 2016

Dear Fellow Shareowners:

Please join us for our 2016 Annual Shareowners Meeting at 11:00 a.m., local time, on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, University of Florida, 3201 Hull Road, Gainesville, Florida 32611. Please note that we will hold our Annual Meeting this year in Gainesville, one of our primary banking markets, rather than Tallahassee. I look forward to this opportunity to share highlights from 2015 and discuss near- and longer-term plans for Capital City. I will also be calling for a vote on two important matters.

As a valued Capital City Bank supporter, your vote is important and your Board of Directors encourages you to let your voice be heard. Proxy materials are enclosed for your convenience and are accessible at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) along with the 2015 Annual Report. We are distributing Proxy Materials online rather than mailing printed copies as it allows us to expedite delivery to our shareowners and offers the lower-cost, more environmentally responsible option. You will not receive printed copies unless you request them by following the instructions contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

Whether or not you are able to attend the meeting in person, I encourage you to vote as soon as possible. Voting your proxy ensures your representation at the meeting, and we offer several methods of voting for your convenience: by telephone, online at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) or via mailed proxy card if you received paper copies of your materials.

Thank you for your vote and for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you in April and hope you will be able to join us for light refreshments at 10:30 a.m. before the meeting begins.

Your banker,

**William G. Smith, Jr.**

Chairman, President,

and Chief Executive Officer



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREOWNERS

BUSINESS

- (1) Vote on four Class I nominees for election to the Board of Directors;
- (2) Ask for ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the current fiscal year; and
- (3) Transact other business properly coming before the meeting or any postponement or adjournment of the meeting.

RECORD DATE

Shareowners owning Capital City Bank Group shares at the close of business on February 29, 2016, are entitled to notice of, attend, and vote at the meeting. A list of these shareowners will be available at the Annual Meeting and for 10 days before the Annual Meeting between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern Time, at our principal executive offices at 217 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

TIME

11:00 a.m., local time, April 26, 2016

PLACE

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts  
University of Florida  
3201 Hull Road  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

VOTING

Even if you plan to attend the meeting in Gainesville, Florida, please provide us your voting instructions in one of the following ways as soon as possible:

: Use the Internet address on the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or the proxy card;

, Use the toll-free number on the proxy card, if you received one. You can also find the toll-free number to vote your shares when you access the Internet address on the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials; or

+ Mark, sign, and date the proxy card and return in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. This option is available only to those shareowners who have received a paper copy of a proxy card by mail.

*By Order of the Board of Directors*

J. Kimbrough Davis  
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Corporate Secretary

Tallahassee, Florida  
March 8, 2016

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareowners' Meeting to be Held on April 26, 2016.** The Proxy Statement and the Annual Report are available at: [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

CONTENTS

<u>Proxy Statement</u>	2
<u>Voting Information</u>	2
<u>Corporate Governance at Capital City</u>	3
<u>Board Committee Membership</u>	11
<u>Director Compensation</u>	12
<u>Transactions with Related Persons</u>	14
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	15
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	27
<u>Audit Committee Matters</u>	32
<u>Share Ownership</u>	34
<u>Proxy Statement – General Information</u>	35
<u>Other Matters</u>	38

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement 1

## PROXY STATEMENT

We are providing these Proxy Materials in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Capital City Bank Group, Inc., a Florida corporation (“Capital City”), of proxies to be voted at our 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareowners and at any adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting.

We will hold our 2016 Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, University of Florida, 3201 Hull Road, Gainesville, Florida 32611. We are making these Proxy Materials available to our shareowners on or about March 8, 2016.

At Capital City, and in this Proxy Statement, we refer to our employees as “associates.” Also in the Proxy Statement, we refer to Capital City as the “Company,” “we,” or “us” and to the 2016 Annual Meeting as the “Annual Meeting.”

## VOTING INFORMATION

Who can vote?

All shareowners of record at the close of business on the record date of February 29, 2016 are entitled to receive these Proxy Materials and to vote at the Annual Meeting. On that date, there were 17,221,651 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

How do I vote my shares in person at the Annual Meeting?

Shares held in your name as the shareowner of record may be voted in person at the Annual Meeting. Shares for which you are the beneficial owner but not the shareowner of record may be voted in person at the Annual Meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, trustee, or other nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we recommend that you vote by proxy as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Annual Meeting. The vote you cast in person will supersede any previous votes that you submitted, whether by Internet, phone, or mail.

How do I vote my shares in the 401(k) plan?

If you are an associate who participates in Capital City’s 401(k) Plan, you may instruct the Plan trustee on how to vote your shares in the Plan by mail, by telephone, or on the Internet as described above, except that, if you vote by mail, the card that you use will be a voting instruction card rather than a proxy card. If you own shares through the Plan and you do not vote, the Plan trustee will vote the shares in the same proportion as other Plan participants vote their Plan shares.

How can I vote my shares without attending the Annual Meeting?

Whether you hold shares directly as a shareowner of record or beneficially, you may direct how your shares are voted without attending the Annual Meeting. You may give voting instructions by the Internet or by telephone. If you requested and received a paper copy of a proxy card by mail, you may vote by mail. Instructions are on the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or the proxy card.

Whether you provide voting instructions by the Internet or by telephone, or vote by mail, you are designating certain individuals to vote on your behalf as your legal Proxy. We have designated Bethany H. Corum and Dale A. Thompson each as a Proxy. The Proxies will vote all valid voting instructions and proxy cards that are delivered in response to this solicitation, and not later revoked, in accordance with the instructions given by you.

What is the deadline for voting my shares?

If you hold shares as the shareowner of record, then your vote by proxy must be received before 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 25, 2016 (the day before the Annual Meeting). If you are the beneficial owner of shares held through a broker, trustee, or other nominee, please follow the instructions provided by your broker, trustee, or other nominee.

**2** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE at capital city

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

We are committed to maintaining a business atmosphere where only the highest ethical standards and integrity prevail. An unwavering adherence to high ethical standards provides a strong foundation on which our business and reputation can thrive, and is integral to creating and sustaining a successful, high-caliber company.

PROPOSAL NO. 1 - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Board is divided into three classes, designated Class I, Class II, and Class III. The directors in each class are elected for terms of three years. At the Annual Meeting, the shareowners will elect four Class I directors. Our Board proposes the following four nominees for election as directors at the Annual Meeting. Each of the nominees is currently serving as a member of the Board, including Mr. Sample who was appointed by our Board earlier this year. The proxies will vote, unless instructed otherwise, each valid voting instruction and proxy card for the election of the following nominees as directors.

If a nominee is unable to serve, the shares represented by all valid proxies that have not been revoked will be voted for the election of a substitute as the Board may recommend, or the Board may by resolution reduce the size of the Board to eliminate the resulting vacancy. At this time, the Board knows of no reason why any nominee might be unable to serve.

If the four director nominees are elected, the Board will have no vacancies. Brokers do not have discretion to vote on this proposal without your instructions. If you do not instruct your broker how to vote on this proposal, your broker will deliver a nonvote on this proposal.

The following paragraphs provide information as of the date of this Proxy Statement about each nominee and each incumbent director not up for re-election in the categories of: age, positions held, principal occupation and business experience for the past five years, and names of other publicly-held companies for which he or she serves as a director or has served as a director during the past five years. While the following paragraphs note certain individual qualifications and skills of our directors that contribute to the Board's effectiveness as a whole, we also believe that all of our nominees and incumbent directors not up for re-election have a reputation for integrity, honesty, and adherence to high ethical standards. They each have demonstrated strong leadership skills, business acumen and an ability to exercise sound judgment, as well as a commitment of service to our shareowners.

NOMINEES TO SERVE FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING IN 2019

**ALLAN G. BENSE**

**Independent director**

Mr. Bense is currently President and CEO of Bense Enterprises, Inc., which is affiliated with companies that have interests in road building, general construction, mechanical contracting, insurance, golf courses, and farming since the early 1980s. He served as Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives from 2004 to 2006. Mr. Bense is the current chairman of the Florida State University Board of Trustees. He is also Chairman of the Board of the James Madison

**Age:** 64

**Director since:** 2013

Institute, Chairman of the Bay Economic Alliance, a member of the Florida Council of 100, and a director of Gulf Power Company. We believe Mr. Bense's qualifications to sit on our Board include his executive leadership and management experience and his operational and financial expertise gained from the successful operation of his own businesses.

**Board committees:** Audit and

Compensation

**Other current  
public company  
boards:** Gulf  
Power Company

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement 3

**Independent director**

**Age:** 66

**CADER B. COX, III**

**Director since:** 1994

From 1976 to 2006, Mr. Cox served as President, and from 2006 until 2013, he served as CEO of Riverview Plantation, Inc., a resort and agricultural company located in Georgia. He currently serves as Chairman of Riverview Plantation, Inc. and an officer and a director of Plantation Precooler, Inc., a large fresh vegetable operation. He is extensively involved in the community, including serving as a board member for The University of Georgia Research Foundation Board, trustee of AgriTrust, and a Board member of University of Georgia Real Estate Foundation Board. We believe Mr. Cox's qualifications to sit on our Board include his operational and financial expertise gained from the successful operation of his own businesses, as well as his executive leadership and management experience.

**Board committees:** Compensation (Chair) and Corporate Governance and Nominating

**Other current public company boards:** None

**Independent director**

**Age:** 59

**JOHN G. SAMPLE, JR.**

**Director since:** 2016

Mr. Sample has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Atlantic American Corporation, an Atlanta, Georgia-based holding company that operates through its subsidiaries in specialty markets within the life, health and property and casualty insurance industries, since July 2002 and Corporate Secretary since May 2010. Prior to joining Atlantic American Corporation in July 2002, he had been a partner of Arthur Andersen LLP since 1990. Mr. Sample has also served as a director and chairman of the audit committee of the board of directors of 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin Financial Corporation, a consumer finance company that originates and services direct cash loans, real estate loans and sales finance contracts through 283 branch offices located throughout the southeastern United States, since 2004. We believe Mr. Sample's qualifications to sit on our Board include his executive leadership and management experience, his extensive accounting and financial background, and his experience in the financial services industry.

**Board committees:** Audit and Compensation

**Other current public company boards:** 1st Franklin Financial Corp.

**WILLIAM G. SMITH, JR.**

**Chairman**

**Age:** 62

Mr. Smith currently serves as our Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer. He was elected Chairman in 2003 and has been President and Chief Executive Officer since 1995. Mr. Smith also serves as Chairman of Capital City Bank, a position he has held since 1995. In addition, Mr. Smith has served as a director of Southern Company since February 2006. Mr.



**Director since:** 1982 Smith is the first cousin of Mrs. Knox. We believe Mr. Smith's qualifications to sit on our Board include his more than three decades of banking experience, including more than 20 years as our President and Chief Executive Officer.

**Other current public company boards:** Southern Company

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" the nominees.

4 Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

CONTINUING DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Continuing Class II Directors (term expiring in 2017)

**President-Capital City Bank**

**Age:** 63

**Director since:** 1982

**Other current public company boards:** None

**THOMAS A.  
BARRON**

Mr. Barron is our Treasurer and was appointed President of Capital City Bank in 1995. We believe Mr. Barron's qualifications to sit on our Board include his more than three decades of banking experience, including more than 20 years as the President of Capital City Bank.

**Independent director**

**Age:** 60

**Director since:** 2003

**Board committees:** Audit and Compensation

**Other current public company boards:** None

**J. EVERITT  
DREW**

From 2000 to 2007, Mr. Drew was President of St. Joe Land Company where his duties included overseeing the sale and development efforts of several thousand acres

of St. Joe property in northwest Florida and southwest Georgia. Since 2007, Mr. Drew has been President of SouthGroup Equities, Inc., a private real estate investment and development company. We believe Mr. Drew's qualifications to sit on our Board include his experience as President of St. Joe Land Company, which at the time was the largest landowner in Florida, as well as his operational and financial expertise gained from the successful operation of his own business.

**Independent director**

**Age:** 71

**Director since:** 1998

**Board committees:** Corporate Governance and Nominating

**LINA S.  
KNOX**

Mrs. Knox has been retired since 1992. A former history teacher at a private college

**Other current public company boards:** None

preparatory school in Tallahassee, Mrs. Knox has served on a variety of boards as a civic leader. She has previously served on the board of directors of Alfred B. Maclay School, Goodwood Museum and Gardens and the YMCA. She also served on the vestry of St. Johns Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Florida. Mrs. Knox is the first cousin of Mr. Smith. There is no arrangement or understanding between Mrs. Knox and Mr. Smith to which she was or is to be selected as a director or nominee. We believe Mrs. Knox's qualifications to sit on our Board include her extensive historical involvement

in the Tallahassee community, including her perspective as a community volunteer and civic leader and someone who is involved day-to-day with issues as they affect our communities. Mrs. Knox's knowledge of the Tallahassee community is critical to our success in providing community banking services to Tallahassee, our largest market.

Continuing Class III Directors (term expiring in 2018)

**Independent  
director**

**Age:**  
65

**Director  
since:** **FREDERICK CARROLL, III**

2003  
From 1990 to 2014, Mr. Carroll was the Managing Partner of Carroll and Company, CPAs, an accounting firm specializing in tax and audit based in Tallahassee, Florida. He currently serves as a tax partner for Carroll and Company, CPAs. Mr. Carroll has practiced as a Certified Public Accountant since 1977. Mr. Carroll has a master's degree in accounting. We believe Mr. Carroll's qualifications to sit on our Board include his long and varied business career, including his extensive accounting experience.  
**Board  
committees:**  
Audit  
(Chair)

**Other  
current  
public  
company  
boards:**

None

**JOHN K. HUMPHRESS**

**Independent  
director**

Since 1973, Mr. Humphress has been a shareholder of a public accounting firm, Wadsworth, Humphress & Hollar, P.A. (and its predecessors). We believe Mr. Humphress's qualifications to sit on our Board include his long and diversified business career, including his extensive accounting experience.

**Age:**  
67

**Director  
since:**

1998

**Board  
committees:**

Audit  
and  
Corporate  
Governance  
and  
Nominating  
(Chair)

**Other  
current**

**public  
company  
boards:**  
None

**Independent  
director**

**Age:**  
66

**HENRY LEWIS III**

**since:**

2003 Lewis has been President of Tuskegee Homes, LLC since 2004. From November 2012 through present, Dr.

Lewis has been a management consultant for The Infrastructure Company. From January 2011 through November 2011, he was the President of Florida Memorial University. Previously, he was Professor and Dean of the College of Health and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Florida A&M University from 1994 until 2011. He also served as Interim President of Florida A&M in 2002. Prior to Dr. Lewis's appointment to these positions, he served as Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Texas Southern University from 1990 to 1994. He sits on the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. We believe Dr. Lewis's qualifications to sit on our Board include his experience leading organizations, and his strong skills in government relations and strategic planning.

**Other  
current  
public  
company  
boards:**  
None

## Executive Officers

Executive officers are elected annually by the Board at its meeting following the annual meeting of shareowners to serve for a one-year term and until their successors are elected and qualified. Thomas A. Barron and William G. Smith, Jr. serve as directors and executive officers and J. Kimbrough Davis is an executive officer.

### **J. KIMBROUGH DAVIS**

Mr. Davis, 62, was appointed our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 1997. He served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from 1991 to 1997. In 1998, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Capital City Bank.

## Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee Report

During 2015, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee focused its efforts on:

- § Board refreshment, ultimately nominating John G. Sample, Jr., as a director;
- § Management succession planning, specifically for the positions of Chief Executive Officer, President, and Chief Financial Officer;
- § Reviewing risk management practices, including scheduling time with senior executive officers to discuss
- § cybersecurity practices, posture, and response, as well as insurance coverages in place to help protect the Company and its shareowners in the event a cyberattack occurs.

### **2015 Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee:**

John K. Humphress (Chair)

Cader B. Cox, III

Lina S. Knox

Henry Lewis III

### **BOARD'S RESPOnSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

#### Succession Planning

The Board plans for succession to the position of Chief Executive Officer as well as certain other senior management positions. To assist the Board, William G. Smith, Jr., our Chairman, President, and CEO, annually provides the Board with an assessment of senior managers and of their potential to succeed him. He also provides the Board with an assessment of persons considered potential successors to certain other senior management positions. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and our independent directors in an executive session annually review this



updated assessment. In addition, the Board interacts with members of senior management who are potential successors to our executive management.

#### Board Refreshment

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines reflect our belief that directors should not be subject to term limits because it would likely cause us to lose directors who have developed insight into our strategies and operations and risks. Nevertheless, we have several policies in place to support board refreshment such as a mandatory retirement age, mandatory resignation if the director does not receive a majority vote of support from our shareowners, mandatory tender of a resignation upon a change in our director's principal employment, and a strict prohibition on overboarding. Nevertheless, our board of directors regularly reviews its own composition, and considers and plans for an orderly transition and refreshment process, which includes planning for potential retirements and identifying potential candidates for service as new directors. As part of this process, over the past three years, the board of directors has added two new independent directors, Messrs. Bense and Sample, whom the board of directors believes have the relevant experience and expertise to complement that of our other directors and to further contribute to the board's ongoing guidance of our company.

## Risk Management

The Board believes that risk management is an important component of our corporate strategy. While we assess specific risks at our committee levels, the Board, as a whole, oversees our risk management process, and discusses and reviews with management major policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The Board is regularly informed through committee reports about our risks. In addition, we have an Enterprise Risk Oversight Committee, which reports to the Board at least twice per year. The Enterprise Risk Oversight Committee serves to assist the Board in establishing and monitoring our key risks, and meets at least on a quarterly basis.

## Board and Committee Evaluations

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee uses a variety of methods to annually evaluate the Board as a whole and its committees. In most years, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee uses written questionnaires for the evaluation. Directors submit completed questionnaires to the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, who summarizes the results without attribution. The full Board discusses the summary of the Board evaluation, and each committee discusses the summary of its own evaluation. In other years, the evaluation is conducted by the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee by sending each director a series of questions for the director to consider. The evaluation is then conducted verbally in executive session led by the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

## Corporate Governance Guidelines

The Board has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines that give effect to the Nasdaq corporate governance listing standards and various other corporate governance matters.

## Codes of Conduct and Ethics

The Board has adopted Codes of Conduct applicable to all directors, officers, and associates, and a Code of Ethics applicable to our Chief Executive Officer and our financial and accounting officers, all of which are available, without charge, upon written request to:

Capital City Bank Group, Inc.

c/o Corporate Secretary

217 North Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

These codes are designed to comply with Nasdaq and SEC requirements. We will disclose any amendments to, or waivers from, the Code of Ethics on our website ([www.ccbg.com](http://www.ccbg.com)) within four business days of such determination.

## Board structure and process

### Independent Directors

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market. Nasdaq requires that a majority of our directors be “independent,” as defined by Nasdaq’s rules. Generally, a director does not qualify as an independent director if the director or a member of a director’s immediate family has had in the past three years certain relationships or affiliations

with us, our external or internal auditors, or other companies that do business with us. Our Board has adopted categorical independence standards that include all objective standards of independence set forth in the Nasdaq rules. The categorical independence standards are posted to the Corporate Governance section of our website, *www.ccbg.com*. Based on these standards, our Board has affirmatively determined that the following current directors, constituting a majority of our directors, are independent: Allan G. Bense, Frederick Carroll, III, Cader B. Cox, III, J. Everitt Drew, John K. Humphress, Lina S. Knox, Henry Lewis III, and John G. Sample, Jr.

#### Board Leadership

The Board has no policy with respect to separation of the positions of Chairman and CEO or with respect to whether the Chairman should be a member of management or an independent director, and believes that these are matters that should be discussed and determined by the Board from time to time. When the Chairman of the Board is a member of management or is otherwise not independent, the non-associate directors elect a lead director, which we discuss below. Currently, William G. Smith, Jr. serves as our Chairman and CEO. Given the fact that Mr. Smith is tasked with the responsibility of implementing our corporate strategy, we believe he is best suited for leading discussions regarding performance relative to our corporate strategy, and these discussions represent a significant portion of our Board meetings.

## Lead Director

The independent directors of our Board of Directors annually elect an independent director to serve in a lead capacity. Although elected annually, the lead director is generally expected to serve for more than one year. Mr. Drew serves as our lead director. The lead director's duties, which are listed in a Board approved charter, include:

§                   presiding at all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman is not present;  
                  §                   calling meetings of the independent directors;  
                  §                   coordinating with the Chairman the planning of meeting agenda items; and  
§ serving as an independent point of contact for shareowners wishing to communicate with the Board other than  
§ through the Chairman.

We have posted all of the lead director duties on the Lead Director Charter section of our website, *www.ccbg.com*.

## Independent Director Meetings In Executive Sessions

Our independent directors have established a policy to meet separately without any Company associates present in regularly scheduled executive sessions at least twice annually, and at such other times as may be deemed appropriate by our independent directors. Any independent director may call an executive session of independent directors at any time. In 2015, the independent directors met in an executive session six times.

## Director Nominating Process

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee annually reviews and makes recommendations to the full Board regarding the composition and size of the Board so that the Board consists of members with the proper expertise, skills, attributes, and personal and professional backgrounds needed by the Board, consistent with applicable Nasdaq and regulatory requirements.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee believes that all directors, including nominees, should possess the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity, and values, and be committed to representing the long-term interests of our shareowners. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will consider criteria including the nominee's current or recent experience as a senior executive officer, whether the nominee is independent, as that term is defined by the Nasdaq listing standards, the business experience currently desired on the Board, geography, the nominee's banking industry experience, and the nominee's general ability to enhance the overall composition of the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee does not have a formal policy on diversity; however, the Board and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee believe that it is essential that the Board members represent diverse viewpoints and generally considers this issue during the annual board and committee evaluation process.

Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee identifies nominees for directors primarily based upon suggestions from shareowners, current directors, and executives. The Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and at least one other member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee interviews director candidates. The full Board formally nominates candidates for director to be included in the slate of directors presented for shareowner vote based upon the recommendations of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee following this process.

## Voting Standard

Our Bylaws provide that in an uncontested election, if a nominee for director does not receive at least a majority of the votes cast at any meeting for his or her election at which a quorum is present, then the director must promptly tender

his or her resignation to the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee would then recommend to the Board whether to accept or reject the tendered resignation, or whether other action should be taken. The Board will act on the tendered resignation and publicly disclose its decision and the rationale behind the decision within 90 days from the date of the certification of the election results. If a director's resignation is not accepted by the Board, then such director will continue to serve the remainder of the director's term. If a nominee's resignation is accepted by the Board, then the Board, in its sole discretion, may fill any remaining vacancy or decrease the size of the Board. To be eligible to be a nominee for election or reelection as our director, a person must deliver to our Corporate Secretary a written agreement that such person will abide by these requirements.

#### Mandatory Retirement Policy

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide for mandatory director retirement at age 72.

#### Director Service on Other Boards

To ensure that our directors can provide sufficient time and attention to the Company, our directors may not serve on more than three other boards of directors of public companies in addition to our Board.

#### Change in Director Occupation

A director whose principal occupation or business association changes substantially during the director's tenure must tender a resignation for consideration by the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will recommend to the Board the action, if any, to be taken with respect to the resignation.

#### DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE

Our Board met 12 times in 2015. All of our directors attended at least 75 percent of the total aggregate number of meetings of the Board and Committees on which they served. We expect all directors to attend our Annual Meeting. All directors, who were directors at the time of our Annual Meeting in 2015, attended the 2015 Annual Meeting.

#### SHAREOWNER COMMUNICATIONS

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide for a process by which shareowners may communicate with the Board, a Board committee, the independent directors as a group, or individual directors. Shareowners who wish to communicate with the Board, a Board committee, or any other directors or individual directors may do so by sending written communications to the address below:

Capital City Bank Group, Inc.

c/o Corporate Secretary

217 North Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Communications will be compiled by our Corporate Secretary and submitted to the Board, a committee of the Board, or the appropriate group of directors or individual directors, as appropriate, at the next regular meeting of the Board. The Board has requested that the Corporate Secretary submit to the Board all communications received, excluding those items that are not related to board duties and responsibilities, such as: mass mailings, job inquiries, resumes, advertisements, solicitations, and surveys.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

The following independent directors were the members of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors during 2015: Cader B. Cox, III (Chair), Allan G. Bense, and J. Everitt Drew. None of the members of the Compensation Committee was an officer or an employee of ours or any of our subsidiaries in 2015. None of the members of the Compensation Committee was ever an officer of ours. In addition, there were no "compensation

committee interlocks” during 2015.

**10** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Compensation Committee</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee</b>
The Committee assists the Board in its oversight of:	The Committee assists the Board in its oversight of:	The Committee assists the Board in its oversight of:
<p>§ the integrity of our financial reporting process, system of internal controls, and the independence and performance of our internal auditors;</p> <p>§ our compliance with Section 112 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 199;</p> <p>§ the hiring, qualifications, independence, and performance of our independent auditors, for which the Committee bears primary responsibility; and</p> <p>§ our policies and practices with respect to risk assessment and risk management.</p>	<p>§ our compensation and benefits policies and programs generally;</p> <p>§ the performance evaluation of designated senior managers, including our named executive officers;</p> <p>§ the compensation of our designated senior managers, including our named executive officers;</p> <p>§ assessing the relationship between incentive compensation arrangements and risk management policies and practices;</p> <p>§ stock ownership guidelines for directors and executive officers; and</p> <p>§ Board compensation.</p>	<p>§ Director qualification standards and nominations;</p> <p>§ appointing directors to committees;</p> <p>§ Board, committee, and director performance;</p> <p>§ managerial succession</p> <p>§ our policies and practices relating to corporate governance; and</p> <p>§ shareowner proposals.</p>
Our Board has determined that each member of the Committee is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined under applicable SEC rules.		
<b>Current committee members</b>	<b>Current committee members</b>	<b>Current committee members</b>
Allan G. Bense	Allan G. Bense	Cader B. Cox, III
Frederick Carroll, III (Chair)	Cader B. Cox, III (Chair)	John K. Humphress (Chair)
J. Everitt Drew	J. Everitt Drew	Lina S. Knox
John K. Humphress	John G. Sample, Jr.	Henry Lewis III
John G. Sample, Jr.		
<b>Meetings in 2015</b>	<b>Meetings in 2015</b>	<b>Meetings in 2015</b>
13	6	3
Committee report on page 32	Committee report on page 18	Committee report on page 7

Each member of each committee is independent under the rules of Nasdaq. The Board has adopted written charters for each of its standing committees. The charter for each committee may be viewed on the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.ccbg.com](http://www.ccbg.com).





## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

## Compensation elements

We currently have eight independent directors who qualify for compensation for Board service. In 2014, the Compensation Committee engaged Blanchard Consulting to measure Capital City's board compensation against the same peer group used to measure executive management compensation. Additionally, the Compensation Committee amended our Compensation Philosophy to include targeting total annual fees, including retainer, equity compensation, board meeting fees, committee chairmen fees, committee meeting fees, and Lead Director fees for our directors at the 50th percentile of our selected peer group unless an exemption is stated by the Compensation Committee due to Company performance or market demand. Based on results from a study provided by Blanchard Consulting, the Compensation Committee implemented committee meeting fees in lieu of committee retainers. While the Compensation Committee deems attendance by directors to be mandatory at all meetings, having a variable compensation structure better aligns compensation with the volume of business conducted by each committee. The elements of director compensation are as follows:

## Cash Compensation

<b>Cash Payment</b>	<b>Fees Earned in Cash (\$)</b>
Annual Retainer	12,000
Member of Board Committee	750 per meeting attended (in person or telephonically)
Audit Committee Chair – Annual Retainer	7,000
Compensation Committee Chair – Annual Retainer	6,000
Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee Chair – Annual Retainer	3,000
Lead Outside Director – Annual Retainer	7,000
Board Meeting Fees	750 per for each board meeting and annual strategic meeting attended

## Equity Compensation

**Stock Grant.** Each independent director earns restricted shares of our common stock valued at \$17,500. The restricted shares are granted at the February Compensation Committee meeting and vest on December 31st of the same calendar year. The restricted stock is issued under the terms of the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan. In no event will an award vest in any year that we incur a net loss.

**Director Stock Purchase Plan.** Directors are also permitted to purchase shares of common stock at a 10% discount from fair market value under the 2011 Director Stock Purchase Plan. During 2015, 12,494 shares were purchased. As of December 31, 2015, there were 74,250 shares of common stock available for issuance to directors under this plan. Purchases under this plan were not permitted to exceed the annual retainer and meeting fees received. Our shareowners adopted the Director Stock Purchase Plan at our 2011 Annual Meeting.

## Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits

We provide directors with perquisites and other personal benefits that we believe are reasonable, competitive and consistent with our overall director compensation program. The value of the perquisites for each director in the aggregate is less than \$10,000.

**12** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

## Director Compensation Table

The following table sets forth a summary of the compensation we paid to our directors, other than directors who are also executive officers, in 2015:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>DuBose Ausley</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	13,625	0	0	13,625
Allan G. Bense	34,500	17,500	0	52,000
Frederick Carroll, III	37,750	17,500	0	55,250
Cader B. Cox, III	33,750	17,500	0	51,250
J. Everitt Drew	42,250	17,500	0	59,750
John K. Humphress	36,000	17,500	0	53,500
Lina S. Knox	23,250	17,500	0	40,750
Henry Lewis III	23,250	17,500	0	40,750
<b>John G. Sample, Jr.</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	0	0	0	0

(1) Mr. Ausley did not stand for re-election at our 2015 Annual Shareowners' Meeting.

In 2015, we granted each independent director 1,133 shares of our common stock, issued under our 2011 Associate (2) Incentive Plan. The fair value of each share at the time of the grant was \$15.44. The column represents the fair value of the award as calculated in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

(3) Mr. Sample was appointed to the Board effective as of January 1, 2016.

## Stock Ownership Expectations

We maintain stock ownership guidelines for all independent directors. Under our current guidelines, all independent directors are expected to own our common stock equal in value to 10 times their annual director compensation at the time they were elected. Directors have 10 years from the date they are first appointed or elected to our Board to meet the stock ownership requirement. The Compensation Committee has determined that as of December 31, 2015, all directors, other than Messrs. Drew and Lewis, have met our share ownership expectations or are on track to meet these expectations within the stated time period of 10 years from date of appointment or election.

## TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

### PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW, APPROVAL, OR RATIFICATION OF RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS

We recognize that related person transactions may raise questions among our shareowners as to whether the transactions are consistent with our best interests and our shareowners' best interests. We generally do not enter into or ratify a related person transaction unless our Board, acting through the Audit Committee or otherwise, determines that the related person transaction is in, or is not inconsistent with, our best interests and our shareowners' best interests. We have adopted a written Related Person Transaction Policy.

Under our procedures, each director, executive officer, and nominee for director submits to our designated compliance officer certain information to assist us in monitoring the presence of related party transactions. On an ongoing basis, and to the best of their knowledge, directors and executive officers are expected to notify our designated compliance officer of any updates to that information. We use our best efforts to follow similar procedures with each shareowner who owns more than 5% of our common stock.

We use our best efforts to have our Audit Committee pre-approve all related person transactions. In the event a related person transaction was not pre-approved by the Audit Committee, the transaction is immediately submitted for the Audit Committee's review for ratification or attempted rescission.

In addition to the policy described above, we circulate a questionnaire each quarter to our directors and executive officers, in which each respondent is required to disclose, to the best of their knowledge, all related person transactions that occurred in the previous quarter.

## TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

For the year ended December 31, 2015, we have not identified any transactions or series of similar transactions for which we are a party in which the amount involved exceeded or will exceed \$120,000 and in which any current director, executive officer, or holder of more than 5% of our capital stock had or will have a direct or indirect material interest other than as follows:

Capital City Bank's Apalachee Parkway Office is located on land leased from the Smith Interests General Partnership L.L.P. ("SIGP") in which William G. Smith, Jr., Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer, the Estate of Robert H. Smith, owner of more than 10% of our common stock, and Lina S. Knox, a director, are partners. Each of William G. Smith, Jr. and the Estate of Robert H. Smith own approximately 32% of SIGP interests. Mrs. Knox owns approximately 14% of the SIGP interests. Under a lease agreement expiring in 2024, Capital City Bank makes monthly lease payments to SIGP. Lease payments are adjusted periodically for inflation. Actual lease payments made by Capital City Bank to SIGP in 2015 amounted to \$170,000. We believe the terms of this lease are comparable to the terms we would have received if we had leased the property from a third party.

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

### Executive Overview

#### Capital City's Performance Highlights

Despite the challenging operating environment over the past several years, we believe that Capital City has positioned itself to take advantage of new opportunities. Consider that:

§ During 2015, we had strong, broad-based loan growth of \$62 million or 4.3%. This represents eight consecutive quarters of loan growth;

§ We posted a 44% reduction in nonperforming assets in 2015. We believe our strategy for the disposition of repossessed assets has worked and provided the best possible outcome for our shareowners by selling the repossessed assets at generally higher prices than we believe we could have sold the assets if we opted to immediately liquidate the assets;

§ We have not taken on excessive interest rate risk or relaxed our credit standards, and believe our balance sheet is well positioned for an improving economy;

§ Despite a deep and prolonged recession, Capital City earned a cumulative profit of \$40.6 million from 2008 through § 2015. As a result, we did not dilute our shareowners by raising additional capital. We continue to maintain a strong capital position; and

§ We returned \$8.2 million of capital to our shareowners in 2015 through share repurchases and dividends.

We are Careful with How We Spend our Shareowners' Money

We have an experienced and hardworking management team. In fact, our executive management team has more than 36 years of experience in the banking industry on average. We have been able to retain our management team by strongly linking pay to performance. Compare how our CEO's base salary matches up to the median base salary of the CEOs of our peer group:

The CEO median salary is the median salary of the CEO for our peer group in 2014 plus an assumed 3% cost of (1) living increase. In 2015, our Compensation Committee used the 2014 salaries (which were the latest available) to set Mr. Smith's 2015 base salary. Our peer group is listed on page 25.

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement **15**

Mr. Smith's relatively low base salary does not reflect his performance level, but rather it reflects our conservative compensation philosophy. Superior compensation should be earned through superior performance. Because Capital City's performance was adversely affected during the recent recession, we significantly limited the raises our named executive officers received.

#### We Strive to Maximize Shareowner Return

At Capital City, we strive to foster a culture of accountability to our shareowners and work to maximize shareowner return each day. In fact, that is why we refer to our shareholders as "shareowners" – we understand that we work for the benefit of Capital City's owners. We also believe that a good way to align the interests of our associates with the interests of our shareowners is to encourage our associates to become shareowners. We are proud to offer our associates the ability to purchase shares of Capital City through our 2011 Associate Stock Purchase Plan and through the Capital City 401(k) Plan. We also pay our directors, executive officers and senior management team partially in shares of Capital City stock and maintain robust share ownership requirements for many of these individuals.

#### Pay for Performance is Integral to the Capital City Culture

Our focus on maximizing shareowner return and the strong ownership culture among our associates makes it much easier to implement a strong pay-for-performance compensation plan for your management team. Your executive officers do not expect to get paid well when Capital City's results do not meet our expectations. On the other hand, when Capital City's results are strong, such as our results in 2014 and 2015, your management team should be rewarded. In 2015, a substantial majority of Mr. Smith's eligible compensation was "at risk."

Capital City has been operating in a difficult environment over the past seven years. We continue to experience near record low interest rates, which have reduced our net interest margin significantly. Real estate prices decreased substantially during the recent recession, which reduced the value of the collateral on loans. As a result, Capital City's performance during the recent recession hasn't always met our expectations. While we can't control general economic factors, we believe that we can ensure that our management team's compensation is in line with Capital City's performance.

CEO Realized Pay is based on the total compensation we reported in the Summary Compensation Table in that year's proxy statement excluding (i) the change in pension value amount because we believe it does not necessarily reflect the actual value received or to be received by the CEO, but rather it reflects an actuarial amount, and (ii) any declined bonus awards such as the bonuses Mr. Smith declined in 2009 and 2010.

**Compensation Best Practices**

We are proud of the strong corporate governance practices we have implemented. Below we have summarized some of the important policies we have implemented to ensure that we provide compensation to align the interests of our executive officers with the interests of our shareowners. More importantly, we have summarized the compensation practices that we do not have because we believe that these particular practices are not in the best interests of our shareowners.

**What We Do**

- P**Pay for performance
- P**Balanced mix of fixed and variable pay
- P**Meaningful stock ownership requirements
- P**Use an independent compensation adviser
- P**Allocate a significant portion of pay in stock
- P**Independent compensation committee
- P**Mitigate undue risk in compensation programs

**What We Don't Do**

- O**Employment contracts
- O**Stock option grants
- O**Separate change in control agreements
- O**Excise tax gross-ups upon change in control
- O**Guaranteed bonuses
- O**Excessive perquisites
- O**Income tax "grossup bonuses"



## COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We, as a Compensation Committee, met six times in 2015, including three executive sessions with only the Compensation Committee members present. Mr. Cox, the chairman of our Committee, sets the meeting dates and agenda for the committee. In the past year, we:

§ Held an executive session to discuss the 2014 performance of Mr. Smith. In accordance with our charter, Mr. Cox § distributed an evaluation to all outside directors, and then collected and compiled the results of the evaluations. He presented the summarized and aggregated results for review by our Committee;

§ Approved Mr. Smith's 2015 base salary of \$375,000, and targeted short-term incentive compensation of \$350,000;

§ Approved Mr. Smith's 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan targeted at \$250,000 and, in February 2016, approved a § similar plan for Mr. Barron targeted at \$100,000;

§ Reviewed and approved Mr. Barron's 2015 base salary of \$297,000, and target incentive compensation of \$239,000 § and Mr. Davis's 2015 base salary of \$268,000 and target incentive compensation of \$150,000;

§ Reviewed total compensation for nine senior managers, including a review of incentive plans and relative risk to the § Company;

§ Reviewed executive perquisites and found them to be reasonable;

§ Reviewed stock ownership positions for all senior managers and directors;

§ Reviewed and recommended no changes to director compensation for 2016; and

Discussed strategic compensation issues, including a review of the current design and expense of the Company's § defined benefit pension plan, hedging and pledging policies, and amendments to our charter as required by regulatory changes.

We have also reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K included in this Proxy Statement. Based on that review and discussion, we have recommended to the Board of Directors of the Company that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

### **2015 Compensation Committee**

Cader B. Cox, III (Chair)

Allan G. Bense

J. Everitt Drew

### Compensation and Benefits Strategy

Our compensation strategy provides broad guidance on senior management compensation and more specifically on the compensation of the named executive officers. Our compensation objectives are to provide compensation programs that:

§ Align compensation with shareowner value;

§ Provide a direct and transparent link between our performance and pay for our CEO and senior management;

§ Make wise use of our equity resources to ensure compatibility between senior management and shareowner interests;

§ Align the interests of our executive officers with those of our shareowners through performance-based incentive § plans; and

§ Award total compensation that is both reasonable and effective in attracting, motivating and retaining key associates.

18 Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

We believe that accomplishing corporate goals is essential for our continued success and sustained financial performance. Therefore, we believe that executive officer compensation should be largely at-risk and performance based. Specific targets and weightings used for establishing short-term and long-term performance goals are subject to change at the beginning of each measurement period, and are influenced by the Board's desire to emphasize performance in certain areas. Each year, the Compensation Committee reviews and approves all executive officer performance-based goals.

The compensation and benefits programs for our executives are designed with the goal of providing compensation that is fair, reasonable and competitive. These programs are intended to help us recruit and retain qualified executives, and provide rewards that are linked to performance while also aligning the interests of executives with those of our shareowners.

### Compensation Philosophy

The Compensation Committee, with Board approval, adopted the compensation philosophy and set the following compensation objectives:

§ Target base salaries for our senior executives at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our selected peer group unless an exception is approved by our Compensation Committee due to performance, experience, or market demand;

§ Position direct compensation (salary, cash and equity compensation) of our senior executives at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of our selected peer group of banks dependent upon our performance to attract top talent and to recognize exceptional performance by management;

§ Target variable (pay for performance) compensation to at least 30% of total compensation mix; and  
§ Continue, over time, the alignment of senior management's interests with those of our shareowners (the percentage of equity compensation should increase relative to total incentive compensation); and

§ Target total annual fees, including retainer, equity compensation, board meeting fees, committee chairman fees, committee meeting fees, and Lead Director fees, at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our selected peer group unless an exemption is approved by our Compensation Committee due to company performance or market demand.

We discuss the composition of our peer group and our benchmarking practices in further detail below.

### Executive Compensation Policy Decisions

The Compensation Committee has adopted a number of policies to further the goals of our executive compensation program, particularly with respect to strengthening the alignment of our executives' interests with our shareowners' long-term interests. Further, the Compensation Committee believes the policies set forth below are effective based on the stability of our management team and our ability to attract talent from outside the Company.

### Stock Ownership Expectations

We maintain stock ownership expectations for all senior managers, including our executive officers. Under our current guidelines, all senior managers are expected to own shares of our common stock equal in value to at least two times their annual base salary; Mr. Barron and Mr. Davis are expected to own shares of our common stock equal in value to at least three times their annual base salary; and Mr. Smith is expected to own shares of our common stock equal in value to at least five times his annual base salary. Compliance is expected within six years of becoming a senior manager or executive officer.

The Compensation Committee has determined that as of December 31, 2015, all executive officers have met our share ownership expectations and all other senior managers covered by this program are making significant strides in meeting the ownership expectations.



## Stock Options

We ceased granting stock options in 2007.

## Prohibition on Repricing Stock Options

By the terms of the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan, which is the only plan we may use to grant stock options, repricing stock options is prohibited without shareowner approval.

## Employment Agreements and Severance Agreements

We believe the employment of our executive officers should remain “at will.” Therefore, none of our executive officers have an employment agreement or severance agreement with us.

## Compensation Program Design

### Compensation Framework

We design our specific compensation elements based on the following:

§ **Performance:** We believe that the best way to accomplish alignment of compensation plans with the participants’ interests is to directly link pay to individual and Company performance.

§ **Competitiveness:** Compensation and benefits programs are designed to be competitive with those provided by companies with whom we compete for talent. Benefits programs are not based on performance.

§ **Cost:** Compensation and benefit programs are designed to be cost-effective and affordable, ensuring that the interests of our shareowners are considered.

§ **Peer Group:** The relevant peer group for comparison of compensation and benefits programs consists of commercial banks and thrifts with a geographic footprint or asset base similar to ours.

### Specific Compensation Elements

Our executive compensation program is comprised of four discrete elements:

§	Base salary
§	Incentive compensation
§	Benefits and perquisites
§	Post-termination compensation and benefits

### Impact on Say-on-Pay Vote

We provide our shareowners with the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on executive compensation (“Say-on-Pay”) every three years. At our Annual Meeting in 2015, out of the 13,620,210 votes cast (excluding abstentions and broker nonvotes), our shareowners cast 12,565,422 shares, or 92.3%, “For” approval of our executive compensation. The Compensation Committee believes this vote affirmed shareowners’ support of our approach to executive compensation. We did not change our approach since our last Say on Pay vote, other than to discontinue the tax supplement bonus for our stock-based incentive plans. The Compensation Committee will continue to consider the outcome of the Say-on-Pay vote when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.



## Discussion of Specific Compensation Elements

### Base Salary

Our compensation philosophy guideline is to target base salaries at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our peer group; however, superior performance may warrant a base salary in excess of this target. Our Compensation Committee believes that this target level will allow us to attract and retain the talent necessary to achieve our performance goals. The base salaries for the named executive officers are determined by analyzing available market data as well as taking into account the experience and performance of the individual. In 2015, each of our named executive officers received an increase in their base salary. The increases were Mr. Smith, 8.0%; Mr. Barron, 10.0%; and Mr. Davis, 3.1%. Mr. Smith's base salary is 27% below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile base salary of our peer group. His relatively low base salary is not reflective of his performance or experience level. It has been historically low compared to our peer group benchmark and the Compensation Committee continues to place great emphasis on bringing Mr. Smith's base salary in line with the stated target level. Mr. Barron's base salary is 26% below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile and Mr. Davis's base salary was 15% below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### Incentive Compensation

In addition to their base salary, each named executive officer has the opportunity to earn annual incentive compensation. The Compensation Committee believes a competitive overall compensation package should include incentive compensation in the form of both cash and equity awards. The Compensation Committee believes targeting incentive compensation equal to or greater than 30% of total compensation is sufficient to change behaviors relative to performance. As a result, we believe our total incentive-based compensation target of at least 30% of total compensation is appropriate.

In 2015, Mr. Smith's targeted incentive compensation was 62% of his total targeted compensation, Mr. Barron's was 48% and Mr. Davis's was 36%. We believe the differences of potential impact each executive officer has on our performance warrants differences in how much compensation they individually have at risk. Messrs. Smith and Barron were the only executive officers with an opportunity to earn incentives under a long term plan.

In 2016, Mr. Smith's total targeted incentive compensation of \$600,000 is comprised of 47% cash and 53% equity and includes both short term and long term incentive plans. Mr. Barron's total target incentive compensation of \$305,000 is comprised of 60% cash and 40% equity. Mr. Davis's total target incentive compensation of \$150,000 is comprised of 70% cash and 30% equity. The difference in allocation between cash and equity among the named executive officers is due to each executive's responsibilities.

The base and incentive (cash and equity) compensation for Messrs. Smith, Barron, and Davis placed them well below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for total compensation, relative to our peer group.

**Cash Incentive Plan.** Cash incentives for each of the named executive officers are based primarily on individual and divisional performance with regard to goals established by the Compensation Committee.

In 2015, Mr. Smith received a payout of \$201,163 under his Cash Incentive Plan, representing 115.0% of his target, using four distinct goals that were weighted based on their relative relationship to the impact on the financial performance of the Company including:

- § achieving our Million Dollar Mission (a profit enhancement initiative focused on increasing noninterest income and decreasing noninterest expense collectively by at least \$1.0 million) (weighted at 14%);
- § lowering the level of nonperforming assets to no more than \$30 million (22%);

§ achieving performing loans at a level greater than \$1.47 billion (29%); and  
§ achieving an annual earnings goal of \$9.4 million (35%).

Mr. Barron received a payout of \$161,723, representing 112.8% of his target, in 2015. Mr. Barron's payout was based on five distinct goals that were weighted based on his ability to impact the outcome of the goal including:

- § achieving the earnings goal (17%);
- § achieving the performing loans goal (17%);
- § achieving net interest income budget of \$76.3 million (16%); and
- § achieving the nonperforming assets goal (33%).

The payout under the fifth goal, whether and to what extent the managers who directly report to him meet their own Company-determined performance goals, is based on an average of his direct reporting managers' payouts under the plan. Each reporting manager has divisional goals specific to them. The fifth goal was weighted at 17%.

In 2015, Mr. Davis received a payout of \$104,098, representing 115.7% of his target. Mr. Davis's payout was based on five distinct goals that were weighted based on his ability to impact the outcome of the goal including:

- § achieving the nonperforming assets goal (10%);
- § achieving the earnings goal (25%);
- § meeting budgeted noncredit/pension related expenses of no more than \$103.3 million (25%);
- § achieving the net interest income goal (25%); and
- § a payout based on an average of his direct reporting managers' payouts under the plan (15%).

**Stock-Based Incentive Plan.** The Stock-Based Incentive Plan is a performance-based equity bonus plan in which selected members of management, including all named executive officers, are eligible to participate. The Stock-Based Incentive Plan is administered under our 2011 Associate Incentive Plan. It is our general policy to award cash awards to our executive officers for superior individual and divisional performance and equity awards for superior company performance. The Compensation Committee believes the equity component of our incentive compensation package creates ownership in the Company and aligns the goals of our shareowners and named executive officers because it provides incentives to our named executive officers to focus on improving long-term performance. Payments under the Stock-Based Incentive Plan consists of an award payable 75% in performance shares and 25% in cash, and is designed to align the economic interests of management with those of our shareowners.

Under the Stock-Based Incentive Plan, all participants were eligible to earn an equity award tied to achievement of four distinct objectives weighted based on their relative relationship to the impact on the financial performance of the Company:

- § total earnings of greater than \$9.4 million (weighted at 35%);
- § achievement of the Million Dollar Mission (14%);
- § performing loans greater than \$1.47 billion (22%); and
- § nonperforming assets less than \$30 million (29%).

Depending on performance, component payouts under the plan could have ranged from 0% to 200% of the target, and the maximum payout, in aggregate, could have been 200%.

Three of four goals were achieved at the 100% level or better. Earnings paid out at 67.9%, Million Dollar Mission paid out at 107.2%, nonperforming assets paid out at 103.2%, and performing loans paid out at 184.4%. Factoring the component weighting of each goal, the total payout was 115.0% under the 2015 Stock-Based Incentive Plan.

The total economic value of the award for each named executive officer is set as a percentage of total incentive compensation. The total economic value of the target award at the 100% payout level is split 75% in shares and 25% in cash. The formula used a stock price of \$15.30 to arrive at the number of performance shares granted. The price was derived based on the average high and low of the previous 10 trading days from date of grant (February 20, 2015). This formula was set by the terms of the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan.



**22** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

In 2015, the named executive officers received the following shares:

Name	100% Payout	Maximum Payout	2015 Actual Payout
William G. Smith, Jr.	8,578	17,157	9,861
Thomas A. Barron	4,686	9,373	5,387
J. Kimbrough Davis	2,941	5,882	3,381

The cash portion of the Stock-Based Incentive Plan award was as follows:

Name	100% Payout	Maximum Payout	2015 Actual Payout
William G. Smith, Jr.	\$ 43,750	\$ 87,500	\$ 50,291
Thomas A. Barron	23,900	47,800	27,473
J. Kimbrough Davis	15,000	30,000	17,243

Awards earned under the Stock-Based Incentive Plan are issued in the calendar quarter following the calendar year in which the awards were earned. Generally, any awards earned are issued in late January or early February.

***Long-term Incentive Plan - Compound Annual Growth Rate in Diluted EPS.*** The Compensation Committee awards Messrs. Smith and Barron performance shares as provided in the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan. This plan is designed to more closely correlate CEO compensation with the long-term growth of the Company. Pursuant to this three-year plan, which is adopted each year to allow for the annual adoption of rolling three-year goals, we award performance shares and cash with an economic value equivalent ranging from \$0 to \$500,000 after the conclusion of the three-year performance period for Mr. Smith. In 2015, the Compensation Committee granted Mr. Barron the right to participate in this plan with a phased in approach in years 2015 and 2016. For Mr. Barron, we award performance shares and cash with an economic value equivalent ranging from \$0 to \$200,000 after the conclusion of the performance period.

**Details of Mr. Smith's long-term incentive plan.**

For the 2013 plan (with a possible payout in 2016 based on 2013-15 performance), the target award of \$250,000 was based on achieving a goal of a 10% three-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share using \$0.01 per share (2012 earnings) as the base amount. A maximum award of \$500,000 would be earned if the compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share equaled or exceeded 12.5%, the maximum performance level. Mr. Smith requested that the Compensation Committee exercise negative discretion in not awarding a payout in 2016 under the 2013 plan. The Compensation Committee, with Board approval, respectfully accepted Mr. Smith's request and awarded him \$0.

For the 2014 plan (with a possible payout in 2017 based on 2014-16 performance), the target award of \$250,000 is based on achieving a goal of a 10% three-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share using \$0.35 per share (2013 earnings) as the base amount. A maximum award of \$500,000 would be earned if the compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share equaled or exceeded 12.5%, the maximum performance level.

For the 2015 plan (with a possible payout in 2018 based on 2015-17 performance), the target award of \$250,000 is based on achieving a goal of a 10% three-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share using \$0.53 per share (2014 earnings) as the base amount. A maximum award of \$500,000 would be earned if the compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share equaled or exceeded 12.5%, the maximum performance level.

**Details of Mr. Barron's long-term incentive plan.**

For the Year 1 Phase-in 2015 plan (with a possible payout in 2016 based on 2015 performance), the target award of \$33,000 was based on achieving a goal of a 10% one-year growth rate in diluted earnings per share using \$0.53 per share (2014 earnings) as the base amount. A maximum award of \$66,000 would be earned if the one-year growth rate in diluted earnings per share equaled or exceeded 12.5%, the maximum performance level. The one-year growth rate was not achieved; therefore, no award was made to Mr. Barron under the Year 1 Phase-in 2015 plan.

For the Year 2 Phase-in 2015 plan (with a possible payout in 2017 based on 2015-16 performance), the target award of \$66,000 is based on achieving a goal of a 10% two-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share using \$0.53 per share (2014 earnings) as the base amount. A maximum award of \$132,000 would be earned if the two-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share equaled or exceeded 12.5%, the maximum performance level.

For the Year 3 Phase-in 2015 plan (with a possible payout in 2018 based on 2015-17 performance), the target award of \$100,000 is based on achieving a goal of a 10% three-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share using \$0.53 per share (2014 earnings) as the base amount. A maximum award of \$200,000 would be earned if the three-year compound annual growth rate in diluted earnings per share equaled or exceeded 12.5%, the maximum performance level.

#### Benefits and Perquisites

**Determining Benefit Levels.** Benefit levels are reviewed periodically to ensure that the plans and programs provided are competitive and cost-effective for us, and support our human capital needs. Benefit levels are not tied to company, business area or individual performance.

**Perquisites.** We provide our named executive officers with perquisites that we believe are reasonable, competitive and consistent with our overall executive compensation program. The value of the perquisites for each named executive officer in the aggregate is less than \$10,000.

**Health, Dental, Disability and Life Insurance Coverage.** The core insurance package for our named executive officers and senior management team includes health, dental, disability and basic group life insurance coverage. Our named executives and senior management participate in these benefits on the same basis as our other associates.

**Paid Time-Off Benefits.** We provide vacation and other paid holidays to all associates, including our named executive officers and senior management team, which are comparable to those provided at similarly sized financial institutions.

#### Post-Termination Compensation and Benefits.

We provide retirement benefits to named executive officers and senior management through a combination of qualified (under the Internal Revenue Code) and nonqualified plans.

**Retirement Plan.** The Retirement Plan is a tax-qualified, noncontributory defined benefit plan intended to provide for an associate's financial security in retirement. All full-time and part-time associates with 1,000 hours of service annually are eligible for the Retirement Plan.

**401(k) Plan.** The 401(k) plan provides associates the opportunity to save for retirement on a tax-favored basis. For associates hired after January 1, 2002, the associates receive a reduced pension benefit under the Retirement Plan and a 50% matching contribution under the 401(k) Plan. This change was intended to be cost-neutral. Executives may elect to participate in the 401(k) Plan on the same basis as our other similarly situated associates. No named executive officers are currently eligible for the company-sponsored match.

**Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.** Each of our named executive officers participates in our Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP"), a nonqualified plan which provides benefits in excess of the Retirement Plan. The SERP is designed to restore a portion of the benefits Messrs. Smith, Barron, and Davis would otherwise receive under our Retirement Plan, if these benefits were not limited by U.S. tax laws. This more closely aligns the benefits of Messrs. Smith, Barron, and Davis with those of other Retirement Plan participants. We have no obligation to fund the SERP, but accrue for our anticipated obligations under the SERP on an annual basis.

#### Benchmarking

We use benchmarking as a method to understand what similar positions pay in similar organizations. In setting 2015 executive compensation, the Compensation Committee engaged Blanchard Consulting to create a custom peer group,

based on the following traits: publicly traded bank holding company with assets between \$1.9 billion and \$6 billion as of fiscal year end 2013, at least 30 branches, and located in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina. The states selected represent southeastern U.S. states where financial institutions with a similar profile to Capital City Bank were located. At the time the members of the peer group were selected, each member was a publicly traded company. (See the chart below for the names of the financial institutions in our selected peer group as well as their asset size and net income.)

Approximately 25% of the peer group includes institutions that serve the same geographic region as we do. Benchmarking is the primary tool we use to set executive compensation; however, we also review individual performance and industry trends in terms of increases to executive compensation. For Mr. Smith, we also undertake a 10-year historical compensation review.

**24** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

The compensation peer group is not identical to the peer group used to measure company performance, due to difficulty in gathering compensation data from nonpublic companies. Company performance data can be gathered from financial institution call reports for public and nonpublic financial institutions. However, some of the institutions represented on the compensation peer group are included in the Company performance peer group.

<b>Financial Institution</b>	<b>Total Assets (\$ in thousands)<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Ameris Bancorp	4,037,077
BNC Bancorp	4,072,508
CenterState Banks of Florida, Inc.	3,776,869
CommunityOne Bancorp	2,215,514
FCB Financial Holdings, Inc.	5,957,628
Fidelity Southern Corporation	3,085,225
First Bancorp	3,218,383
First NBC Bank Holding Company	3,750,617
Home Bancshares, Inc.	7,403,272
HomeTrust BancShares, Inc.	2,074,454
MidSouth Bancorp, Inc.	1,936,740
NewBridge Bancorp	2,520,232
Park Sterling Corporation	2,359,230
Renasant Corporation	5,805,129
Seacoast Banking Corporation of Florida	3,093,335
Simmons First National Corp.	4,643,354
Yadkin Financial Corporation	4,266,309

<sup>(1)</sup> All data for fiscal year end 2014, which was the latest available data when we set 2015 compensation.

#### Impact of Regulatory Requirements

#### Tax Deductibility of Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a \$1.0 million limit on the amount that a publicly traded company may deduct for compensation paid to an executive officer who is employed on the last day of the fiscal year. “Performance-based compensation” is excluded from this \$1.0 million limitation. A compensation arrangement will not qualify as “performance-based compensation” if the payment to the executive is triggered by termination, whether that be by the company without cause or by the executive due to good reason or retirement. In general, our policy is to provide compensation that we may fully deduct for income tax purposes. However, in order to maintain ongoing flexibility of our compensation programs, our Compensation Committee may from time to time approve annual compensation that exceeds the \$1.0 million limitation. We recognize that the loss of the tax deduction may be unavoidable under these circumstances.

#### Federal Reserve and FDIC Guidance.

In 2010, the Federal Reserve issued final comprehensive guidance regarding the manner in which banks and bank holding companies pay incentive compensation. In accordance with the final guidance, all banking organizations supervised by the Federal Reserve are required to review the incentive compensation arrangements of: senior executive officers and others responsible for oversight of company-wide activities or material business lines; individual employees, including nonexecutive employees, whose activities may expose the bank to material amounts of risk; and groups of employees who are subject to the same or similar incentive compensation arrangements and who, in the aggregate, may expose the bank to material amounts of risk. Our Compensation Committee has conducted a review to ensure that compensation is structured in a manner so as not to encourage excessive risk-taking.

In 2011, as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act, the federal banking regulators issued a proposed rule which, if adopted, could affect incentive-based compensation for the Company's executives. The proposed rule, among other things, would prohibit certain types of incentive-based compensation including (i) compensation which would be unreasonable or disproportionate to the individual's services (excessive compensation) and (ii) compensation that would encourage inappropriate risk taking that could lead to a material loss. The Compensation Committee is monitoring the progress of the proposed rule. The final rule has not yet been adopted.

## Compensation Committee Process and Procedures

### Scope of Authority

The Compensation Committee has strategic and administrative responsibility for a broad range of issues, including reviewing, authorizing, and approving compensation to be paid to our executive officers, directors, and our senior management team. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee recommends to the Board, and the Board appoints, each member of the Compensation Committee. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has evaluated, and the Board has determined, that each member of the Compensation Committee is an independent director.

The Compensation Committee's policy is to review executive compensation, including incentive goals, at least annually. The Compensation Committee also periodically reviews benefits and perquisites, reviews and provides oversight of our compensation philosophy, serves as the administrative committee for our equity-based plans, and reviews stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers and directors.

### Delegation of Authority

The Compensation Committee's charter permits the delegation of its authority to our Chief People Officer to administer compensation and benefits programs. In 2015, the Compensation Committee delegated the administration of all associate compensation, benefit and welfare plans to Bethany H. Corum, our Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer.

None of the members of the Compensation Committee is an executive officer of a public company of which one of our executive officers is a director.

### Independent Consultants

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Compensation Committee evaluates the information and recommendations put forth by management and its independent advisors in making its decisions regarding executive compensation. The Compensation Committee's decisions are made with the objective of providing fair, equitable and performance-based compensation to executives in a manner that is affordable and cost effective for our shareowners. In 2015, the Compensation Committee engaged Blanchard Consulting to create a custom peer group for the purpose of benchmarking executive officer and director compensation.

### Management's Role

The Compensation Committee sets compensation for the Chief Executive Officer based on data provided by the Chief People Officer and a review of peer group statistics. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviews and approves the Chief Executive Officer's recommendations for other executive officers' compensation. In making these decisions, the Compensation Committee relies on information and recommendations provided by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief People Officer. The key roles played by management in assisting the Compensation Committee to determine compensation levels for our named executive officers are as follows:

§ **Develop performance measures:** Identify appropriate performance measures and recommend performance targets that are used to determine annual and long-term awards.

§ **Compile benchmark data:** Management participates in compensation surveys through reputable third-party firms which are used to gather data on base salary, annual cash and long-term performance awards. In reviewing and setting 2015 senior management compensation, we used custom compensation profiles created by an independent



consultant engaged by the Compensation Committee in 2015. For executive officers, we used peer group data gathered by Blanchard Consulting. The Chief People Officer also provides historical compensation data for each position reviewed by the Compensation Committee.

**Develop compensation guidelines:** Using the benchmark survey data and publicly disclosed compensation information as the foundation, management develops compensation guidelines for each executive position, such as targeting base salaries for our senior executives at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our selected peer group and total direct compensation (salary, cash and equity compensation) at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. These guidelines are provided to the CEO as the basis for his recommendations regarding individual compensation actions. In addition, executives are briefed on the guidelines.

26 Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

The key members of management involved in the executive compensation process were Mr. Smith and Mrs. Corum. Mr. Smith has no involvement in setting his own compensation and was not present during the Compensation Committee's deliberations regarding his own compensation. Mrs. Corum attends all meetings of the Compensation Committee to provide information to the Compensation Committee members and to take minutes of the meetings. At times, the Compensation Committee conducts executive sessions. Mrs. Corum is excused from all executive sessions and the Chairman of the Committee communicates any decisions for inclusion in the minutes. Management (other than Mr. Smith and Mr. Barron solely in their roles as directors approving the Compensation Committee's recommendations) had no role in setting compensation for the independent directors.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary Compensation Table for 2015, 2014, and 2013

The following summary compensation table shows compensation information for our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, and our president (the only other executive officer whose total compensation exceeded \$100,000) for each of the three previous fiscal years.

We have no employment agreements with our named executive officers. Amounts listed under column (g), "Nonequity Incentive Plan Compensation" are determined by the Compensation Committee at its first meeting following the year in which the compensation is earned and paid to the executives shortly after such determination is made.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonuses (\$)	Awards (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Stock Compensation (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Nonequity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation All Other (\$) <sup>(4)</sup>	Total (\$)	Total Value Without Change in Pension (\$) <sup>(5)</sup>
William G. Smith, Jr. Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer	2015	375,000	0	155,013	251,454	563,086	1,584	1,346,137	783,051
	2014	350,000	0	221,554	307,781	369,356	1,584	1,250,275	880,919
	2013	315,000	0	134,860	179,747	0	45,210	674,817	674,817
Thomas A. Barron President, Capital City Bank	2015	297,000	0	84,682	189,196	163,730	1,584	736,192	572,462
	2014	270,000	0	121,029	181,835	540,041	1,584	1,114,487	574,446
	2013	257,670	0	81,857	231,135	0	28,064	598,726	598,726
J. Kimbrough Davis Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2015	268,000	0	53,147	121,341	95,407	1,584	539,479	444,072
	2014	260,000	0	75,954	104,021	559,022	1,584	1,000,581	441,559
	2013	248,676	0	41,958	86,903	0	14,605	392,142	392,142

<sup>(1)</sup> The amounts in column (e) reflect the grant date fair value of Stock-Based Incentive Plan awards computed in accordance with SEC rules.

<sup>(2)</sup> The amounts in column (f) reflect the cash awards to the named individuals under the Cash Incentive Plan, which is discussed in further detail on page 21 under the heading "Incentive Compensation—Cash Incentive Plan," and, for 2014

and 2015, the cash portion of the awards under the Stock-Based Incentive Plan, which is discussed in further detail on page 22 under the heading “Incentive Compensation—Stock-Based Incentive Plan. For Mr. Smith, awards under the Cash Incentive Plan were paid out at approximately 115.0%, 140.7%, and 114.1% of the target awards for 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. For Mr. Barron, awards under the Cash Incentive Plan were paid out at 113.0%, 103.0%, and 161.0% of the target awards for 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. For Mr. Davis, awards under the Cash Incentive Plan were paid out at 115.7%, 92.1%, and 117.4% of the target awards for 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. Cash awards under the Stock-Based Incentive Plan were as follows:

	2015	2014
William G. Smith, Jr.	\$50,291	\$61,556
Thomas A. Barron	27,473	33,629
J. Kimbrough Davis	17,243	21,105

The amounts in column (g) reflect the actuarial increase in the present value of the named executive officer’s benefits under all pension plans established by us determined using the assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements, which are discussed in further detail on page 30 under the heading “Pension Benefits.” In (3)2013, an increase in the discount rate caused the change in the pension value to be negative for each of the named executive officers. The changes in pension value were \$(393,264), \$(517,109), and \$(28,488) for Mr. Smith, Mr. Barron, and Mr. Davis, respectively. Neither the increase nor the decrease in pension value resulting from changes in the discount rate results in any increase or decrease in benefits payable to participants under the plan.

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement **27**

(4) The amount shown in column (h) reflects for each named executive officer a life insurance premium. In addition, in 2013, tax supplement bonuses in the following amounts were paid:

	2013
William G. Smith, Jr.	\$43,626
Thomas A. Barron	26,840
J. Kimbrough Davis	13,573

Beginning in 2014, we no longer pay a tax supplement bonus.

To show the effect that the year-over-year change in pension value had on total compensation, as determined under applicable SEC rules, we have included an additional column (j) to show total compensation minus the change in pension value. The amounts reported in the Total Without Change in Pension Value column may differ substantially from the amounts reported in the Total column required under SEC rules and are not a substitute for total compensation. Total Without Change in Pension Value represents total compensation, as determined under applicable SEC rules, minus the change in pension value reported in the Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings column (but including the nonqualified deferred compensation earnings reported in that column, if any). The change in pension value is subject to many external variables, such as interest rates, that are not related to Company performance. Therefore, we do not believe a year-over-year change in pension value is helpful in evaluating compensation for comparative purposes and instead, believe shareowners may find the accumulated pension benefits in the 2015 Pension Benefits table on page 31 a more useful calculation of the pension benefits provided to the named executive officers.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2015

As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, cash bonus plan payouts and performance share units are granted only when we achieve Board approved established levels of performance.

(a) Name	Award Type	(b) Grant Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Nonequity Incentive Plan Awards			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			(i) Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards
			(c) Threshold	(d) Target	(e) Maximum	(f) Threshold	(g) Target	(h) Maximum	
			(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
William G. Smith, Jr.	Cash	N/A	—	175,000	350,000	—	—	—	—
	Stock <sup>(1)</sup>	2/20/15	—	—	—	—	175,000	350,000	131,456
	LTIP <sup>(2)</sup>	2/20/15	—	—	—	—	250,000	500,000	—
Thomas A. Barron	Cash	N/A	—	143,400	286,800	—	—	—	—
	Stock <sup>(1)</sup>	2/20/15	—	—	—	—	95,600	191,200	71,811
	LTIP <sup>(3)</sup>	2/20/15	—	—	—	—	33,000	66,000	—
J. Kimbrough Davis	Cash	N/A	—	90,000	180,000	—	—	—	—
	Stock <sup>(1)</sup>	2/20/15	—	—	—	—	60,000	120,000	45,066

(1) Represents the Stock-Based Incentive Plan, administered under the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan. Payments are payable 75% in performance shares and 25% in cash.

(2)

Represents the Long-Term Incentive Plan pursuant to which we award performance shares with an economic value equivalent ranging from \$0 - \$500,000, representing 75% equity and 25% cash. The plan has a target award of \$250,000 and a maximum award of \$500,000. The target award is based on the Company earning \$0.47 per share in 2016. The award is based on compounded growth in diluted earnings per share. The number of performance shares that can be earned is calculated based on the average high and lows of the previous 10 trading days from date of grant (February 20, 2015). The formula is set by the terms of the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan.

- Represents the Long-Term Incentive Plan pursuant to which we award performance shares with an economic value equivalent ranging from \$0 - \$66,000, representing 75% equity and 25% cash. The plan has a target award of \$33,000 and a maximum award of \$66,000. The target award is based on the
- (3) Company earning \$0.64 per share in 2016. The award is based on compounded growth in diluted earnings per share. The number of performance shares that can be earned is calculated based on the average high and lows of the previous 10 trading days from date of grant (February 20, 2015). The formula is set by the terms of the 2011 Associate Incentive Plan.

**28** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2015

The following table provides information on outstanding equity awards for our executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table at the end of 2015.

Name	Grant Date	Stock Awards <b>Equity Incentive Plan Awards:</b>	
		<b>Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) (1)</b>	<b>Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) (2)</b>
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
William G. Smith, Jr.	2/20/15	24,526	376,474
	2/18/14	28,802	442,111
	2/19/13	32,620	(3) 500,717 (3)
Thomas A. Barron	2/20/15	19,620	301,167

This column reflects performance shares granted. These shares are conditioned upon a component of an equity (1) security (compounded growth in diluted earnings per share) performance during a three-year cycle. An award, if earned, will be determined and be paid following the performance period.

The dollar amounts shown in this column are determined by multiplying (x) the number of performance shares (2) shown in Column (c) by (y) \$15.35 (the closing price of the Company's common stock on December 31, 2015, the last trading day of the Company's fiscal 2015).

Mr. Smith requested that the Compensation Committee exercise negative discretion in awarding a payout in 2016 (3) under the 2013 plan. The Compensation Committee, with Board approval, respectfully accepted Mr. Smith's request and awarded him \$0.

## Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

The amount of compensation (if any) that is payable to our named executive officers upon termination of employment depends on the nature and circumstances under which employment is ended.

## Change in Control

In the event of a change in control, our named executive officers will be credited with an additional two years of credited service for purposes of computation of retirement benefits payable under the SERP; however, all of our executive officers already have earned the maximum service time. Accrued benefits based upon normal retirement are payable to the named executive officer upon a change in control. A "change in control" under the SERP means the sale of substantially all of our assets, a change in share ownership of greater than 50% within a 24-month period, or any other determination of change in control made by our Board of Directors.

In the event of a change in control, our named executive officers would not receive any additional benefit under the qualified Retirement Plan but would have the same benefits as any associate who separates employment with the

Company.

We have no post-employment compensation programs designed to provide benefits upon our change in control, other than those discussed above.

#### Payments Upon Termination of Employment

***Voluntary Termination.*** If a named executive officer voluntarily resigns from our employment, no amounts are triggered under the Cash Incentive Plan or the Stock-Based Incentive Plan. The executive may be entitled to receive benefits from the Retirement Plan and the SERP to the extent those benefits have been earned under the provisions of the plans and the executive officer has met the vesting requirements of the plans. In addition, the executive would be entitled to receive any amounts voluntarily deferred (and the earnings on deferrals) under the 401(k) Plan.

***Retirement.*** As of December 31, 2015, Messrs. Barron, Davis, and Smith are eligible for normal retirement as defined by the Retirement Plan and the SERP. As such, each may be entitled to receive benefits from the Retirement Plan and SERP to the extent those benefits have been earned under the provisions of the plans.

***Death.*** If a named executive officer dies while employed by us, the Retirement Plan and the SERP will provide benefits to the heirs of the deceased executive. The benefits are of the same value as those provided for a voluntary termination or early retirement as applicable.

**Involuntary Termination with or without Cause.** If a named executive officer's employment is involuntarily terminated, the executive may be entitled to receive benefits from the Retirement Plan and the SERP to the extent those benefits have been earned under the provisions of the plans and the executive officer has met the vesting requirements of the plans. In addition, the executive would be entitled to receive any amounts voluntarily deferred (and the earnings on deferrals) under the 401(k) Plan.

**Disability.** In the event that a named executive officer becomes disabled on a long-term basis, the executive officer's employment by us would not necessarily terminate. If a named executive officer becomes disabled under the terms of the Retirement Plan or the SERP, the executive will continue to accrue a retirement benefit until the earliest of recovery, death or retirement. This benefit cannot be paid as a lump sum distribution.

#### Payment Tables

Each named executive officer would have received the following payments had his employment terminated on December 31, 2015 under the following triggering events:

Name	Compensation Components	Change in Control <sup>(1)</sup>	Voluntary Termination <sup>(1)</sup>	Retirement <sup>(1)</sup>	Death <sup>(1)</sup>	Disability <sup>(2)</sup>	Involuntary Termination <sup>(1)</sup>
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
William G. Smith, Jr.	Retirement Plan	\$2,781,247	\$2,781,247	\$2,781,247	\$2,781,247	\$17,500	\$2,781,247
	SERP	2,331,401	2,331,401	2,331,401	2,331,401	20,317	2,331,401
Thomas A. Barron	Retirement Plan	2,868,726	2,868,726	2,868,726	2,868,726	17,500	2,868,726
	SERP	1,251,993	1,251,993	1,251,993	1,251,993	8,504	1,251,993
J. Kimbrough Davis	Retirement Plan	2,659,357	2,659,357	2,659,357	2,659,357	17,273	2,659,357
	SERP	585,546	585,546	585,546	585,546	4,588	585,546

**Lump Sum.** Lump sum payments are determined as of December 31, 2015 using the Retirement Plan's applicable basis, namely, the mortality table found in RP-2014, projected back to 2006 using Scale MP-2014 and projected generationally from 2006 using scale MP-2015; a three segment yield curve using rates specified in Revenue Notice 2014-78, which are 1.4% for the first 5 years, 3.88% for the next 15 years, and 4.96% thereafter. Under the <sup>(1)</sup>Retirement Plan and the SERP, lump sum payments are triggered upon a change in control, voluntary termination, retirement, death, and involuntary termination. No further benefits would be payable after the lump sum payment is made. Messrs. Smith, Barron and Davis qualify for unreduced retirement benefits as all have reached their Normal Retirement Date of age 61.

**Monthly Annuity Payments.** In the event that a named executive officer becomes disabled on a long-term basis, the <sup>(2)</sup>named executive officer would receive monthly annuity payments beginning at age 65. These payments coordinate with our long-term disability program.

#### PENSION BENEFITS

##### Retirement Plan

The key provisions of the Retirement Plan are as follows:

**Monthly Benefit.** Participants with a vested benefit will be eligible to receive the following retirement benefits each month for the rest of their lives beginning at age 65:

§ 1.90% of final average monthly compensation multiplied by years of service after 1988 (limited to 30 years), plus  
 § 0.40% of final average monthly compensation in excess of \$2,000 multiplied by years of service after 1988  
 § (generally limited to 30 years), plus



§ the monthly benefit accrued as of December 31, 1988 updated for salary increases since 1988. Total benefits are limited by the Internal Revenue Code. In 2015, the limit was \$210,000 per year or \$17,500 per month. Additional provisions may apply for participants who were hired after January 1, 2002 or who worked for a bank that we acquired.

***Final Average Monthly Compensation.*** The final average monthly compensation is the average of the highest five years of W-2 earnings (plus 401(k) deferrals minus taxable automobile allowance) within the previous 10 years, regardless of whether the years occur consecutively. Compensation is limited by the Internal Revenue Code to \$265,000 per year (or \$22,083 per month) for 2015.

**30** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

**Vesting.** Participants become vested after reaching five years of service.

**Early Retirement Benefits.** Participants may elect to retire prior to their Normal Retirement Date.

**Reduced Retirement:** If participants are at least age 55 and have at least 15 years of service, then they may commence benefits early on a reduced basis. The monthly benefit will be calculated using the benefit formula described above, reduced 6.67% times the number of years (up to five) that the benefit commencement date precedes the normal retirement date, and 3.33% times any additional years (up to five).

**Unreduced Retirement:** If participants are at least age 61 and have at least 30 years of service, then they may commence benefits early on an unreduced basis.

**Form of Payment.** Participants may receive their pension benefit as an annuity or as a lump sum.

## SERP

In general, the plan provisions for the SERP are identical to the provisions of the Retirement Plan, except the benefits are calculated without regard to the limits set by the Internal Revenue Code on compensation and benefits. The net benefit payable from the SERP is the difference between this gross benefit and the benefit payable by the Retirement Plan. The SERP limits gross benefits to 60% of final average monthly compensation. As a general rule, we do not grant extra years of service under the SERP other than in the event of a change in control, when we credit our named executive officers with an additional two years of credited service; however, all of our executive officers already have earned the maximum service time. Exceptions may occur in limited instances such as a mid-career hire.

## 2015 Pension Benefit Table

The following table shows the years of credited service, present value of the accumulated benefit for the named executive officers as of December 31, 2015 and payments made during the last fiscal year.

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years of Credited Service (#)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
<b>William G. Smith, Jr.</b>	Retirement Plan	37	2,660,290	0
	SERP	37	2,306,759	0
Thomas A. Barron	Retirement Plan	41	2,740,546	0
	SERP	41	1,235,633	0
J. Kimbrough Davis	Retirement Plan	34	2,545,147	0
	SERP	34	580,224	0

<sup>(1)</sup> Because the pension amounts shown in the Summary Compensation Table and the Pension Benefits Table are projections of future retirement benefits, numerous assumptions must be applied. In general, the assumptions should be the same as those used to calculate the pension liabilities in accordance with U.S. GAAP on the measurement date, although the SEC permits certain exceptions. The assumptions we use are described in Note 12 of our financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, as filed with the SEC. As described in such Note, the discount rate assumption is 4.52% for the Retirement Plan and 4.13% for the SERP. The accumulated benefit is based on service and W-2 earnings (plus 401(k) deferrals minus taxable automobile allowance, as described above) considered by the plans for the period through December 31, 2015. We also assumed that for the Retirement Plan, 80% of participants would elect to receive a lump sum and 20% of participants would elect to receive an annuity. For the SERP, we assumed 100% of participants would elect a lump

sum. We used a 4.52% interest rate for any lump sum payments in the Retirement Plan and 4.13% interest rate for any lump sum in the SERP. The post-retirement mortality assumption is based on the prescribed mortality assumption under RP-2015 mortality table, projected back to 2006 using scale MP-2015 with generational projection from 2006 using Scale MP-2015 with separate mortality for annuitants and nonannuitants. The changes in the pension values shown in the Summary Compensation Table are determined as the change in the values during the fiscal year (including the impact of changing assumptions from the prior fiscal year).

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement **31**

## AUDIT COMMITTEE MATTERS

### PROPOSAL NO. 2 – RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Our Audit Committee expects to appoint Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year. Shareowner ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young as our independent auditors is not required by our Bylaws or other applicable legal requirement. However, the Board is submitting the expected appointment of Ernst & Young to the shareowners for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the shareowners fail to ratify the expected appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the expected appointment of Ernst & Young LLP is ratified, the Audit Committee at its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered certified public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in our and our shareowners' best interests. Representatives of Ernst & Young are expected to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting and, if in attendance, will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and to respond to appropriate questions.

The proposal to ratify the expected appointment of Ernst & Young as independent auditors will be approved if the votes cast by the shareowners present, or represented, at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the matter favoring this proposal exceed the votes cast in opposition to the proposal.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" the ratification of the expected appointment of Ernst & Young as the Company's independent auditors for the 2016 fiscal year.

### AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee, which operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, monitors the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. This report reviews the actions taken by the Audit Committee with regard to the Company's financial reporting process during 2015 and particularly with regard to the Company's audited consolidated statements of financial condition as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of operations, comprehensive income, changes in shareowners' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015.

The Audit Committee believes that it has taken the actions necessary or appropriate to fulfill its oversight responsibilities under the Audit Committee's charter. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements to be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, including a discussion of the quality (rather than just the acceptability) of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee also reviewed with Ernst & Young their judgments as to quality (rather than just the acceptability) of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee in accordance with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board standards. In addition, the Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young, the auditor's independence from management and the Company, including the written disclosures, letter, and other matters required of Ernst & Young by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

Management and the Company's internal and independent auditors also made presentations to the Audit Committee throughout the year on specific topics of interest, including: (i) cybersecurity procedures; (ii) information technology systems and controls; (iii) significant regulatory matters, including the results of regulatory examinations, BSA/AML, Fair Lending, Community Reinvestment Act, Home Mortgage Disclosure, and Regulation O issues; (iv)

whistleblower procedures and monitoring; (v) benefit plan fund management; (vi) critical accounting policies; (vii) assessment of the impact of new accounting guidance; (viii) compliance with the internal controls required under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and COSO's *Internal Control – Integrated Framework 2013*; (ix) compliance with Company Code of Conduct and Ethics programs; (x) risk management initiatives and controls; (xi) the appropriateness of loan loss reserves and methodology; (xii) significant legal matters; (xiii) insider and related party transactions; and (xiv) Service Organization Control engagements.

**32** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

Additionally, the Audit Committee discussed with the Company's internal and independent auditors the overall scope and plan for their respective audits. The Audit Committee met with the internal and independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, for filing with the SEC.

**2015 Audit Committee:**

Frederick Carroll, III (Chair)

Allan G. Bense

J. Everitt Drew

John K. Humphress

John G. Sample, Jr.\*

\* Mr. Sample joined the Audit Committee as of January 1, 2016.

**FEES PAID TO PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANTS**

The following table represents aggregate fees, including out-of-pocket expenses, paid or to be paid to Ernst & Young for the 2015 and 2014 fiscal years.

	2015	2014
Audit Fees	\$747,500	\$680,500
Audit-Related Fees	84,133	85,022
Tax Fees	26,054	38,578
All Other Fees	1,995	1,995
Total	\$859,682	\$806,095

Audit Fees primarily represent amounts billed to us for auditing our annual consolidated financial statements (including services incurred with rendering an opinion under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002), HUD Audits, reviewing the financial statements included in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and for services that are normally provided by the auditor in connection with statutory and regulatory filings. Audit-Related Fees include fees for certain attestation engagements and employee benefit audits. Tax Fees are fees related to tax planning and preparation of trust tax returns. Tax Fees include \$26,054 and \$23,778 for tax compliance services in 2015 and 2014, respectively. All Other Fees are related to a subscription to an online accounting research tool. Total 2015 and 2014

fees include \$62,583 and \$63,372 in out-of-pocket expenses, respectively.

#### POLICY ON AUDIT COMMITTEE PRE-APPROVAL OF AUDIT AND NONAUDIT SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The Audit Committee's policy is to pre-approve all audit and nonaudit services provided by the independent auditors. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services, and other services. Pre-approval is generally provided for up to 12 months from the date of pre-approval, and any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is generally subject to a specific budget. The Audit Committee may delegate pre-approval authority to one or more of its members when expedition of services is necessary. The independent auditors and management are required to periodically report to the full Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the independent auditors in accordance with this pre-approval policy and the fees for the services performed to date. The Audit Committee pre-approved all audit and nonaudit services provided by Ernst & Young.

The Audit Committee has determined that the nonaudit services provided by Ernst & Young during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 were compatible with maintaining their independence.

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement **33**

## SHARE OWNERSHIP

## SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended requires our directors and executive officers, and parties owning beneficially more than 10% of our common stock, to file reports with the SEC to reflect their interests in our common stock. Copies of these reports must be furnished to us.

Based solely upon on a review of these reports received by us for 2015 and any written representations from reporting persons, we believe that during 2015 each required Section 16(a) report for 2015 was filed on time.

## SHARE OWNERSHIP TABLE

The following table sets forth information, as of February 12, 2016, with respect to the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned by our directors, executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table, and all executive officers and directors as a group. The following table also provides information with respect to each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our common stock. As of February 12, 2016, there were 17,206,526 shares of our common stock outstanding.

Name	Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>		Percentage of Outstanding Shares Owned <sup>(2)</sup>
Thomas A. Barron	161,927	(3)	*
Allan G. Bense	28,342	(4)	*
Frederick Carroll, III	34,042		*
Cader B. Cox, III	55,229	(5)	*
J. Kimbrough Davis	89,173	(6)	*
J. Everitt Drew	27,982	(7)	*
John K. Humphress	95,221	(8)	*
<b>Lina S. Knox</b> <sup>(10)</sup>	72,896	(9)	*
Henry Lewis III	11,617		*
John G. Sample, Jr.	200		*
<b>Estate of Robert H. Smith</b> <sup>(10)</sup>	3,057,087	(11)	17.77
123 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301			
<b>William G. Smith, Jr.</b> <sup>(10)</sup>	3,765,096	(12)	21.88
Post Office Box 11248, Tallahassee, Florida 32302			
<b>2S Partnership</b>	1,049,361	(13)	6.10
217 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301			
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (11 Persons)	4,341,725		25.23

For purposes of this table, a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of any shares of common stock if he or she has or shares voting or investment power with respect to the shares or has a right to acquire beneficial ownership at any time within 60 days from the record date. "Voting power" is the power to vote or direct the voting of shares and "investment power" is the power to dispose or direct the disposition of shares.

<sup>(2)</sup> An asterisk in this column means that the respective director or executive officer is the beneficial owner of less than 1% of our common stock.

<sup>(3)</sup>



Includes (i) 15,500 shares held in trusts under which Mr. Barron serves as trustee; and (ii) 28,906 shares owned by Mr. Barron's wife, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Of the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Barron, 138,501 shares are pledged as security.

(4) Includes 300 shares held by the Bense Family Foundation, Inc., which Mr. Bense, as director of the foundation, shares voting and investment power.

(5) Includes 10,500 shares owned by Mr. Cox's wife, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership.

(6) Includes (i) 1,359 shares in accounts for his children for which Mr. Davis and his wife act as custodian; (ii) 31,364 shares owned jointly by Mr. Davis and his wife; and (iii) 6,699 shares owned by Mr. Davis's wife, directly and through an Individual Retirement Account of which he disclaims beneficial ownership.

(7) Includes (i) 25,725 shares owned jointly by Mr. Drew and his wife; and (ii) 1,124 shares in accounts for his children for which Mr. Drew is custodian.

(8) Includes 44,445 shares held by the Humphress Family Trust of which Mr. Humphress is a trustee.

**34** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

<sup>(9)</sup> Includes 23,000 shares held by the Dean Eugene Knox Lifetime QTIP Trust, of which she disclaims beneficial ownership.

<sup>(10)</sup> Robert H. Smith, deceased, and William G. Smith, Jr. are brothers, and Lina S. Knox is their first cousin.

<sup>(11)</sup> Includes (i) 1,049,361 shares held by the 2S Partnership under which the Estate of Robert H. Smith shares voting and investment power with William G. Smith, Jr.; (ii) 3,607 shares owned by Douglas W. Smith, co-executor of the estate; and (iii) 300 shares owned by EWS Partnership, LLP for which Douglas W. Smith is a partner.

<sup>(12)</sup> Includes (i) 340,773 shares held in certain trusts under which Mr. Smith has sole voting and investment power as trustee; (ii) 1,049,361 shares held by the 2S Partnership under which Mr. Smith shares voting and investment power; and (iii) 55,666 shares owned by Mr. Smith's wife, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Of the shares beneficially owned by Mr. Smith, 1,049,361 shares are also beneficially owned by the Estate of Robert H. Smith.

<sup>(13)</sup> Of the 1,049,361 shares held by 2S Partnership, all are also beneficially owned by the Estate of Robert H. Smith and William G. Smith, Jr.

#### PROXY STATEMENT – GENERAL INFORMATION

Why did I receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials in the mail instead of a paper copy of the Proxy Materials?

This year, we are again pleased to be using the SEC rule that allows companies to furnish their Proxy Materials over the Internet. As a result, we are mailing to our shareowners a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials instead of a paper copy of the Proxy Materials. In past years, some of our shareowners received a paper copy of the Proxy Materials. This year, however, no shareowner will receive a paper copy of the Proxy Materials by mail unless you request it. All shareowners will have the ability to access the Proxy Materials over the Internet.

Why didn't I receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials in the mail?

We are providing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by e-mail to those shareowners who have previously elected delivery of the Proxy Materials electronically. Those shareowners should have received an e-mail containing a link to the website where those materials are available and a link to the proxy voting website.

How can I access the Proxy Materials over the Internet?

Your Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or proxy card will contain instructions on how to:

§ View our Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting on the Internet at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com); and

§ Instruct us to send our future Proxy Materials to you by e-mail.

Choosing to access your future Proxy Materials electronically will help us conserve natural resources and reduce the costs of printing and distributing our Proxy Materials. If you choose to access future Proxy Materials electronically, you will receive an e-mail with instructions containing a link to the website where those materials are available and a link to the proxy voting website. Your election to receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by e-mail will remain in effect until you terminate it.

How may I obtain a paper copy of the Proxy Materials?

To obtain a paper copy of the Proxy Materials, please follow the instructions contained on your Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

What is being voted upon?

You are being asked to vote on four Class I nominees for election to the Board of Directors and to ratify our appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for 2016. None of the proposals will create appraisal or dissenters' rights.

How does the Board recommend that I vote?

Our Board recommends that you vote your shares **FOR** each of the nominees for election to the Board and **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm.

Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement 35

Could other matters be decided at the Annual Meeting?

We are not aware of any matters to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than those referred to in this Proxy Statement. If other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting, the holders of the proxies (those persons named on your proxy card) will have the discretion to vote on those matters for you.

How many votes does each share have?

Each share has one vote. For the proposals scheduled to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, withheld votes on directors, abstentions, and shares held by a broker that the broker fails to vote are all counted to determine a quorum, but are not counted for or against the matters being considered; however, pursuant to our Bylaws, if a director nominee in an uncontested election does not receive at least a majority of the votes cast at any meeting for the election of directors at which a quorum is present, the director must tender his or her resignation to the Board, as described under the heading "Corporate Governance - Director Elections." There is no cumulative voting.

How many votes are required to have a quorum?

In order for us to conduct the Annual Meeting, a majority of the shares entitled to vote must be present in person or by proxy.

How many votes are required to elect directors and to ratify Ernst & Young's appointment?

Directors are elected (Proposal No. 1) by a plurality of the votes cast. "Plurality" means that the nominees receiving the largest number of votes cast are elected as directors up to the maximum number of directors who are nominated to be elected at the meeting. At our Annual Meeting, the maximum number of directors to be elected is four. Although our directors are elected by plurality, our Bylaws provide that if a director nominee in an uncontested election does not receive at least a majority of the votes cast at any meeting for the election of directors at which a quorum is present, the director must tender his or her resignation to the Board. Votes withheld have no legal effect.

Ernst & Young's appointment (Proposal No. 2) will be ratified if the affirmative votes cast by the shareowners present or represented at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the matter exceed the votes cast in opposition.

What is the difference between holding shares as a shareowner of record and as a beneficial owner?

Many of our shareowners hold their shares through a broker, trustee or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. As summarized below, there are some distinctions between shares held of record and those shares owned beneficially.

§

**Shareowner of Record.** If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, you are considered, with respect to those shares, the “shareowner of record.” As the shareowner of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to us or to a third party, or to vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

**Beneficial Owner.** If your shares are held in a brokerage account, by a trustee or, by another nominee, you are considered the “beneficial owner” of those shares. As the beneficial owner of those shares, you have the right to direct your broker, trustee, or nominee how to vote and you also are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, § because a beneficial owner is not the shareowner of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you obtain a “legal proxy” from the broker, trustee or nominee that holds your shares, giving you the right to vote the shares at the Annual Meeting.

How will my voting instructions be treated?

If you provide specific voting instructions, your shares will be voted as instructed.

If you hold shares as the shareowner of record and sign and return a proxy card or vote by telephone or Internet without giving specific voting instructions, then your shares will be voted as recommended by our Board of Directors.

**36** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

If you are the beneficial owner of shares held through a broker, trustee, or other nominee, and that nominee has discretion to vote your shares on a particular proposal and you do not give instructions to that nominee on how you want your shares voted, then generally your nominee can vote your shares on certain “routine” matters. At our Annual Meeting, only Proposal No. 2 to ratify the Company’s auditors is considered routine, which means that your broker, trustee, or other nominee can vote your shares on Proposal No. 2 if you do not timely provide instructions to vote your shares.

If you are the beneficial owner of shares held through a broker, trustee, or other nominee, and that nominee does not have discretion to vote your shares on a particular proposal and you do not give your broker instructions on how to vote your shares, then the votes will be considered broker nonvotes. A “broker nonvote” will be treated as unvoted for purposes of determining approval for the proposal and will have the effect of neither a vote for nor a vote against the proposal.

Can I change my vote?

If you are a shareowner of record, you may revoke your proxy by submitting a later proxy or by written request received by our Corporate Secretary before the Annual Meeting. You may also revoke your proxy at the Annual Meeting and vote in person. If you are the beneficial owner of shares held through a broker, trustee, or other nominee, you should review the information provided to you by the holder of record that explains how to revoke previously given instructions.

Who pays for soliciting proxies?

Proxies will be solicited from our shareowners by mail or e-mail. We will pay all expenses in connection with the solicitation, including postage, printing and handling, and the expenses incurred by brokers, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries in forwarding proxy material to beneficial owners. We may hire Alliance Advisors, L.L.C. to assist in the distribution and solicitation of proxies for a fee of approximately \$12,000, plus reasonable expenses. It is possible that our directors and officers and other associates may make further solicitations personally or by telephone, facsimile, mail, or e-mail. Our directors and officers and other associates will receive no additional compensation for any such further solicitations.

What does it mean if I get more than one Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or more than one paper copy of the Proxy Materials?

You will receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or proxy card for each account you have. Please vote proxies for all accounts to ensure that all your shares are voted.

Where can I find voting results of the Annual Meeting?

We will announce preliminary voting results at the Annual Meeting and publish preliminary, and if available, final voting results in a current report on Form 8-K filed within four business days after our Annual Meeting.



## OTHER MATTERS

### ANNUAL REPORT

We filed an annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 on Form 10-K with the SEC. **Shareowners may obtain, free of charge, a copy of our annual report.** Requests should be directed to our Corporate Secretary, Capital City Bank Group, Inc., 217 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

### HOUSEHOLDING

We have adopted a procedure approved by the SEC known as “householding.” Under this procedure, shareowners of record who have the same address and last name and do not participate in electronic delivery or in notice and access will receive only one set of Proxy Materials, unless one or more of these shareowners notifies our transfer agent that they wish to continue receiving individual copies. This procedure will reduce our printing costs and postage fees. If you wish to receive your own copy of these materials, you may contact our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, in writing, by telephone, or on the Internet:

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company

59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level

New York, NY 10038

(800) 937-5449 (U.S. and Canada)

(718) 921-8124 (International)

*www.amstock.com*

If you are eligible for householding, but you and other shareowners of record with whom you share an address currently receive multiple copies of our Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement, and Annual Report, or if you hold stock in more than one account, and in either case you wish to receive only a single copy of each document for your household, please contact our transfer agent as indicated above. Beneficial owners can request information about householding from their banks, brokers, or other holders of record.

### SHAREOWNER PROPOSALS

Shareowner proposals that are to be included in the Proxy Statement for the 2017 meeting must be received by November 8, 2016. Shareowner proposals for the 2017 meeting that are not intended to be included in the Proxy Statement for that meeting must be received by January 22, 2017, or the Board of Directors can vote the proxies in its discretion on the proposal. Proposals must comply with the proxy rules and be submitted in writing to J. Kimbrough Davis, Corporate Secretary, at our principal offices.

### DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Any shareowner entitled to vote generally in the election of directors may recommend a candidate for nomination as a director. A shareowner may recommend a director nominee by submitting the name and qualifications of the candidate the shareowner wishes to recommend, pursuant to Article VII of our Articles of Incorporation, to Corporate



Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors, c/o Capital City Bank Group, Inc., 217 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. To be considered, recommendations with respect to an election of directors to be held at an annual meeting must be received no earlier than 180 days and no later than 120 days prior to March 8, 2017, the first anniversary of this year's Notice of Annual Meeting date. In other words, director nominations must be received no earlier than September 9, 2016, and no later than November 8, 2016. Recommendations with respect to an election of directors to be held at a special meeting called for that purpose must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the date on which notice of the special meeting was first mailed to shareowners. Recommendations meeting these requirements will be brought to the attention of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Candidates for director recommended by shareowners are afforded the same consideration as candidates for director identified by our directors, executive officers, or search firms, if any, employed by us.

**38** Capital City Bank Group, Inc. | Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement

**VOTE BY INTERNET - [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)**

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY MATERIALS**

If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by our company in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access proxy materials electronically in future years.

***CAPITAL CITY  
BANK GROUP,  
INC.***

***217 NORTH***

***MONROE STREET VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903***

***TALLAHASSEE, FL***

***32301***

***ATTN: J.***

***KIMBROUGH***

***DAVIS***

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

**VOTE BY MAIL**

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO  
VOTE,  
MARK

BLOCKS  
BELOW  
IN  
BLUE  
OR  
BLACK  
INK  
AS  
FOLLOWS:

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

**THIS  
PROXY  
CARD  
IS**

**VALID  
ONLY**  
DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY  
**WHEN  
SIGNED  
AND  
DATED.**

**For Withhold For All** To withhold authority to vote for any individual  
**All All Except** nominee(s), mark "For All Except" and write the number(s)  
of the nominee(s) on the line below.

**The  
Board of  
Directors  
recommends  
you  
vote FOR  
the  
following:**

£ £ £

1. Election  
of  
Directors

**Nominees**

01	Allan G. Bense G. Smith, Jr.	02	Cader B. Cox, III	H3	John G. Sample, Jr.	H4	William
----	---------------------------------	----	-------------------	----	---------------------	----	---------

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following proposal:**

**For Against Abstain**

2. To ratify the expected appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as auditors of the Company for fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

£ £ £

**NOTE:** In their sole discretion, the proxies may approve such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment and/or postponements of the meeting. THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED, BUT IF NO DIRECTIONS ARE GIVEN ON THE PROXY, THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THE PROXY WILL BE VOTED "FOR" PROPOSALS 1 AND 2, AND AS DETERMINED BY THE PROXIES ON ANY OTHER

MATTER THAT MAY PROPERLY BE BROUGHT AT THE MEETING. THE UNDERSIGNED SHAREOWNER(S) HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE(S) RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND PROXY STATEMENT.

**Yes No**

Please indicate if you plan to attend this meeting

Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear(s) hereon. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, or other fiduciary, please give full title as such. Joint owners should each sign personally. All owners must sign. If a corporation or partnership, please sign in full corporate or partnership name, by authorized officer.

Signature (PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX) (Joint Owners)

Date

0000269977\_2 R1.0.1.25

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:** The Notice and Proxy Statement, and Form 10-K are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)

**CAPITAL CITY BANK  
GROUP, INC.  
217 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301**

**PROXY SOLICITED ON  
BEHALF OF THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS OF  
CAPITAL CITY BANK  
GROUP, INC. FOR THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF  
SHAREOWNERS  
APRIL 26, 2016**

As an alternative to completing this form, you may enter your vote instruction by telephone at 1-800-690-6903, or via the Internet at [WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM](http://WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM) and follow the simple instructions. Use the twelve digit Control Number shown on your proxy card.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, the undersigned shareowner of Capital City Bank Group, Inc. (the "Company"), Tallahassee, Florida, do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Bethany H. Corum and Dale A. Thompson (collectively, the "Proxies"), or any one of them (with full power to act alone), my true and lawful attorneys and proxies with full power of substitution, for me and in my name, place and stead to vote all the shares of Common Stock of the Company that the shareowner signing this Proxy Card is entitled to vote at the annual meeting of its shareowners to be held at, University of Florida, Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 3201 Hull Road, Gainesville, Florida 32611 on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., local time, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof, as instructed on the reverse side of this Proxy Card and in the Proxies' discretion on other matters.

**All proxies previously given  
or executed by the  
shareowner signing this  
Proxy Card are hereby  
revoked.**

**Continued and to be signed  
on reverse side**

0000269977\_2 R1.0.1.25