

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 18, 2020

STERLING BANCORP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Michigan
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-38290
(Commission
File No.)

38-3163775
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

One Towne Square, Suite 1900
Southfield, Michigan 48076
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (248) 355-2400

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	SBT	Nasdaq Capital Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 3.01. Notice of Delisting or Failure to Satisfy a Continued Listing Rule or Standard; Transfer of Listing.

Sterling Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”), the bank holding company of Sterling Bank and Trust, FSB, Southfield, Michigan (the “Bank”), received a letter from the Listing Qualifications Department of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), dated March 18, 2020, notifying the Company that it no longer complies with Nasdaq’s continued listing requirements under the timely filing criteria set forth in Listing Rule 5250(c)(1) as a result of the Company not filing its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019 (the “Annual Report”) within the prescribed period. Nasdaq stated in its notification that the Company has 60 calendar days, or until May 18, 2020, to submit a plan to regain compliance. If Nasdaq accepts the Company’s plan, it can grant an exception of up to 180 calendar days from the Annual Report’s due date, or until September 14, 2020, to regain compliance. If Nasdaq does not accept the Company’s plan, the Company would have the opportunity to appeal that decision to a Nasdaq Hearings Panel and to request a further stay pending the appeal. The Company intends to submit a plan of compliance on or before the May 18, 2020 deadline. Nasdaq’s notification has no immediate effect on the listing or trading of the Company’s common stock on The Nasdaq Capital Market.

As the Company previously disclosed in a Notification of Late Filing on Form 12b-25 (the “12b-25”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on March 17, 2020, the delay in filing the Annual Report is to allow for time needed to complete (i) additional review and procedures, including on the part of the Company’s independent auditors, relating to the circumstances that led to the previously-reported suspension and termination of the Bank’s Advantage Loan Program (the “Advantage Loan Program”) and related matters, and (ii) an ongoing internal review relating to the discontinued Advantage Loan Program, which review is being led by outside legal counsel under the direction of a special committee of independent directors (the “Special Committee”), as announced in the Company’s Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 6, 2020. The Company intends to file the Annual Report as soon as practicable upon completion of the additional review and procedures and internal review.

A copy of the press release announcing the Nasdaq notification is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Current Report on Form 8-K contains certain statements that are, or may be deemed to be, “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, regarding the Company’s plans, expectations, thoughts, beliefs, estimates, goals, and outlook for the future that are intended to be covered by the protections provided under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are based on management’s expectations as well as certain assumptions and estimates made by, and information available to, management at the time. Those statements are not guarantees of future results or performance and are subject to certain known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. The following important factors, among others, could affect future results and events, causing those results and events to differ materially from those views expressed or implied in the Company’s forward-looking statements: (i) the ability of the Company and its independent auditors to complete the work required to file the Annual Report within a reasonable period of time; (ii) the results of the Special Committee’s internal review and the possibility of additional terminations and resignations of employees in connection therewith; (iii) the discontinuation of the Advantage Loan Program, the ability to develop new loan products to replace the Advantage Loan Program, and any resulting adverse effects on the Company’s business, financial condition, and/or results of operations; (iv) the outcomes of the government investigations and legal proceedings previously disclosed by the Company, including the risk of civil or criminal enforcement action, regulatory restrictions on the Bank’s activities, financial penalties or judgments, other adverse consequences, and any resulting effects on the Company’s business, financial condition, and/or results of operations; (v) the expenses incurred in connection with the Annual Report, internal review, government investigations, and legal proceedings disclosed previously and herein; (vi) uncertainties associated with Nasdaq’s notification regarding the Company’s failure to file the Annual Report within the prescribed period, including with respect to any submission to Nasdaq of a plan of compliance, any appeal of an adverse decision by Nasdaq regarding such a plan, any request for a further stay pending an appeal, and the possibility of being delisted pursuant to Nasdaq’s Listing Rules; and (vii) the risks, uncertainties, and other factors detailed from time to time in our public filings, including those included in the disclosures under the headings “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” and “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 18, 2019, subsequent periodic reports and future periodic reports. Should one or more of the foregoing risks materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results or outcomes may vary materially from those projected in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. The Company disclaims any obligation to update, revise, or correct any forward-looking statements based on the occurrence of future events, the receipt of new information, or otherwise.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibits are furnished herewith:

EXHIBIT NUMBER	EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION
99	Press Release of Sterling Bancorp, Inc. dated March 23, 2020

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Sterling Bancorp, Inc.

By: /s/ STEVE HUBER
Steve Huber
Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 23, 2020



Sterling Bancorp Announces Nasdaq Notification of Deficiency

Southfield, Michigan

Sterling Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: SBT) (the “Company”), the holding company of Sterling Bank and Trust, F.S.B. (the “Bank”), announced that it received a letter from the Listing Qualifications Department of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), dated March 18, 2020, notifying the Company that it no longer complies with Nasdaq’s continued listing requirements under the timely filing criteria set forth in Listing Rule 5250(c)(1) as a result of the Company not filing its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019 (the “Annual Report”) within the prescribed period. Nasdaq stated in its notification that the Company has 60 calendar days, or until May 18, 2020, to submit a plan to regain compliance. If Nasdaq accepts the Company’s plan, it can grant an exception of up to 180 calendar days from the Annual Report’s due date, or until September 14, 2020, to regain compliance. If Nasdaq does not accept the Company’s plan, the Company would have the opportunity to appeal that decision to a Nasdaq Hearings Panel and to request a further stay pending the appeal. The Company intends to submit a plan of compliance on or before the May 18, 2020 deadline. Nasdaq’s notification has no immediate effect on the listing or trading of the Company’s common stock on The Nasdaq Capital Market.

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About Sterling Bancorp, Inc.

Sterling Bancorp, Inc. is a unitary thrift holding company. Its wholly owned subsidiary, Sterling Bank and Trust, F.S.B., has primary branch operations in San Francisco and Los Angeles, California, New York City and Bellevue, Washington. Sterling offers a range of loan products to the residential and commercial markets, as well as retail and business banking services. Sterling also has an operations center and a branch in Southfield, Michigan. For additional information, please visit the Company’s website at <http://www.sterlingbank.com>.

Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains certain statements that are, or may be deemed to be, “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, regarding the Company’s plans, expectations, thoughts, beliefs, estimates, goals, and outlook for the future that are intended to be covered by the protections provided under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are based on management’s expectations as well as certain assumptions and estimates made by, and information available to, management at the time. Those statements are not guarantees of future results or performance and are subject to certain known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. The following important factors, among others, could affect future results and events, causing those results and events to differ materially from those views expressed or implied in the Company’s forward-looking statements: (i) the ability of the Company and its independent auditors to complete the work required to file the Annual Report within a reasonable period of time; (ii) the results of the Special Committee’s internal review and the possibility of additional terminations and resignations of employees in connection therewith; (iii) the discontinuation of the Advantage Loan Program, the ability to develop new loan products to replace the Advantage Loan Program, and any resulting adverse effects on the Company’s business, financial condition, and/or results of operations; (iv) the outcomes of the government investigations and legal proceedings previously disclosed by the Company, including the risk of civil or criminal enforcement action, regulatory restrictions on the Bank’s activities, financial penalties or judgments, other adverse consequences, and any resulting effects on the Company’s business, financial condition, and/or results of operations; (v) the expenses incurred in connection with the Annual Report, internal review, government investigations, and legal proceedings disclosed previously and herein; (vi) uncertainties associated with Nasdaq’s notification regarding the Company’s failure to file the Annual Report within the prescribed period, including with respect to any submission to Nasdaq of a plan of compliance, any appeal of an adverse decision by Nasdaq regarding such a plan, any request for a further stay pending an appeal, and the possibility of being delisted pursuant to Nasdaq’s Listing Rules; and (vii) the risks, uncertainties, and other factors detailed from time to time in our public filings, including those included in the disclosures under the headings “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” and “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 18, 2019, subsequent periodic reports and future periodic reports. Should one or more of the foregoing risks materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results or outcomes may vary materially from those projected in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. The Company disclaims any obligation to update, revise, or correct any forward-looking statements based on the occurrence of future events, the receipt of new information, or otherwise.

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