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GROWING AND HIRING NEEDHAM BASED LENDER FINANCES NICHE MARKETS

Needham, MA – September 8, 2017 – Firestone Financial, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkshire Bank, is a nationwide lender that serves some very unique markets including the fitness, amusement, vending, and laundry markets. Founded in 1965, the client roster includes Planet Fitness franchisees, local carnivals and family entertainment centers.

Conveniently located in the N² Corridor in Needham, Firestone Financial has grown significantly since it was acquired by Berkshire Bank in August of 2015. Some of the highlights include: a 13% increase in new loan volume from 2015 to 2016, a 15% increase in assets under management, the addition of SBA loans through Berkshire Bank, and credit line facilities of up to \$10MM.

To keep up with the growth Firestone is looking to add senior, midlevel, and entry level staff. “We are looking to add 10 members to our team within the next 6 months. Berkshire Bank has provided us the support and resources we needed to grow our business and we look forward to reaching some amazing milestones in the next few years,” said Firestone CEO David Cohen.

For more information on employment opportunities please contact hr@firestonefinancial.com.

ABOUT FIRESTONE FINANCIAL

Founded in 1965, Firestone Financial is a nationwide finance company serving the amusement, fitness, vending and laundry industries. The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkshire Bank. Interested parties can learn more about Firestone Financial at www.firestonefinancial.com or by calling Firestone Financial at 800-851-1001.

ABOUT BERSHIRE BANK

Berkshire Hills Bancorp is the parent of Berkshire Bank - America's Most Exciting Bank®. The Company has approximately \$9.6 billion in assets, 97 full service branches in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania providing personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services. The Company also offers mortgages and specialized commercial lending services in targeted national markets. The Company has a pending agreement to acquire Commerce Bancshares Corp., the parent company of Commerce Bank and Trust Company, a \$2.2 billion bank with 16 branches in the Worcester, MA and Boston, MA markets.

CONTACT

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