

**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): November 30, 2010

CENTER BANCORP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

New Jersey	2-81353	52-1273725
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)
2455 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey		07083
(Address of principal executive offices)		(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (800) 862-3683

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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))
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Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensation Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(b) On November 30, 2010, John J. DeLaney, Jr. and Elliot I. Kramer, both directors of Center Bancorp, Inc. (“Center”) and its Union Center National Bank (the “Bank”) subsidiary, resigned as members of the Boards of Directors of Center and the Bank, effective December 1, 2010.

(d) On November 30, 2010, Allan H. Strauss was named as a member of the Boards of Directors of Center and the Bank, effective January 1, 2011. Mr. Strauss, is currently the portfolio manager for Omega Advisors, Inc., an investment management firm. Mr. Straus has more than 20 years of experience as a research analyst and portfolio manager for several leading investment firms. Mr. Strauss has not yet been named to any committees of Center’s Board. It is anticipated that committee designations will be made during the first quarter of 2011.

(e) Center and Anthony C. Weagley, President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of Center, have entered into a Non-Competition Agreement, dated as of December 2, 2010 (the “Agreement”). The Agreement, which has a two year term, provides that for the 12 month period immediately following Mr. Weagley’s separation from service with Center, whether or not Center or the Bank has engaged Mr. Weagley as a consultant upon his separation of services, Mr. Weagley will not, directly or indirectly, as an agent, employee, owner, partner, stockholder or otherwise, compete with Center or the Bank or establish, engage in, or become interested in any business, trade or occupation that compete with Center or the Bank in the financial products or services industry in any county in any state of the U.S. in which Center’s or the Bank’s business is currently being conducted or is being conducted when Mr. Weagley’s separation from service occurs. The Agreement also provides that Mr. Weagley will not solicit customers or employees during such period. In consideration for Mr. Weagley’s covenant not to compete, upon his separation from service for any reason or due to retirement, Center will pay Mr. Weagley a lump sum payment equal to the aggregate of two times the annual rate of base salary then being paid to Mr. Weagley. No amounts are payable in the event of Mr. Weagley’s termination of employment as a result of death or disability. The payments described in the Agreement are independent of and will be in addition to any payments required under any other plan or agreement that may be in effect between Center and Mr. Weagley at the time of separation. Center will not be obligated to make the payments described above if Mr. Weagley voluntarily terminates his service with Center, other than for good reason, as defined in the Agreement.

In addition, Center and James W. Sorge, Vice President and Compliance Officer of Center, have entered into a Non-Competition Agreement, dated as of December 2, 2010 (the “Agreement”). The Agreement, which has a one year term, provides that for the 12 month period immediately following Mr. Sorge’s separation from service with Center, whether or not Center or the Bank has engaged Mr. Sorge as a consultant upon his separation of services, Mr. Sorge will not, directly or indirectly, as an agent, employee, owner, partner, stockholder or otherwise, compete with Center or the Bank or establish, engage in, or become interested in any business, trade or occupation that compete with Center or the Bank in the financial products or services industry in any county in any state of the U.S. in which Center’s or the Bank’s business is currently being conducted or is being conducted when Mr. Sorge’s separation from service occurs. The Agreement also provides that Mr. Sorge will not solicit customers or employees during such period. In consideration for Mr. Sorge’s covenant not to compete, upon his separation from service for any reason or due to retirement, Center will pay Mr. Sorge a lump sum payment equal to the aggregate of one times the annual rate of base salary then being paid to Mr. Sorge. No amounts are payable in the event of Mr. Sorge’s termination of employment as a result of death or disability. The payments described in the Agreement are independent of and will be in addition to any payments required under any other plan or agreement that may be in effect between Center and Mr. Sorge at the time of separation. Center will not be obligated to make the payments described above if Mr. Sorge voluntarily terminates his service with Center, other than for good reason, as defined in the Agreement.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) *Exhibits*

Exhibit 10.1 – Non-Competition Agreement, dated as of December 2, 2010, between Center and Anthony C. Weagley.

Exhibit 10.2 – Non-Competition Agreement, dated as of December 2, 2010, between Center and James W. Sorge.

Exhibit 99.1 – Press release, dated December 3, 2010, announcing changes in the composition of Center’s Board of Directors.

SIGNATURE

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

CENTER BANCORP, INC.

By: /s/ Anthony C. Weagley _____

Name: Anthony C. Weagley
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: December 6, 2010

EXHIBIT INDEX

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CENTER BANCORP, INC.
NON-COMPETITION AGREEMENT
For ANTHONY C. WEAGLEY

This **NON - C OMPETITION A GREEMENT** (this "Agreement") is entered into as of this 2nd day of December, 2010, by and between Center Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company"), and Anthony C. Weagley (the "Executive").

W HEREAS , Executive is an employee of Union Center National Bank, (the "Bank"), who has been employed to provide guidance, leadership, and direction in the growth, management, and development of the Company and the Bank and has learned trade secrets, confidential procedures and information, and technical and sensitive plans of the Company and the Bank,

W HEREAS , the Company desires to restrict, after the Executive's separation from service with the Company and the Bank, the Executive's availability to other employers or entities that compete with the Company or the Bank,

N O W T H E R E F O R E , in consideration of these premises, the mutual promises and undertakings set forth in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Executive and the Company hereby agree as follows.

1. Administration of this Agreement.

(a) Administrator duties. This Agreement shall be administered by the Company's board of directors or by such committee or person as the board shall appoint (the "Administrator"). The Executive may not be a member of the Administrator. The Administrator shall have the discretion and authority to (x) make, amend, interpret, and enforce all appropriate rules and regulations for the administration of this Agreement and (y) decide or resolve any and all questions that may arise, including interpretations of this Agreement.

(b) Agents. In the administration of this Agreement the Administrator may employ agents and delegate to them such administrative duties as it sees fit (including acting through a duly appointed representative) and may from time to time consult with counsel, who may be counsel to the Company.

(c) Binding effect of decisions. The decision or action of the Administrator concerning any question arising out of the administration, interpretation, and application of this Agreement and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder shall be final and conclusive and binding upon all persons having any interest in this Agreement.

(d) Indemnity of Administrator . The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless the members of the Administrator against any and all claims, losses, damages, expenses, or liabilities arising from any action or failure to act with respect to this Agreement, except in the case of willful misconduct by the Administrator or any of its members. No individual shall be liable while acting as Administrator for any action or determination made in good faith regarding this Agreement, and any such individual shall be entitled to indemnification and reimbursement in the manner provided in the Company's Charter and Bylaws and under applicable law.

(e) Information . To enable the Administrator to perform its functions, the Company shall supply full and timely information to the Administrator on all matters relating to the date and circumstances of the separation from service of the Executive and such other pertinent information as the Administrator may reasonably require.

(f) Action by the Administrator . In addition to acting at a meeting in accordance with applicable laws, any action of the Administrator concerning this Agreement may be taken by a written instrument signed by the Administrator (including, if the Company's board of directors or a board committee serves as the Administrator, by written consent in accordance with New Jersey law and the Charter and Bylaws of the Company, and any such action so taken by written consent shall be effective as if it had been taken by a majority of the members at a meeting duly called and held).

2. Definitions

(a) Affiliate shall mean the Bank and any entity that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Company.

(b) Change in Control shall mean a change in the ownership or effective control of the Company, or in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of the Company, as such change is defined under the default definition in Treasury Regulation §1.409A-3 (i)(5) or any subsequently applicable Treasury Regulation.

(c) Code shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any successor statute, rule or regulation of similar effect.

(d) Confidential Information shall mean all business and other information relating to the business of the Employer, including without limitation, technical or nontechnical data, programs, methods, techniques, processes, financial data, financial plans, product plans, and lists of actual or potential customers, which (i) derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other Persons, and (ii) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy or confidentiality. Such information and compilations of information shall be contractually subject to protection under this Agreement whether or not such information constitutes a trade secret and is separately protectable at law or in equity as a trade secret. Confidential Information does not include confidential business information, which does not constitute a trade secret under applicable law one year after any expiration or termination of this Agreement.

(e) Customer shall mean any individual, joint venturer, entity of any sort, or other business partner of the Company or the Bank with, for, or to whom the Company or the Bank has provided financial products or services during the final two years of the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank, or any individual, joint venturer, entity of any sort, or business partner whom the Company or the Bank has identified as a prospective customer of financial products or services within the final year of the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank.

(f) Disability or Disabled means the Executive (i) is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months or (ii) is by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under an accident and health plan covering employees of the Employer.

(g) Financial products or services shall mean any product or service that a financial institution or a financial holding company could offer by engaging in any activity that is financial in nature or incidental to such a financial activity under Section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and that is offered by the Company, the Bank, or an affiliate on the date of the Executive's employment termination, including but not limited to banking activities and activities that are closely related and a proper incident to banking, or other products or services of the type in which the Executive was involved during the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank.

(h) Person shall mean any individual, corporation, limited liability Employer, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock Employer, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(i) Specified Employee means an employee who at the time of Termination of Employment is a key employee of the Employer, if any stock of the Employer is publicly traded on an established securities market or otherwise. For purposes of this Agreement, an employee is a key employee if the employee meets the requirements of Code Section 416(i)(1)(A)(i), (ii), or (iii) (applied in accordance with the regulations thereunder and disregarding section 416(i)(5)) at any time during the 12-month period ending on December 31 (the "identification period"). If the employee is a key employee during an identification period, the employee is treated as a key employee for purposes of this Agreement during the twelve (12) month period that begins on the first day of April following the close of the identification period.

(j) Termination of Employment with the Employer means that the Executive shall have ceased to be employed by the Employer for reasons other than death, excepting a leave of absence approved by the Employer. Whether a termination of employment has occurred is determined based on whether the facts and circumstances indicate that the Employer and the Executive reasonably anticipated that no further services would be performed after a certain date or that the level of bona fide services the Executive would perform after such date (whether as an employee or as an independent contractor) would permanently decrease to no more than twenty percent (20%) of the average level of bona fide services performed (whether as an employee or an independent contractor) over the immediately preceding twenty-four (24) month period (or the full period of services to the Employer if the Executive has been providing services to the Employer less than twenty-four (24) months).

(k) Voluntary Termination shall mean the termination by Executive of Executive's employment, which is not the result of Good Reason.

3. Term

(a) The term of this Agreement shall commence upon the date this Agreement is executed by all parties and will continue for two (2) years. Thereafter, the term of this Agreement will automatically renew each day after the Effective Date for one additional day so that the term of the Agreement shall always be two (2) years unless terminated by the Employer and replaced by a mutually agreed upon arrangement.

(b) Except as provided in section 3(a), this Agreement may be terminated upon one years notice of intent not to renew by either party.

4. Covenants against competition, solicitation, or disclosure of confidential information.

(a) Competition. For and in consideration of the lump sum payment described in section 5 the Executive shall not, either separately, jointly, or in association with others, directly or indirectly, as an agent, employee, owner, partner, stockholder, or otherwise, compete with the Company or the Bank or establish, engage in, or become interested in any business, trade, or occupation that competes with the Company or the Bank in the financial products or services industry in any county in any of the States of the United States in which the Company's or the Bank's business is currently being conducted or is being conducted when the Executive's separation from service occurs. The Company and the Executive acknowledge that during the term of the Executive's employment the Executive has acquired special and confidential knowledge regarding the operations of the Company and Bank. Furthermore, although not a term or condition of this Agreement, the Company and the Executive acknowledge that the Executive's services have been used and are being used by the Company and the Bank in executive, managerial, and supervisory capacities throughout the areas in which the Company and the Bank conduct business. Executive acknowledges that the non-compete restrictions contained herein are reasonable and fair in scope and necessary to protect the legitimate business interests of the Company and the Bank.

(b) Solicitation . For and in consideration of the lump sum payment described in section 5, the Executive shall not (x) directly or indirectly solicit or attempt to solicit any customer of the Company or the Bank to accept or purchase financial products or services of the same nature, kind or variety currently being provided to the customer by the Company or the Bank or being provided to the customer by the Company or the Bank when the Executive's separation from service occurs, (y) directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence any customer, joint venturer, or other business partner of the Company or the Bank to alter that person or entity's business relationship with the Company or the Bank in any way, and (z) accept the financial products or services business of any customer or provide financial products or services to any customer on behalf of anyone other than the Company or the Bank. In addition, the Executive shall not solicit or attempt to solicit and shall not encourage or induce in any way any employee, joint venturer, or business partner of the Company or the Bank to terminate an employment or contractual relationship with the Company or the Bank, and shall not hire any person employed by Company or the Bank during the two-year period immediately before the Executive's employment termination or any person employed by the Company or the Bank during the term of this covenant.

(c) Disclosure of confidential information . For and in consideration of the lump sum payment described in section 5 the Executive shall not reveal to any person, firm, or corporation any confidential information of any nature concerning the Company or the Bank or the business of the Company, the Bank, or affiliates. The covenant in this section 4(c) does not prohibit disclosure required by an order of a court having jurisdiction or a subpoena from an appropriate governmental agency or disclosure made by the Executive in the ordinary course of business and within the scope of the Executive's authority.

(d) Duration; no impact on existing obligations under law or contract . The covenants in this section 4 shall apply throughout the 12-month period immediately following the executive's separation from service whether or not the Company or the Bank has engaged the services of the Executive pursuant to an agreement to provide consulting services upon the Executive's separation from service with the Company or Bank. The 12-month durational period referenced herein shall be tolled and shall not run during any such time that the Executive is in breach of this Agreement and/or in violation of any of the covenants contained herein, and once tolled hereunder shall not begin to run again until such time as all such breach and/or violations have ceased. The Executive acknowledges and agrees that nothing in this Agreement is intended to or shall have any impact on the Executive's obligations as an officer or employee of the Company or the Bank to refrain from competing against, soliciting customers, officers, or employees of, or disclosing confidential information of the Company or the Bank while the Executive is serving as an officer or employee of the Company or the Bank or thereafter, whether the Executive's obligations arise under applicable law or under an employment agreement or otherwise.

(e) Remedies. The Executive acknowledges and agrees that remedies at law for the Executive's breach of the covenants contained herein are inadequate and that for violation of the covenants contained herein, in addition to any and all legal and equitable remedies that may be available, the covenants may be enforced by an injunction in a suit in equity without the necessity of proving actual damage, and that a temporary injunction may be granted immediately upon the commencement of any such suit, and without notice. The parties hereto intend that the covenants contained in this section 4 shall be deemed to be a series of separate covenants, one for each county of each state in which the Company or the Bank does business. If in any judicial proceeding a court refuses to enforce any or all of the separate covenants, the unenforceable covenants shall be deemed eliminated from the provisions hereof for the purposes of that proceeding to the extent necessary to permit the remaining separate covenants to be enforced. Furthermore, if in any judicial proceeding a court refuses to enforce any covenant because of the covenant's duration or geographic scope, the covenant shall be construed to have only the maximum duration or geographic scope permitted by law.

(f) Forfeiture of payments under this Agreement. If the Executive breaches any of the covenants in this section 4, the Executive's right to any of the payments specified in section 5 after the date of the breach shall be forever forfeited and the right of the Executive's designated beneficiary or estate to any payments under this Agreement shall likewise be forever forfeited. This forfeiture is in addition to and not instead of any injunctive or other relief that may be available to the Company. The Executive further acknowledges and agrees that any breach of any of the covenants in this section 4 shall be deemed a material breach by the Executive of this Agreement.

5. Noncompete Payment

(a) Payment. In consideration of the Executive's covenant not to compete as described in section 4 hereto and subject to the limitations outlined in section 22:

(i) Upon the Executive's separation from service for any reason, subject to section 4 and section 22 of this Agreement, or due to Retirement, the Company shall pay to the Executive a lump sum payment, in an amount equal to the aggregate of:

(a) Two (2) times the annual rate of base salary then being paid to the Executive.

(b) Potential six-month delay under section 409A. If, when separation from service occurs, the Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1984 (the "Code"), and if the non-competition payment under this section 5 would be considered deferred compensation under section 409A of the Code, and finally if an exemption from the six-month delay requirement of section 409A(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Code is not available, the Executive's non-competition payments for the first six months following separation from service shall be paid to the Executive in a single lump sum on the first day of the seventh month after the month in which the Executive's separation from service occurs.

(c) Death and Disability. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, no amounts are payable under this Agreement in the event of the Executive's termination of employment as a result of death or disability. Further, all payments under this Agreement shall cease upon Executive's death.

6. Claims Procedure

A person or beneficiary who has not received benefits under this Agreement that he or she believes should be paid shall make a claim for such benefits by submitting to the Administrator a written claim for the benefits. The claim must state with particularity the determination desired by the claimant. All determinations and decisions made by the Administrator regarding claims for benefits under this Agreement will be final, conclusive and binding on all persons, including the Company, the Bank, the Executive and his or her estate and beneficiaries.

7. Payments and Funding

Any payment under this Agreement shall be independent of and in addition to those under any other plan, program, or agreement that may be in effect between the parties hereto or any other compensation payable to the Executive by the Company or the Bank.

8. Assignment of Rights; Spendthrift Clause

None of the Executive, the Executive's estate, or the Executive's beneficiary shall have any right to sell, assign, transfer, pledge, attach, encumber, or otherwise convey the right to receive any payment hereunder. To the extent permitted by law, benefits payable under this Agreement shall not be subject to the claim of any creditor of the Executive, the Executive's estate, or the Executive's designated beneficiary or subject to any legal process by any creditor of the Executive, the Executive's estate, or the Executive's designated beneficiary.

9. Binding Effect

This Agreement shall bind the Executive, the Company, and their beneficiaries, survivors, executors, successors and assigns, administrators, and transferees.

10. Successors; Binding Agreement

By an assumption agreement in form and substance satisfactory to the Executive, the Company shall require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation, or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business or assets of the Company to expressly assume and agree to perform this Agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform this Agreement had no succession occurred.

11. Amendment of Agreement

This Agreement may not be altered or amended except by a written agreement signed by the Company and by the Executive. However, if the Company determines to its reasonable satisfaction that an alteration or amendment of this Agreement is necessary or advisable so that the Agreement complies with the Code or any other applicable tax law, then upon written notice to Executive the Company may unilaterally amend this Agreement in such manner and to such an extent as the Company reasonably considers necessary or advisable to ensure compliance with the Code or other applicable tax law. Nothing in this section 13 shall be deemed to limit the Company's right to terminate this Agreement at any time and without stated cause.

12. Interpretation

Caption headings and subheadings herein are included solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision of this Agreement. Words used in the singular in this Agreement shall include the plural and words used in the masculine shall include the feminine.

13. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement not held invalid, and each such other provision shall continue in full force and effect to the full extent consistent with law. If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid in part, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the provision not held invalid, and the remainder of such provision together with all other provisions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect to the full extent consistent with law.

14. Governing Law, Venue, and Waiver of Right to Jury Trial.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, except to the extent preempted by the laws of the United States of America. The Executive and the Company agree that the exclusive venue for resolution of any disputes regarding or arising out of this Agreement or the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank shall be the state and federal courts located in Union County, New Jersey. The Executive and the Company further agree to waive any right to a jury trial with respect to any disputes regarding or arising out of this Agreement or the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank. The Executive and the Company each acknowledge and agree that this selection of venue and waiver of the right to a jury trial is knowingly, freely, and voluntarily given, is made after opportunity to consult with counsel of their choosing about this Agreement and its provisions, and is in the best interests of each party hereto.

15. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Bank and the Executive concerning the subject matter. No rights are granted to the Executive under this Agreement other than those specifically set forth.

16. No Guarantee of Employment.

This Agreement is not an employment policy or contract. It does not give the Executive the right to remain an employee of the Company or the Bank nor does it interfere with the Company's or the Bank's right to discharge the Executive. It also does not require the Executive to remain an employee or interfere with the Executive's right to terminate employment at any time.

17. Tax Withholding.

If taxes are required by the Code or other applicable tax law to be withheld by the Company from payments under this Agreement, the Company shall withhold any taxes that are required to be withheld.

18. Notices.

All notices, requests, demands, and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered by hand or mailed, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, with postage prepaid, to the following addresses or to such other address as either party may designate by like notice. If to the Company, notice shall be given to the board of directors, Center Bancorp, Inc., 2455 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 or to such other or additional person or persons as the Company shall have designated to the Executive in writing. If to the Executive, notice shall be given to the Executive at the Executive's address appearing on the Company's records, or to such other or additional person or persons as the Executive shall have designated to the Company in writing.

19 . Compliance with Code Section 409A .

The Company and the Executive intend that their exercise of authority or discretion under this Agreement shall comply with section 409A of the Code. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary in this Agreement, to the extent that any benefit under this Agreement that is nonqualified deferred compensation (within the meaning of section 409A of the Code) is payable upon Executive's termination of employment, such payment(s) shall be made only upon Executive's "Separation from Service" pursuant to the default definition in Treasury Regulation section 1.409A-1(h).

20 . General Limitations .

(a) Removal . Despite any contrary provision of this Agreement, if the Executive is removed from office or permanently prohibited from participating in the Employer's affairs by an order issued under section 8(e) (4) or (g) (1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. 1818(e) (4) or (g) (1), all obligations of the Employer under this Agreement shall terminate as of the effective date of the order.

(b) Default . Despite any contrary provision of this Agreement, if the Employer is in "default" or "in danger of default", as those terms are defined in of section 3(x) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. 1813(x), all obligations under this Agreement shall terminate.

(c) FDIC Open-Bank Assistance . All obligations under this Agreement shall be terminated, except to the extent determined that continuation of the contract is necessary for the continued operation of the Employer, at the time the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation enters into an agreement to provide assistance to or on behalf of the Employer under the authority contained in section 13(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. 12 U.S.C. 1823(c).

(d) Executive's Termination of Employment . Except for the Executive's Termination of Service for Good Reason, all obligations of the Employer under this Agreement shall be terminated, except to the extent determined that continuation of the contract is necessary for the continued operation of the Employer, at the time of the Executive's Voluntary Termination of Service. Termination For Good Reason as used herein shall mean (i) without the Executive's express written consent, a material diminution in authority, duties or responsibilities; (ii) any reduction by the Employer in the Executive's Base Salary; (iii) any failure of the Employer to obtain the assumption of, or the agreement to perform, this Agreement by any successor as contemplated in Section 10 hereof; (iv) the Employer materially breaches this Agreement; or (v) the Employer requiring the Executive to be permanently assigned to a location other than the current or future headquarters of the Employer, except for required travel on the Employer's business to an extent substantially consistent with the Executive's present business travel obligations or, in the event the Executive consents to any relocation, the failure by the Employer to pay (or reimburse the Executive) for all reasonable moving expenses incurred by the Executive relating to a change of the Executive's principal residence in connection with such relocation and to indemnify the Executive against any loss realized on the sale of the Executive's principal residence in connection with any such change of residence. Good Reason shall be deemed to occur only when Executive provides notice to the Employer of his judgment that a Good Reason event has occurred within 90 days of such occurrence, and the Employer will have at least 30 days during which it may remedy the condition.

(e) EESA Limitations. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the terms of this Agreement shall be construed subject to the limitations of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA"). It is expressly understood that this Agreement will be enforced in a manner which is consistent with Section 111 of EESA, as amended, and rules and regulations currently issued and to be issued thereunder. Until such time that the United States Treasury ceases to own any debt or equity or equity securities of the Employer acquired pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program, the Employer and Executive agree that all payments under this Agreement shall be limited to the extent necessary to comply with Section 111 of EESA, as amended.

I N W ITNESS W HEREOF , the Executive and a duly authorized officer of the Company have executed this Non-Competition Agreement as of the date first written above.

EXECUTIVE

By: /s/**Anthony C. Weagley**
Anthony C. Weagley

EMPLOYER

Center Bancorp, Inc.
By: /s/Alexander A. Bol

Union Center National Bank
By: /s/ Alexander A. Bol

CENTER BANCORP, INC.
NON-COMPETITION AGREEMENT
For JAMES W. SORGE

This **Non -C OMPETITION A GREEMENT** (this "Agreement") is entered into as of this 2nd day of December, 2010, by and between Center Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company"), and James W. Sorge (the "Executive").

W HEREAS , Executive is an employee of Union Center National Bank, (the "Bank"), who has been employed to provide guidance, leadership, and direction in the growth, management, and development of the Company and the Bank and has learned trade secrets, confidential procedures and information, and technical and sensitive plans of the Company and the Bank,

W HEREAS , the Company desires to restrict, after the Executive's separation from service with the Company and the Bank, the Executive's availability to other employers or entities that compete with the Company or the Bank,

N OW T HEREFOR E , in consideration of these premises, the mutual promises and undertakings set forth in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Executive and the Company hereby agree as follows.

1. Administration of this Agreement .

(a) Administrator duties . This Agreement shall be administered by the Company's board of directors or by such committee or person as the board shall appoint (the "Administrator"). The Executive may not be a member of the Administrator. The Administrator shall have the discretion and authority to (x) make, amend, interpret, and enforce all appropriate rules and regulations for the administration of this Agreement and (y) decide or resolve any and all questions that may arise, including interpretations of this Agreement.

(b) Agents . In the administration of this Agreement the Administrator may employ agents and delegate to them such administrative duties as it sees fit (including acting through a duly appointed representative) and may from time to time consult with counsel, who may be counsel to the Company.

(c) Binding effect of decisions . The decision or action of the Administrator concerning any question arising out of the administration, interpretation, and application of this Agreement and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder shall be final and conclusive and binding upon all persons having any interest in this Agreement.

(d) Indemnity of Administrator . The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless the members of the Administrator against any and all claims, losses, damages, expenses, or liabilities arising from any action or failure to act with respect to this Agreement, except in the case of willful misconduct by the Administrator or any of its members. No individual shall be liable while acting as Administrator for any action or determination made in good faith regarding this Agreement, and any such individual shall be entitled to indemnification and reimbursement in the manner provided in the Company's Charter and Bylaws and under applicable law.

(e) Information . To enable the Administrator to perform its functions, the Company shall supply full and timely information to the Administrator on all matters relating to the date and circumstances of the separation from service of the Executive and such other pertinent information as the Administrator may reasonably require.

(f) Action by the Administrator . In addition to acting at a meeting in accordance with applicable laws, any action of the Administrator concerning this Agreement may be taken by a written instrument signed by the Administrator (including, if the Company's board of directors or a board committee serves as the Administrator, by written consent in accordance with New Jersey law and the Charter and Bylaws of the Company, and any such action so taken by written consent shall be effective as if it had been taken by a majority of the members at a meeting duly called and held).

2. Definitions

(a) Affiliate shall mean the Bank and any entity that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Company.

(b) Change in Control shall mean a change in the ownership or effective control of the Company, or in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of the Company, as such change is defined under the default definition in Treasury Regulation §1.409A-3 (i)(5) or any subsequently applicable Treasury Regulation.

(c) Code shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any successor statute, rule or regulation of similar effect.

(d) Confidential Information shall mean all business and other information relating to the business of the Employer, including without limitation, technical or nontechnical data, programs, methods, techniques, processes, financial data, financial plans, product plans, and lists of actual or potential customers, which (i) derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other Persons, and (ii) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy or confidentiality. Such information and compilations of information shall be contractually subject to protection under this Agreement whether or not such information constitutes a trade secret and is separately protectable at law or in equity as a trade secret. Confidential Information does not include confidential business information, which does not constitute a trade secret under applicable law one year after any expiration or termination of this Agreement.

(e) Customer shall mean any individual, joint venturer, entity of any sort, or other business partner of the Company or the Bank with, for, or to whom the Company or the Bank has provided financial products or services during the final two years of the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank, or any individual, joint venturer, entity of any sort, or business partner whom the Company or the Bank has identified as a prospective customer of financial products or services within the final year of the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank.

(f) Disability or Disabled means the Executive (i) is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months or (ii) is by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under an accident and health plan covering employees of the Employer.

(g) Financial products or services shall mean any product or service that a financial institution or a financial holding company could offer by engaging in any activity that is financial in nature or incidental to such a financial activity under Section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and that is offered by the Company, the Bank, or an affiliate on the date of the Executive's employment termination, including but not limited to banking activities and activities that are closely related and a proper incident to banking, or other products or services of the type in which the Executive was involved during the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank.

(h) Person shall mean any individual, corporation, limited liability Employer, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock Employer, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(i) Specified Employee means an employee who at the time of Termination of Employment is a key employee of the Employer, if any stock of the Employer is publicly traded on an established securities market or otherwise. For purposes of this Agreement, an employee is a key employee if the employee meets the requirements of Code Section 416(i)(1)(A)(i), (ii), or (iii) (applied in accordance with the regulations thereunder and disregarding section 416(i)(5)) at any time during the 12-month period ending on December 31 (the "identification period"). If the employee is a key employee during an identification period, the employee is treated as a key employee for purposes of this Agreement during the twelve (12) month period that begins on the first day of April following the close of the identification period.

(j) Termination of Employment with the Employer means that the Executive shall have ceased to be employed by the Employer for reasons other than death, excepting a leave of absence approved by the Employer. Whether a termination of employment has occurred is determined based on whether the facts and circumstances indicate that the Employer and the Executive reasonably anticipated that no further services would be performed after a certain date or that the level of bona fide services the Executive would perform after such date (whether as an employee or as an independent contractor) would permanently decrease to no more than twenty percent (20%) of the average level of bona fide services performed (whether as an employee or an independent contractor) over the immediately preceding twenty-four (24) month period (or the full period of services to the Employer if the Executive has been providing services to the Employer less than twenty-four (24) months).

(k) Voluntary Termination shall mean the termination by Executive of Executive's employment, which is not the result of Good Reason.

3. Term

(a) The term of this Agreement shall commence upon the date this Agreement is executed by all parties and will terminate on the first anniversary of the Effective Date.

4. Covenants against competition, solicitation, or disclosure of confidential information

(a) Competition. For and in consideration of the lump sum payment described in section 5 the Executive shall not, either separately, jointly, or in association with others, directly or indirectly, as an agent, employee, owner, partner, stockholder, or otherwise, compete with the Company or the Bank or establish, engage in, or become interested in any business, trade, or occupation that competes with the Company or the Bank in the financial products or services industry in any county in any of the States of the United States in which the Company's or the Bank's business is currently being conducted or is being conducted when the Executive's separation from service occurs. The Company and the Executive acknowledge that during the term of the Executive's employment the Executive has acquired special and confidential knowledge regarding the operations of the Company and Bank. Furthermore, although not a term or condition of this Agreement, the Company and the Executive acknowledge that the Executive's services have been used and are being used by the Company and the Bank in executive, managerial, and supervisory capacities throughout the areas in which the Company and the Bank conduct business. Executive acknowledges that the non-compete restrictions contained herein are reasonable and fair in scope and necessary to protect the legitimate business interests of the Company and the Bank.

(b) Solicitation. For and in consideration of the lump sum payment described in section 5, the Executive shall not (x) directly or indirectly solicit or attempt to solicit any customer of the Company or the Bank to accept or purchase financial products or services of the same nature, kind or variety currently being provided to the customer by the Company or the Bank or being provided to the customer by the Company or the Bank when the Executive's separation from service occurs, (y) directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence any customer, joint venturer, or other business partner of the Company or the Bank to alter that person or entity's business relationship with the Company or the Bank in any way, and (z) accept the financial products or services business of any customer or provide financial products or services to any customer on behalf of anyone other than the Company or the Bank. In addition, the Executive shall not solicit or attempt to solicit and shall not encourage or induce in any way any employee, joint venturer, or business partner of the Company or the Bank to terminate an employment or contractual relationship with the Company or the Bank, and shall not hire any person employed by Company or the Bank during the two-year period immediately before the Executive's employment termination or any person employed by the Company or the Bank during the term of this covenant.

(c) Disclosure of confidential information . For and in consideration of the lump sum payment described in section 5 the Executive shall not reveal to any person, firm, or corporation any confidential information of any nature concerning the Company or the Bank or the business of the Company, the Bank, or affiliates. The covenant in this section 4(c) does not prohibit disclosure required by an order of a court having jurisdiction or a subpoena from an appropriate governmental agency or disclosure made by the Executive in the ordinary course of business and within the scope of the Executive's authority.

(d) Duration; no impact on existing obligations under law or contract . The covenants in this section 4 shall apply throughout the 12-month period immediately following the executive's separation from service whether or not the Company or the Bank has engaged the services of the Executive pursuant to an agreement to provide consulting services upon the Executive's separation from service with the Company or Bank. The 12-month durational period referenced herein shall be tolled and shall not run during any such time that the Executive is in breach of this Agreement and/or in violation of any of the covenants contained herein, and once tolled hereunder shall not begin to run again until such time as all such breach and/or violations have ceased. The Executive acknowledges and agrees that nothing in this Agreement is intended to or shall have any impact on the Executive's obligations as an officer or employee of the Company or the Bank to refrain from competing against, soliciting customers, officers, or employees of, or disclosing confidential information of the Company or the Bank while the Executive is serving as an officer or employee of the Company or the Bank or thereafter, whether the Executive's obligations arise under applicable law or under an employment agreement or otherwise.

(e) Remedies . The Executive acknowledges and agrees that remedies at law for the Executive's breach of the covenants contained herein are inadequate and that for violation of the covenants contained herein, in addition to any and all legal and equitable remedies that may be available, the covenants may be enforced by an injunction in a suit in equity without the necessity of proving actual damage, and that a temporary injunction may be granted immediately upon the commencement of any such suit, and without notice. The parties hereto intend that the covenants contained in this section 4 shall be deemed to be a series of separate covenants, one for each county of each state in which the Company or the Bank does business. If in any judicial proceeding a court refuses to enforce any or all of the separate covenants, the unenforceable covenants shall be deemed eliminated from the provisions hereof for the purposes of that proceeding to the extent necessary to permit the remaining separate covenants to be enforced. Furthermore, if in any judicial proceeding a court refuses to enforce any covenant because of the covenant's duration or geographic scope, the covenant shall be construed to have only the maximum duration or geographic scope permitted by law.

(f) Forfeiture of payments under this Agreement. If the Executive breaches any of the covenants in this section 4, the Executive's right to any of the payments specified in section 5 after the date of the breach shall be forever forfeited and the right of the Executive's designated beneficiary or estate to any payments under this Agreement shall likewise be forever forfeited. This forfeiture is in addition to and not instead of any injunctive or other relief that may be available to the Company. The Executive further acknowledges and agrees that any breach of any of the covenants in this section 4 shall be deemed a material breach by the Executive of this Agreement.

5. Noncompete Payment

(a) Payment. In consideration of the Executive's covenant not to compete as described in section 4 hereto and subject to the limitations outlined in section 22:

(i) Upon the Executive's separation from service for any reason, subject to section 4 and section 22 of this Agreement, or due to Retirement, the Company shall pay to the Executive a lump sum payment, in an amount equal to the aggregate of:

(a) One times the annual rate of base salary then being paid to the Executive.

(b) Potential six-month delay under section 409A. If, when separation from service occurs, the Executive is a specified employee within the meaning of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1984 (the "Code"), and if the non-competition payment under this section 5 would be considered deferred compensation under section 409A of the Code, and finally if an exemption from the six-month delay requirement of section 409A(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Code is not available, the Executive's non-competition payments for the first six months following separation from service shall be paid to the Executive in a single lump sum on the first day of the seventh month after the month in which the Executive's separation from service occurs.

(c) Death and Disability. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, no amounts are payable under this Agreement in the event of the Executive's termination of employment as a result of death or disability. Further, all payments under this Agreement shall cease upon Executive's death.

6. Claims Procedure

A person or beneficiary who has not received benefits under this Agreement that he or she believes should be paid shall make a claim for such benefits by submitting to the Administrator a written claim for the benefits. The claim must state with particularity the determination desired by the claimant. All determinations and decisions made by the Administrator regarding claims for benefits under this Agreement will be final, conclusive and binding on all persons, including the Company, the Bank, the Executive and his or her estate and beneficiaries.

7. Payments and Funding.

Any payment under this Agreement shall be independent of and in addition to those under any other plan, program, or agreement that may be in effect between the parties hereto or any other compensation payable to the Executive by the Company or the Bank.

8. Assignment of Rights; Spendthrift Clause.

None of the Executive, the Executive's estate, or the Executive's beneficiary shall have any right to sell, assign, transfer, pledge, attach, encumber, or otherwise convey the right to receive any payment hereunder. To the extent permitted by law, benefits payable under this Agreement shall not be subject to the claim of any creditor of the Executive, the Executive's estate, or the Executive's designated beneficiary or subject to any legal process by any creditor of the Executive, the Executive's estate, or the Executive's designated beneficiary.

9. Binding Effect.

This Agreement shall bind the Executive, the Company, and their beneficiaries, survivors, executors, successors and assigns, administrators, and transferees.

10. Successors; Binding Agreement.

By an assumption agreement in form and substance satisfactory to the Executive, the Company shall require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation, or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business or assets of the Company to expressly assume and agree to perform this Agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform this Agreement had no succession occurred.

11. Amendment of Agreement.

This Agreement may not be altered or amended except by a written agreement signed by the Company and by the Executive. However, if the Company determines to its reasonable satisfaction that an alteration or amendment of this Agreement is necessary or advisable so that the Agreement complies with the Code or any other applicable tax law, then upon written notice to Executive the Company may unilaterally amend this Agreement in such manner and to such an extent as the Company reasonably considers necessary or advisable to ensure compliance with the Code or other applicable tax law. Nothing in this section 13 shall be deemed to limit the Company's right to terminate this Agreement at any time and without stated cause.

12. Interpretation.

Caption headings and subheadings herein are included solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision of this Agreement. Words used in the singular in this Agreement shall include the plural and words used in the masculine shall include the feminine.

13. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement not held invalid, and each such other provision shall continue in full force and effect to the full extent consistent with law. If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid in part, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the provision not held invalid, and the remainder of such provision together with all other provisions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect to the full extent consistent with law.

14. Governing Law, Venue, and Waiver of Right to Jury Trial

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, except to the extent preempted by the laws of the United States of America. The Executive and the Company agree that the exclusive venue for resolution of any disputes regarding or arising out of this Agreement or the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank shall be the state and federal courts located in Union County, New Jersey. The Executive and the Company further agree to waive any right to a jury trial with respect to any disputes regarding or arising out of this Agreement or the Executive's employment with the Company or the Bank. The Executive and the Company each acknowledge and agree that this selection of venue and waiver of the right to a jury trial is knowingly, freely, and voluntarily given, is made after opportunity to consult with counsel of their choosing about this Agreement and its provisions, and is in the best interests of each party hereto.

15. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Bank and the Executive concerning the subject matter. No rights are granted to the Executive under this Agreement other than those specifically set forth.

16. No Guarantee of Employment

This Agreement is not an employment policy or contract. It does not give the Executive the right to remain an employee of the Company or the Bank nor does it interfere with the Company's or the Bank's right to discharge the Executive. It also does not require the Executive to remain an employee or interfere with the Executive's right to terminate employment at any time.

17. Tax Withholding

If taxes are required by the Code or other applicable tax law to be withheld by the Company from payments under this Agreement, the Company shall withhold any taxes that are required to be withheld.

18. Notices

All notices, requests, demands, and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered by hand or mailed, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, with postage prepaid, to the following addresses or to such other address as either party may designate by like notice. If to the Company, notice shall be given to the board of directors, Center Bancorp, Inc., 2455 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 or to such other or additional person or persons as the Company shall have designated to the Executive in writing. If to the Executive, notice shall be given to the Executive at the Executive's address appearing on the Company's records, or to such other or additional person or persons as the Executive shall have designated to the Company in writing.

19. Compliance with Code Section 409A

The Company and the Executive intend that their exercise of authority or discretion under this Agreement shall comply with section 409A of the Code. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary in this Agreement, to the extent that any benefit under this Agreement that is nonqualified deferred compensation (within the meaning of section 409A of the Code) is payable upon Executive's termination of employment, such payment(s) shall be made only upon Executive's "Separation from Service" pursuant to the default definition in Treasury Regulation section 1.409A-1(h).

20. General Limitations

(a) Removal. Despite any contrary provision of this Agreement, if the Executive is removed from office or permanently prohibited from participating in the Employer's affairs by an order issued under section 8(e) (4) or (g) (1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. 1818(e) (4) or (g) (1), all obligations of the Employer under this Agreement shall terminate as of the effective date of the order.

(b) Default. Despite any contrary provision of this Agreement, if the Employer is in "default" or "in danger of default", as those terms are defined in of section 3(x) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. 1813(x), all obligations under this Agreement shall terminate.

(c) FDIC Open-Bank Assistance. All obligations under this Agreement shall be terminated, except to the extent determined that continuation of the contract is necessary for the continued operation of the Employer, at the time the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation enters into an agreement to provide assistance to or on behalf of the Employer under the authority contained in section 13(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. 12 U.S.C. 1823(c).

(d) Executive's Termination of Employment. Except for the Executive's Termination of Service for Good Reason, all obligations of the Employer under this Agreement shall be terminated, except to the extent determined that continuation of the contract is necessary for the continued operation of the Employer, at the time of the Executive's Voluntary Termination of Service. Termination For Good Reason as used herein shall mean (i) without the Executive's express written consent, a material diminution in authority, duties or responsibilities; (ii) any reduction by the Employer in the Executive's Base Salary; (iii) any failure of the Employer to obtain the assumption of, or the agreement to perform, this Agreement by any successor as contemplated in Section 10 hereof; (iv) the Employer materially breaches this Agreement; or (v) the Employer requiring the Executive to be permanently assigned to a location other than the current or future headquarters of the Employer, except for required travel on the Employer's business to an extent substantially consistent with the Executive's present business travel obligations or, in the event the Executive consents to any relocation, the failure by the Employer to pay (or reimburse the Executive) for all reasonable moving expenses incurred by the Executive relating to a change of the Executive's principal residence in connection with such relocation and to indemnify the Executive against any loss realized on the sale of the Executive's principal residence in connection with any such change of residence. Good Reason shall be deemed to occur only when Executive provides notice to the Employer of his judgment that a Good Reason event has occurred within 90 days of such occurrence, and the Employer will have at least 30 days during which it may remedy the condition.

(e) EESA Limitations. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the terms of this Agreement shall be construed subject to the limitations of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 ("EESA"). It is expressly understood that this Agreement will be enforced in a manner which is consistent with Section 111 of EESA, as amended, and rules and regulations currently issued and to be issued thereunder. Until such time that the United States Treasury ceases to own any debt or equity or equity securities of the Employer acquired pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program, the Employer and Executive agree that all payments under this Agreement shall be limited to the extent necessary to comply with Section 111 of EESA, as amended.

I N W I T N E S S W H E R E O F , the Executive and a duly authorized officer of the Company have executed this Non-Competition Agreement as of the date first written above.

E X E C U T I V E

By: /s/ **James W. Sorge**
James W. Sorge

E M P L O Y E R

Center Bancorp, Inc.
By: /s/Anthony C. Weagley

Union Center National Bank
By: /s/ Anthony C. Weagley

Center Bancorp, Inc.

Investor Inquiries:

Anthony C. Weagley, President &
Chief Executive Officer
(908) 206-2886
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(908) 206-2863

Center Bancorp, Inc. Reports Resignations of Two Board Members and Appointment of New Director

UNION, N.J., December 3, 2010 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Center Bancorp, Inc. (Nasdaq:CNBC) (the "Company"), parent company of Union Center National Bank ("UCNB" or the "Bank"), announced that at its board meeting dated November 30, 2010 John J. DeLaney and Elliot Kramer have resigned from the Boards of Directors of the Company and the Bank, effective December 1, 2010.

The Board also announced, Alan H. Straus was appointed to the Boards of Directors of the Company and the Bank. Mr. Straus is currently the portfolio manager for Omega Advisors, Inc., an investment management firm run by Leon Cooperman, one of the leading value investors in the country. Mr. Straus has more than 20 years of experience as a research analyst and portfolio manager for several leading investment firms.

Mr. Straus will stand for election at the Company's 2011 annual meeting of shareholders.

Mr. Straus holds an MBA, Finance from the Cornell University, Johnson School of Management and BS from Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

"Mr. Straus exhibits the qualities that will bring added depth and a mix of expertise to the Company during a period of accelerated change in our industry," said Alexander A. Bol, Chairman of the Board.

About Center Bancorp

Center Bancorp, Inc. is a bank holding company which operates Union Center National Bank, its main subsidiary. Chartered in 1923, Union Center National Bank is one of the oldest national banks headquartered in the state of New Jersey and currently the largest commercial bank headquartered in Union County. Its primary market niche is its commercial banking business. The Bank focuses its lending activities on commercial lending to small and medium-sized businesses, real estate developers and high net worth individuals.

The Bank, through its Private Wealth Management Division, which includes its wholly-owned subsidiary, Center Financial Group LLC, provides financial services including brokerage services, insurance and annuities, mutual funds, financial planning, estate and tax planning, trust, elder care and benefit plan administration.

The Bank currently operates 13 banking locations in Union and Morris Counties in New Jersey. Banking centers are located in Union Township (6 locations), Berkeley Heights, Boonton/Mountain Lakes, Madison, Millburn/Vauxhall, Morristown, Springfield, and Summit, New Jersey. The Bank also operates remote ATM locations in the Chatham and Madison New Jersey Transit train stations, and the Boys and Girls Club of Union.

While the Bank's primary market area is comprised of Union and Morris Counties, New Jersey, the Corporation has expanded to northern and central New Jersey. At September 30, 2010, the Corporation had total assets of \$1.2 billion, total deposit funding sources, which includes overnight repurchase agreements, of \$873.3 million and stockholders' equity of \$122.2 million.

For further information regarding Center Bancorp, Inc., visit our web site at <http://www.centerbancorp.com> or call (800) 862-3683. For information regarding Union Center National Bank, visit our web site at <http://www.ucnb.com>.
