

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On February 1, 2010, Sterling Financial Corporation ("Sterling") issued a press release and financial supplement thereto regarding its results of operations and financial condition for the year and quarter ended December 31, 2009. The text of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and the financial supplement is included as Exhibit 99.2 to this report. The information included in the press release text and the financial supplement is considered to be "furnished" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Sterling will include final financial statements and additional analyses for the period ended December 31, 2009, as part of its annual report on Form 10-K covering that period.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibits are being furnished herewith:

Exhibit No. Exhibit Description

- | | |
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| 99.1 | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated February 1, 2010. |
| 99.2 | Financial supplement of Sterling Financial Corporation. |

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 thereunto duly authorized.

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Registrant)

February 1, 2010 By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne

Date

Daniel G. Byrne

Executive Vice President, Assistant Secretary and
Principal Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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