



NEWS RELEASE

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Ajla Zigic Promoted to VP of Community & Economic Development; Anela Barbanell Joins Midwest BankCentre as Assistant Vice President

ST. LOUIS (June 1, 2022) – **Ajla Zigic** has been promoted to vice president and **Anela Barbanell** has been named assistant vice president on the community and economic development team at Midwest BankCentre. The team is led by **Wes Burns**, executive vice president of community and economic development.

The two appointments are part of fulfilling Midwest BankCentre’s commitment to make \$200 million in community and economic development loans over a five-year period to help revitalize the St. Louis region. Zigic and Barbanell, both of whom are Bosnian immigrants, are the latest additions to the expanding team.

“We are dedicated to shared prosperity by making opportunity and capital accessible to all people,” Burns said. “Ajla and Anela’s community-focused, customer-centric and values-based approach to community banking are central to our success in building relationships with businesses, nonprofits and individuals throughout our region, with a particular focus on the Bosnian community.”

Zigic emigrated to St. Louis from Bosnia at age eight and has over 13 years of experience in the banking industry. In her new role, she focuses on building the bank’s relationships within the Bosnian community and helping businesses thrive. Since joining Midwest BankCentre as branch manager at the bank’s



Clayton branch in 2019, she has led a high-performing branch team dedicated to improving the financial wellness of bank customers and generating new business clients. In 2020, Zigic was promoted to business development officer with a focus on serving small business customers of the bank by identifying valuable resources and providing referrals to help meet customers' goals for growing their businesses.

As assistant vice president of community and economic development, Barbanell focuses on initiating and nurturing bank relationships in the community and economic development arena with a focus on the Bosnian community. After becoming a refugee of Bosnia and Herzegovina at age 12, she moved to St. Louis two years later. She has amassed more than 20 years of experience in the banking industry after starting her career at the former Southern Commercial Bank, acquired by Midwest BankCentre in 2015.



With Zigic and Barbanell, Midwest BankCentre's Community and Economic Development team will continue to support the region's Bosnian community. Their focus also extends to nonprofits, faith-based institutions, community development projects, and small businesses located within or benefiting historically disinvested communities.

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Editor's note: **Ajla Zigic** is based at the Midwest BankCentre branch at 5017 Gravois Avenue St. Louis, Mo. (63116). **Anela Barbanell** is based at the Midwest BankCentre branch at 5515 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. (63116).

About Midwest BankCentre

Midwest BankCentre's current assets exceed \$2.3 billion and deposits total more than \$1.8 billion. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the bank employs a staff of about 280 working at 18 bank locations in

the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri and St. Clair County in Illinois. It empowers people, enables business and energizes neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance and digital banking.

Midwest BankCentre bank is a local leader in the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition (formerly the St. Louis Regional Unbanked Task Force) and its Bank-On Save-Up St. Louis initiative. Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has consecutively achieved the Bauer Financial 5-Star Superior financial rating each quarter. It has been recognized for its success in bringing mainstream financial services to unbanked and underbanked citizens in the region and other diversity and inclusion contributions with the 2019 Community Commitment Award from the American Bankers Association Foundation and the 2018 National Community Bank Service Award from the Independent Community Bankers of America®.