

January 31, 2019



Dear Valued Client:

On October 12, 1957 several forward-thinking residents of Duval County and Freer Texas came together to form the First State Bank in Freer, Texas. They had a vision to bring a banking institution to serve the needs of this community. Serve it they did and on January 23, 1974 First State Bank changed its name to Brush Country Bank. Furthermore, on March 6th, 1980, Brush Country Bank and Freer State Bank merged to become one combined bank flying under the name Brush Country Bank. Since then, the name Brush Country Bank has been synonymous with the city of Freer and furthermore Duval County. In order to go boldly into the future, we must understand our past, and with that know what it will take to continue the progress that has been felt and served this community so well. Mr. Frank Deviney, saw to it for over 3 decades and did a spectacular job. We can only hope to make him and our founders proud of where we boldly dare to envision.

It is with bittersweet enthusiasm that I proudly announce to you that effective January 31, 2019, Brush Country Bank is officially changing its name to Freedom Bank. The name Brush Country Bank has been and will always be a piece of our history and will continue to be a part of our future. As we can see from our past, we have successfully undergone a previous name change. We want to incorporate the past and bring it into the future. The name Freedom represents so much to all of us and in undertaking that name comes with it a huge responsibility. By adopting this name, we are aiming to grow the bank and put forth an image that will represent our values and our commitment to the communities of Duval and Hidalgo County in the coming months, eventually encompassing other surrounding counties and hopefully someday far beyond that. Freedom Bank will always be connected to the city of Freer and Brush Country Bank and even further, First State Bank and Freer State Bank, where our roots began. We will remain committed to that. In fact, the only significant change you should see will be the name change.

In the coming weeks and months, you will slowly start to see a transition from the name Brush Country Bank to Freedom Bank. It is our desire that you will find this an exciting transition and welcome the change. Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to drop us a line and we will be happy to take your call.

Sincerely,

Arturo 'Art' Ortega

Brush Country Bank now Freedom Bank – CEO



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THE **FREEDOM** TO DO MORE.