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**For Immediate Release**

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**Ridgewood Savings Bank partners with Ariva to bring Free Tax Preparation Services to residents of the Bronx**

Ridgewood Savings Bank is offering eligible Bronx residents free tax preparation assistance this tax season with services provided by the non-profit organization, Ariva. Residents are eligible for tax preparation assistance if they are single with no dependents and earn less than \$30,000, or file with dependents and earn less than \$54,000.

On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am until 4:00pm, Ridgewood's Jerome Avenue Branch will host the first events of the season where tax returns will be completed and submitted to the IRS free of charge.

In addition to the Jerome Avenue branch, Ridgewood Savings Bank will host two additional dates at the following convenient Bronx locations:

**Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm** – hosted by the White Plains Road branch, held at Community Board 12 – 4101 White Plains Road at 229<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm** – hosted by the Allerton Avenue branch – 711 Allerton Avenue.

In previous years, Ariva has filed more than 80,000 free tax returns totaling more than \$129 million in refunds for the residents of the Bronx neighborhoods that they serve.

“This is a service that we feel is very important to the members of the Bronx community and with the new tax laws, people will have many questions that the Ariva representatives can answer,” said Domenico Ciaccio, AVP, Community Relations at Ridgewood Savings Bank. Mr. Ciaccio continued, “Everyone needs to prepare their taxes, and we hope that these Bronx neighborhoods can appreciate the full benefit of this service we provide in partnership with Ariva.”

“Ariva is grateful to Ridgewood Savings Bank for its long-time sponsorship of these tax days,” said Irene Baldwin, Executive Director, Ariva. “Neighborhood residents know Ridgewood is a trusted partner and they return year after year to the bank to have their taxes done for free.”

**About Ridgewood Savings Bank**

Founded in 1921, Ridgewood Savings Bank is the largest mutual savings bank in New York State, with over \$5 billion dollars in assets. With 35 branches in the New York area, Ridgewood Savings Bank continues to serve its communities as it did since 1921 with continued focus always on their customers.

### **About Ariva**

Ariva is a nonprofit financial capabilities provider, headquartered in the South Bronx, whose mission is to empower low wealth New Yorkers with effective tools and resources so they can make informed financial choices and achieve economic stability. Ariva serves hardworking New Yorkers of modest income, helping them save money, pursue their financial goals and achieve their dreams. Each year, it assists more than 12,000 people through its free income tax program and its counselors provide comprehensive financial counseling to more than 2,500 people. Its services are always free.

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