

STERLING BANCORP  
Form 8-K  
November 19, 2007

**Table of Contents**

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 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 15, 2007**

**Commission File Number: 1-5273-1**

**Sterling Bancorp**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

**New York**

**13-2565216**

**(State of other jurisdiction  
Employer  
of incorporation)**

**(IRS  
Identification No.)**

**650 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York**

**10019-6108**

**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**(Zip Code)**

**(212) 757- 3300**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

**N/A**

**(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)**

**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:**

- 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 (17CFR 240.13e-4(c))**
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ITEM 5.03 AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR BY-LAWS; CHANGE IN FISCAL YEAR

ITEM 8.01 OTHER EVENTS

ITEM 9.01 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

SIGNATURE

EX-3.II: BY-LAWS

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**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 5.03**

**AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR BY-LAWS;  
CHANGE IN FISCAL YEAR**

(a) On November 15, 2007, the Board of Directors of Sterling Bancorp (the Corporation ) amended Article V of the Corporation s By-Laws to provide that the Board may designate one or more classes of the Corporation s shares that may be issued as uncertificated shares as well as certificated shares. The Board also adopted a resolution designating the Corporation s common shares, \$1.00 par value, as the sole class that may be issued as uncertificated shares as well as certificated shares. The By-Laws amendment and related designating resolution were adopted to comply with the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange to be eligible for participation in the Direct Registration System for publicly traded securities operated by The Depository Trust Company. A complete copy of the Corporation s By-Laws, as amended, is set forth in Exhibit 3(ii) to this current report on Form 8-K.

**ITEM 8.01**

**OTHER EVENTS**

On November 15, 2007, the Company announced the declaration of a cash dividend of \$0.19 per common share payable on December 31, 2007 to shareholders of record on December 15, 2007.

**ITEM 9.01**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

(d) Exhibit

3(ii) By-Laws of Sterling Bancorp as amended through November 15, 2007.

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**Table of Contents**

**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.

DATE: November 19, 2007

BY: /s/ JOHN W. TIETJEN

JOHN W. TIETJEN  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer