

REPUBLIC FIRST BANCORP INC  
Form SC 13G  
February 11, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 13G**

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No. )\***

Republic First Bancorp, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

760416107

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2015

(Date of Event which Requires Filing

of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No.

760416107 13G Page 2 of 7 Pages

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF  
ABOVE PERSON

**1**

Basswood Capital Management, L.L.C.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX  
IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

**2**

(a)

(b)

SEC USE ONLY

**3**

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF  
ORGANIZATION

**4**

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED

SOLE VOTING POWER
<b>5</b>
0

BY EACH  
REPORTING PERSON

6 SHARED VOTING POWER
-----------------------

WITH 2,368,338

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

7  
0

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,368,338

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

9  
2,368,338

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

10

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

11  
6.3%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

12  
IA

CUSIP No.

760416107 13G Page 3 of 7 Pages

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF  
ABOVE PERSON

**1**

Matthew Lindenbaum

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX  
IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

**2**

(a)

(b)

SEC USE ONLY

**3**

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF  
ORGANIZATION

**4**

United States

NUMBER OF      SOLE VOTING POWER  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED            **5**  
                          **0**

BY  
EACH  
REPORTING      **6** SHARED VOTING POWER  
PERSON

WITH 2,368,338

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

7  
0

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,368,338

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

9  
2,368,338

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

10

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

11  
6.3%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

12  
IN/HC

CUSIP No.

760416107 13G Page 4 of 7 Pages

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF  
ABOVE PERSON

**1**

Bennett Lindenbaum

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX  
IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

**2**

(a)

(b)

SEC USE ONLY

**3**

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF  
ORGANIZATION

**4**

United States

NUMBER OF      SOLE VOTING POWER  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED            **5**  
                          **0**

BY  
EACH  
REPORTING      **6** SHARED VOTING POWER  
PERSON

WITH 2,368,338

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

7  
0

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,368,338

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

9  
2,368,338

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

10

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

11  
6.3%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

12  
IN/HC



**Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:**

Republic First Bancorp, Inc.

**Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:**

50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing:**

The information required by Item 2(a) is set forth in Row 1 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

**Item 2(b) Address or Principal Business Office:**

c/o Basswood Capital Management, L.L.C.  
645 Madison Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022

**Item 2(c) Citizenship:**

The information required by Item 2(c) is set forth in Row 4 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

**Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:**

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

**Item 2(e) CUSIP Number:**

760416107

**Item 3 Statement filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c):**

The information required by Item 3 is set forth in Row 12 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

**Item 4 Ownership:**

The information required by Items 4(a)-(c) is set forth in Rows 5-11 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

**Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:**

Not applicable

**Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:**

Not Applicable

**Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company:**

Not Applicable

**Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:**

Not Applicable

**Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:**

Not Applicable

**Item 10 Certification:**

By signing below the signatory certifies that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, each of the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 10, 2016

Basswood Capital Management,  
L.L.C.

By: /s/ Matthew Lindenbaum  
Name: Matthew Lindenbaum  
Title: Managing Member

/s/ Matthew Lindenbaum  
Matthew Lindenbaum, an  
individual

/s/ Bennett Lindenbaum  
Bennett Lindenbaum, an  
individual

-7-