



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

February 20, 2013

Via Email  
Lawrence Odell  
General Counsel  
First BanCorp.  
1519 Ponce de Leon Ave., Stop 23  
Santurce, Puerto Rico 00908

**Re: First Bancorp.  
Form 10-K  
Filed March 13, 2012  
File number 1-14793**

Dear Mr. Odell:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filing and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/Mark Webb

Mark Webb  
Legal Branch Chief